

as an indication that in that revival we aim at something far beyond our professional training . . . and we have now the pleasure of welcoming, in the new professor of Political Science, a Fellow and Lecturer of Lincoln College, Oxford, who comes to us accredited by the most eminent of British Historians, and by other high authorities of Oxford and Cambridge, and by distinguished professors of foreign universities."

The University has reason for congratulation at the appointment of Mr. Ashley to the Chair of Political Science, and especially so as his appointment marks the inauguration of a teaching Faculty of Law, to be composed of the following distinguished jurists and advocates: Chancellor Boyd (Dean), Hon. Edward Blake, Q.C., M.P., Hon. David Mills, Q.C., M.P., Dalton McCarthy, Q.C., M.P., and Hon. Mr. Justice Proudfoot.

These are the principal facts in the history of the past year, and they are bright with promise for the future. The closing words of the President's address are full of hope: "What a single generation has witnessed since we cleared the site for these University buildings, is the best index of what the twentieth century has in store for you. Our efforts seemed for a time like the labour of Sisiphus. But if the friends of this University are ever tempted to despond, they have only to recall that initial step when the founders of Upper Canada—amid all the engrossing cares of immigrants entering on the possession of an uncleared wilderness, yet with unbounded faith in the future—bethought themselves of the intellectual needs of unborn generations, and while putting the ploughshare into the virgin soil, dedicated a portion of it as the endowment, by means of which this University is now enabled to place within reach of all the priceless boon of intellectual culture."

THE HAZING QUESTION.

Recent events have brought this matter again to the front, and to haze or not to haze is once more the question. With the opinions as to the propriety of hazing held by one or the other of the two parties into which the discussion has for the time divided the undergraduates, THE VARSITY has no present intention of dealing. It is enough for our immediate purpose that such a division has taken place, that feeling runs high, and that, unless both parties are willing, for the sake of peace, to make concessions, serious results may follow. Serious, we say, not so much for the danger of hand-to-hand conflict—the common sense of the students will surely avert that—but serious for the bitterness and ill-feeling that must result from a continuance of a state of affairs in which one party in the college defies the opinion of the other, that other in its turn exercising an unfriendly surveillance over the actions of its opponents.

Leaving disputed points out of consideration, we may assume as granted on all hands that the one great justification for hazing—if justification indeed there is—is its antiquity as a college institution. Now, if it is true, as the Non-Hazing Union alleges, that it has in fact ceased to be a college institution and has become the special prerogative of a minority, which endeavours to carry on its operations in secret and in opposition to the wishes of the larger number of the students, it is evident that the great argument for its existence has ceased to be.

There is absolutely no reason why the question should not be quietly and satisfactorily settled. It has been suggested that a ballot should be taken to ascertain the opinions of the undergraduates on this matter. The result of such a ballot, it is thought, would show that while a majority of the students are opposed to hazing as it at present exists, not a few, even of the most active members of the N.-H. U., are in favour of some initiation ceremony, or of some college court for the trial of offences, while many more, who have declared themselves wholly opposed to the principle involved in such a ceremony, would gladly agree to a compromise by which peace could be secured and the—to them—objectionable features of hazing obviated. Similar courts, we believe, are in successful operation in several Canadian colleges, and it is darkly rumoured that in some of our own divinity halls the awful Mufti holds nocturnal sway. Conciliation is the order of the day. Accordingly, THE VARSITY takes pleasure in commending the above suggestion to the serious consideration of the two parties most immediately concerned.

COMMUNICATION.

THE Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents. No notice will be taken of unsigned contributions.

CLASS ORGANIZATION FOR '89.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—During the college year 1887-8, THE VARSITY drew attention at different times to the urgent need of some organization among our students, which would preserve the bond uniting them to one another and to their common college, even after their visible connection with the institution should be broken.

It has long been felt that our loyalty is less unselfish, our enthusiasm for our Alma Mater less warm, than her position among the colleges of the country would seem to warrant. While the graduates of such institutions as Queen's and Victoria, on leaving their college halls, carry with them a spirit of honest fervour which makes the spot where they may elect to settle a centre of missionary effort on behalf of their respective colleges, Toronto, on the other hand, has had to contend not only with the fair rivalry of friendly contestants in the race of learning, not only with the bitter opposition of unscrupulous foes, but often with the apathy and neglect of her alumni, and even, at times, against the false words and unfilial acts of some few of her sons, who have left the friendly shelter of her walls only to slander and betray her.

In the stone and lime of a college building—even of such a building as ours—there is little that can excite a true and lasting enthusiasm. We love the place—if we love it at all—because of its associations. Rob it of the memories that cluster about it—memories of battles fought, of friendships formed and fostered—and you rob it of all that makes it dear to the graduate heart. Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and Yale, are loved for their associations, for the human interest that centres in them. So must it be with us. Our enthusiasm must be for men, not mortar.

Hence, all that tends to promote close friendship among our students tends directly to the upbuilding of our University. I am speaking, not for the exclusive, selfish *esprit de corps* which sees no fault within, no good without, the confines of our own institution; but rather for that wider sympathy for our fellows in the same college which is not incongruous with (which, in fact, culminates in) a desire for the greater success of colleges the world over.

What can be said of the advantages of organization to any one class graduating from our University can be said with equal truth concerning all. It is of the class of '89, however, that I wish specially to speak. If action is to be taken at all that action must be taken now.

The four years of our college course (now, *Senatu volente*, drawing near its close) have been years of hard fighting along many lines. We have been divided by differences of opinion on various matters. Hard words have been said on all sides, for which, in many cases, all sides have been sorry. Probably few of us would yet admit that our principles, as we have believed them to be, have been but prejudices after all, and probably, were the same battles again to be fought, blood would be as hot and words as bitter as before. But, admitting even that the war has been always righteous, and that the very eagerness of the conflict has been of benefit to many, the fact remains that it has left us not united, but divided, suspicious often of one another's motives, partisan not patriotic. Suspicion and party spirit are happily dying out. Can we not now forget old feuds and unite,—Inside and Out, Residence and Non-Residence, Affirmative and Opposition,—as an organized body, for the preservation of college friendships and for the good of our University.

The details of organization need not here be considered. We may follow in these the example of the American colleges, whose class societies form a marked feature of academic life in the United States; or we may devise plans of our own. The main idea—the keeping up of a connection among our graduates, as graduates, and binding all more closely to the college,—can be worked out in a variety of ways. Should the plan be adopted by '89, other years would no doubt follow suit, and a complete system might thus be established, which could not but result in good to all concerned.

And, above all, if we are to act, we must act now.

J. D. SPENCE.