

course, all are not equally suited for taking an active part in politics, some have not the ability for so doing, others could not afford it; but all can spare enough time to do the moderate amount which they are in duty bound to do. We all know how, in ancient Greece, the man who took no part in public affairs, who joined neither one side nor the other, but who tolerated all his countrymen with an indifferent air, was looked down upon with contempt and branded as *idiotes*. To understand in what light they viewed them, we have only to look at that famous passage in the funeral oration of Pericles, as handed down to us by Thucydides, in which he inveighs against these useless citizens. Athens considered no citizen too ignorant to have an opinion on public matters; she allowed none to abstain from public and political duties. The English-speaking people in this Province have hitherto taken matters too easily, they have not bestirred themselves until now it seems almost too late. They were too much occupied to spare any time to see after their rights and these are now slipping rapidly from them. The serious position which we know at present to exist might, perhaps, have been prevented, had the educated portion of the community displayed more energy. Mr. Woolsey, at one time President of Yale College, in his work on Political Science, says: "As the right of voting is greatly prized by those who cast the least intelligent votes, so the reverse is equally true. There are multitudes in countries where suffrage is unrestricted, whose property is injured by misgovernment and who are continually complaining of the state of things around them, who make no efforts by use of their right of suffrage to improve it. Either in despair or in selfish disregard of the public welfare they stand aloof from politics, even when a political duty might not cost them half an hour's time once or twice a year. On the theory that voting is a privilege, it involves for the most part a duty; to enforce it by penalty would not comport with the nature of a privilege; it would be more reasonable to make the continued neglect of exercising it a reason for its forfeiture. The question becomes one of simple duty, and is to be solved, not by the mere preferences of party or personal feeling, but on the highest principle of regard for the general good." It cannot be denied that certain classes of people, such as clergymen and doctors, are prohibited from taking any active part in politics, but they can at least vote. All University men ought to remember this important duty and not only act up to it themselves, but use their influence to make others do the same.

We are glad to be able to announce that the graduates have unanimously elected Mr. Eugene Lafleur as consulting Editor to the *Gazette*. We consider ourselves fortunate in obtaining the services of so able a gentleman, and only regret that the appointment was not made earlier.

It is with much pleasure that we chronicle the election of Mr. J. W. Pedley as Valedictorian to the Arts Class of '84. This appointment was a wise and fitting one in every respect, and the unanimity shown by the members of the class in their choice, was a high, though deserved tribute to the ability and popularity of Mr. Pedley. It is seldom that any election is so entirely devoid, as this was, of those obnoxious features—wire-pulling and a preparatory candidature. We would, indeed, have been sadly disappointed, had the students of the fourth year belied, in this instance, the stand they have ever taken against the degrading and undignified proceedings which have usually characterized class elections in the past.

By the time that our next number will appear, the Christmas holidays will have been a thing of the past. We therefore take this opportunity of wishing our readers all the compliments of the season, and of expressing a hope that the Undergraduates will return to College invigorated in health and full of pleasant memories.

"Glad Christmas comes, and every heart  
Makes room to give him welcome now;  
E'en want will dry its tears in mirth,  
And crown him with a holly bough."

THE Literary and Scientific Society of Toronto University and the McGill University Literary Society held their public debates on the same evening, the 14th instant. This coincidence reminds us of a suggestion made some time ago by the *'Varsity*, that literary meetings should be organized jointly by the students in Toronto and McGill, which would give an opportunity to the men in the two Colleges of becoming better acquainted with one another, and do much towards promoting culture in our midst. The suggestion is, in our opinion, a good one, and we will be glad to do anything in our power to further the scheme. If the *'Varsity* will propose some feasible plan we will discuss the matter, and perhaps be able to arrange for some kind of meeting after Christmas.

In its issue of 24th November the *'Varsity* recommends the committees to re-open their correspondence with regard to the proposed Inter-Collegiate sports, in order that everything may be definitely arranged for the meeting in Montreal next fall. We do not know what action our committee is taking in this matter, but we hope that they will not put off making a move until it is too late. If they do not make some arrangements within the next month it is probable that nothing will be done until next year, when we shall, in all likelihood, have a repetition of the bungling which we witnessed this fall. McGill is anxious to have these sports, and we feel sure that the University will do its utmost to give a worthy reception to our Toronto friends, and to make the first gathering a brilliant success.

LAST month the Methodist Theological College, in affiliation with McGill, was opened with considerable éclat. The University is now pretty well encircled with theological colleges; on the one side we have the Presbyterian and Congregational colleges, on the other side, near the Medical School, the Methodists have taken up their abode, and we hope it will not be long until the Diocesan College will leave its present quarters, and take up its position among the others. We are glad to see these denominational colleges around us, for it is an evidence to all of the character of McGill University, thoroughly unsectarian and undenominational, but at the same time willing to help all the Christian denominations by affording to their young ministers a liberal secular education. McGill is exceedingly fortunate in possessing this universal character, affording as it does a solution of the difficulty which has been puzzling the authorities of some of the older universities in the United Kingdom. An aspirant for the ministry in any denomination can in Montreal pursue at one and the same time his secular and professional studies with the greatest advantage. As an eminent professor from the Old Country remarked a short time ago, we are to be envied in this respect.