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THE VARSITY.

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Topics of the Hour.

We regret to see that after all the friends of the defeated candidate for the mayoralty of Toronto—we hope against his wishes—have instituted *quo warranto* proceedings to unseat Mayor Howland. Whilst it is imperative to submit to the law when necessary—even on technical points—we think that in the best interests of the city, the technicality which may unseat Mayor Howland, and put the city to the expense and worry of a new election, should not be pressed. The hand of the Licensed Victuallers is very evident in this move, which is certainly a most cowardly one. That Mayor Howland was the deliberate choice of the people there can be no doubt. If he is unseated and a new election is held, it is almost certain that he will be elected by a more overwhelming majority than before. By proceeding against Mr. Howland as they pro-

pose, they will awaken public sympathy in his behalf, and will assuredly defeat their own object. In view of this fact the friends of the liquor interest have not acted wisely. They are needlessly embittering their present opponents. In the interests of public morality and good government Mayor Howland should be retained.

The announcement of the subjects for the University prize composition in prose and verse has been made. If we might be allowed to make a suggestion, it would be to the effect that these subjects should be announced at the beginning of Michaelmas Term, instead of after Christmas. Our reason for urging this change is, that after Christmas intending competitors have really no time to devote to the reading of works bearing upon the subjects for composition, but have to concentrate all their time on the works laid down in the curriculum. Consequently one end aimed at by these competitions—the acquirement of useful information, historical or literary—is frustrated; and mere superficial cribbing from authorities encouraged. To properly master such a subject as is laid down for the Prize Essay for this year—"The Influence of Greek Thought upon English Literature"—would require more extensive reading and more time for thought than can possibly be given to it in the short period between the announcement in January and the 1st of May. Those in charge of the matter should change the date of the announcement of subjects for the University prize competitions from January to October.

The proposal made in these columns a short time since regarding the formation of a students' club seems to have met with very general acceptance. The resolution agreed to at the last meeting of the Literary Society has given emphasis to the idea, and we sincerely trust that the undergraduates will go to work promptly and enthusiastically, and give the resolution a practical shape. It is superfluous to point out the advantages which would be secured to the students by the establishment of such a club. At present there is no place near the University where students can meet for social intercourse or amusement. The present gymnasium is notoriously unfit for such a purpose, being ill-ventilated and badly heated. What is needed is a place where our students can meet together and discuss all topics of interest without having the fear of the College Council before their eyes. Such a club would encourage sociability and would foster that *esprit de corps*—of which we hear so much and see so little—which would inspire students, after graduation, to retain their interest and affection for their *alma mater*. Under the present state of affairs students only meet one another in the corridors and at formal meetings, in which sociability can never be introduced. The lack of interest manifested by her graduates in the affairs of Toronto University which Mr. Kingsford, in his letter to the *Mail*, deplores, is the direct result of the lack of encouragement given to students to cultivate each other's acquaintance during their college