

Editorial Notes.

The change in time, caused by the establishment of local time-meridians, is the work mainly of Mr. Sanford Fleming, who has made this matter the study of years. Like all radical changes, this will no doubt, cause a great deal of difficulty at the beginning, both to conservatism and to ignorance. But the advantages and conveniences to be gained are too apparent to leave any doubt of the silence of opposition, on whatever grounds.

The calls made upon the graduates of the Province by the Executive Committee of Convocation are being heartily responded to. A graduate in every county has now been called upon to take steps for the formation of an Association, and not a few have already answered. The first regular meeting has been called for the 6th of December, at 7:30 p.m., in Moss Hall, when it is expected that a fuller representation of county members will be shown than is usually seen even at the general meetings of Convocation. That meeting, from the subjects to be discussed, and from its representative character, ought to be the most important meeting of our graduates ever held for University purposes.

We commend the letter signed 'Middlesex' to the perusal of those interested in the formation of a University Club. It contains some useful suggestions as to the best manner of setting about the enterprise, and is another and substantial proof of the wide-spread approbation with which the scheme is regarded by graduates throughout the Province. We agree with the opinion of the writer that graduates of all Universities should be admitted within its walls, and believe that such a liberal basis would secure at once a large membership. Let not the enthusiasm now manifested be allowed to dissipate. The time has without doubt come when a successful club can be founded. There is wanting only immediate and concerted action.

The obvious purport of the letters of our correspondent 'Misericordia' is to illustrate the need there is in University College for a special training in Political Economy. This need has long been felt, and the Senate has come to an appreciation of the reasonableness of the demand made by so many University men, that this branch of study should have some attention paid to it. Mr. Houston's proposed new graduating department, including Political Economy, seems to meet with almost universal approval. Practical difficulties may stand in the way of its immediate establishment. When these have been removed, we believe no strong opposition will be met with from any whose opposition is likely to carry great weight.

The college element in the life of our city has now come to be recognised as an important one. Toronto may soon be appropriately called 'The City of Colleges.' Our educational institutions are ceasing to be looked upon as little worlds of their own, with no sympathy or interest in the doings of the *profanum vulgus*, and deserving no sympathy or interest in return. The educated public wish to know, and are finding out, all about the seats of learning established among them, whose influence they see continually on the increase. Our Press, too, shows signs of the leaning in this direction. The *Toronto Mail* is indefatigable in its attention to University and College matters; The *World* is not far behind it; and the *Globe* is about making a specialty of news of the same character. They all recognize the importance of University work to the country at large; particularly at the present time, when the whole Province is di-

rectly interested in the full equipment of its own University, and its establishment on a firm and sure basis, financially and otherwise.

The promoters of the Forum are to be congratulated on what must now be termed the permanent success of this undertaking. It is not a little creditable to them and to the intellectual activity of the undergraduates, that such a scheme has been successfully carried on entirely without aid or even lodging from the College authorities. So long as the College Council refuses to allow Canadian politics to be discussed in the Literary Society, there will always be a sufficient cause for the Forum's existence, and one which cannot fail to keep it popular and vigorous. The desire of its members to be thoroughly conversant with the great political questions of the day, and thus render themselves more fully equipped for a life other than that at College, is most commendable. No class of members is more needed in our legislatures than thoroughly educated men, if they should only secure by their presence and influence intelligent legislation on education matters. The reason is far to find why the Literary Society is allowed to discuss *ad lib.* the politics of countries other than their own, but are forbidden to ask after Canada's weal, or mention its political necessities. The undergraduates should be sent as colonists to France or some other country with whose political wants they can become familiar, or the College Council should commission them to find some Utopian political seclusion similar to University College. We might, however, at least expect consistency from such a body as the College Council, by excluding from the College Reading-Room Canadian newspapers, of which it is full, where the students are sure to find party politics in their worst form. We would respectfully suggest replacing them by '*Le Monde*,' '*The Peru Daily Telegraph*,' and '*The Salvation Army War Cry*.' It is a well-known fact that in such Societies at Oxford and Cambridge, some of the greatest English statesmen of modern times have early become familiar and thoroughly versed in the living questions of the day. We therefore think that any restraint that tends to handicap our graduates in their race for distinction is greatly to be deplored.

The Sectarian Colleges have at last found a common platform, which they seem to have taken to as a ground of defence. Principal Grant, with almost amusing inconsistency, writes and talks against a State grant to the Provincial University, with a plausible eloquence difficult to withstand, except to those a few hundred miles away, as we are. We remember Mr. Grant's eloquent speech at our Convocation dinner of 1882, and his masterly attack then upon the Ontario Government for the nig-gardly hand with which it gave its University what Mr. Crooks was on the same occasion pleased to call a 'magnificent endowment of sixty thousand dollars.' We now see him opposing the grant of that needed aid, from a denominational standpoint; when that position becomes untenable, abandoning it for the broad principle of the advantages of local Universities; then returning to the denominational platform when necessary in teaching his theological students the grounds of the faith, that is in them; and still positively averring, through the press, that it is not from sectarian reasons that he has taken up arms against a public spoliation. Victoria follows suit with a similar cry, though weaker. And now the Chancellor 'to records his veto against any grant from the public treasury 'to an already richly-endowed college,' to the disadvantage of 'other institutions of higher learning,'—Trinity, &c. Chancellor Allan is not the first who has tried to make capital out of the non-sectarianism (or godlessness) of Toronto University; his polite attack will have no more effect than many a ruder one before. Our graduates have taken a strong position, and a consistent one. The letters by some of them in the public Press cannot be answered. Among them, we would call attention to Mr. Biggar's communication in the *Mail* of Tuesday last, which, we take it, shows in all the points referred to, the weakness of Principal Grant's position, and the strength of our own.