

The Varsity

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TORONTO, JANUARY 12, 1912

THE NEW YEAR

To the hearty clasp and the cheery greeting which have been the order in our halls during the last couple of days "The Varsity" adds its own wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year.

We return from an unusually long holiday with new vigor and, no doubt, scores of resolutions to serve as the tools for use under our added strength. And there is work to do. In the term just passed possibly some of us have a little more than carried out the spirit of the President's remarks at his first opening address to the students, when he urged that the man who, laden with books and scholastic worries, made a beaten track, a narrow groove, as it were, between the classroom and his lodgings was not the one who would most profit from a University training. Our sympathies have been extended to numerous activities to such an extent that the coming months will see the midnight oil burning with increased intensity.

Our Scrooge will be Examinations, and we shall apply ourselves feverishly to make up for certain lost opportunities as did poor shivering Bob Cratchit, in Dicken's "Christmas Carol" endeavor to overtake nine o'clock, with the crusty old money lender glowering over him.

To the added scholastic duties there are numerous matters of gravest import to the student body which must be settled. We have not yet the full degree of responsible government which we desire and which the President is most anxious we should adopt. Our student body as a whole still lacks the nominal, if not the real, unity it should have, and our finances are in a muddle. It will rest with us as a whole, too, to bring The Varsity from its state of transition into its full development. There is a great deal to do in cultivating among all of us, and among our athletes in particular, a greater degree of "entente cordiale" towards visitors from other colleges. Again, we are drifting dangerously close to professionalism in our sports. Our predominance among American colleges in the number of undergraduate teams will avail us naught unless we still further increase our amateur instincts and our tyro sports.

These are but a few of the tasks to which we are to set ourselves. Every student in the University, by carefully acquainting himself or herself with the conditions which are retarding our development, can quietly prepare for the big movement which is due to take place in our midst in the near future.

The Varsity hopes that its columns will be used more than ever for the expression of undergraduate opinion. This journal is the screen for the countless shades of everyday thought which are not blended, we fear, as they might be.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of the Varsity:—

Dear Sir:—In an article on "Jack Maynard, Captain," in a recent issue of the Sunday World, Mr. James P. Haverson comes as near to the deification of sport as is humanly possible. He speaks of "consecration in Mr. Maynard's captaincy. He "was like to the spirit of football." More than this, "the man who feels Jack Maynard's hand on his shoulder and hears the hard breathing voice in his ear has seen the spirit of his university... visualized before him.

When I read this mystic nonsense I wondered what we are coming to. Time was, and it is not so very long ago, when our newspapers had a sporting column. That too modest column has grown to a sporting page, to a sporting two pages, and in some cases finally, if it be a finality, to a sporting section, not to speak of sporting extras and special front page featuring of big sporting events.

Twenty or twenty-five years ago we played football and other games as recreation after work. Now these games have become an occupation—an occupation for the few, a preoccupation of the many. Only the few can participate and they are demi-gods to the crowds whose bodies stiffen in inertia and to the "rooters" who hoarsen their throats with barbaric yells. Enormous gate receipts have semi-professionalized football. Out of these receipts increasingly costly "gifts" are presented to the heroes. Is football going the way of baseball and lacrosse?

It is a wellknown fact that university football men, generally speaking, do practically no study during the first term. They are usually far down in the class lists. Their "brooding minds" are not concerned with the purpose for which their parents are paying. And beside the columns of slangy rapture poured out as libations to the god of sport an intellectual achievement, if mentioned at all, is disposed of in a scant paragraph.

Sport as an exercise and a recreation for the many has a proper and a valuable place, but just now it is a river which has burst its banks. Is there nothing better, nothing higher to occupy us than the solemn trivialities of games?

Yours truly,
FREDERIC DAVIDSON.

[The letter appearing above is well worthy of close attention. In taking Mr. Haverson so seriously, Prof. Davidson is making a mistake, for Mr. Haverson speaks for himself and a few others who delight in the rapid maunderings of an over-heated imagination. It is almost needless to say that neither Jack Maynard nor any other member of the team has any such ridiculous notions in his head as Mr. Haverson's remarks seem to convey.

Prof. Davidson calls our attention to the very real dangers that lie before us if we continue to have huge unathletic, but revenue-yielding crowds. It behooves every thoughtful man among us to think out a happy solution. (Sporting Editor.)

ONLOOKER'S CORNER

CONCERNING RESOLUTIONS.

The Onlooker, gentle reader, has made a New Year's resolution. He is going to turn over a new leaf. So many letters have been received, charging him with insincerity, charlatany, and affectation, that he has decided to confess to all these sins. He takes his enemies from behind, by announcing that the soul of this Corner is affectation. For, reader, is not a frank affectation of form and idea fresher than such a vain conceit as forced sincerity? To that man, therefore, who reads only for opinions and sincere thoughts, may it be known that hereafter this column will be to him nothing but pure white paper stained by enebriated squiggles called type. Now, for the first.

How many fools made New Year's resolutions? How many of you, on awakening to that bright and happy January the first, lay on your lazy beds, and blinking at the white ceiling, began religiously to swear off many petty sins and leech-like habits. I venture to say that many a Professor's heart would have warmed, could he have seen some of the



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contents of these twelve baskets of crumbs, swept together off last year's slothful table. And what a pretty picture you made that morning, as you entered the breakfast-room, smiling with the shining light of new resolves in your eyes! How attentive you were at table—how gentle, how kindly disposed towards all mankind! But at ten o'clock were you not a strange creature—half the saint you became in bed, and half the same person you always were and always will be? And at ten-thirty—the sun of your chastened spirit trying in vain to shine through the fast-gathering dismal clouds of Old Habits and Old Desires!

But enough: never again make New Year's resolutions. It is a pernicious habit that ruins self-confidence and self-respect.

THE ONLOOKER.

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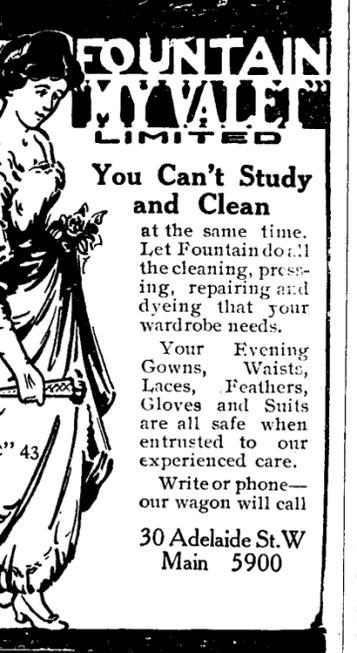
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The College is a Government institution, designed primarily for the purpose of giving instruction in all branches of military science to cadets and officers of the Canadian Militia. In fact it corresponds to Woolwich and Sandhurst.
The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.
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