

saturated with the work of one good original writer than that he should know the views of twenty critics on as many authors.

THE literary project which was undertaken recently by the 'Varsity Company is without a parallel in the history of University journalism. We refer of course to the publication of a volume of high class literature, the production in the main of the undergraduates of Toronto University. In the highest sense the enterprise has been an undoubted success. The book has received the warm eulogium of the press and of its readers. Through this means an interest has been excited in our native literature among university men which will not soon subside. The columns of the 'VARSITY for the year now opening will show in no uncertain way the beneficial result of the new stimulus. It is, however, somewhat to be regretted that so far the financial outcome of the project has not been very satisfactory. The publication of the book was purely a literary enterprise, and in no sense was it a commercial speculation. It is fitting, then, that in the case of a project so creditable to the University and all who are connected with it, the committee should not be allowed to suffer any financial loss. If the men of the first year give their assistance, this result will be averted.

THE President's Convocation address is worthy of careful perusal by all who have taken an interest in the discussion on University federation. Dr. Wilson reviewed the situation in a dignified and dispassionate way that must commend itself to all. He said very truly that the splitting up of the already small teaching body of University College would be a narrow and unstatesmanlike policy. But the main argument of his speech was an able and exhaustive statement of the secularizing tendencies of the age, in the matter of education. Principal Grant's address, which appeared next day, is in curious contrast to this, when he lays stress on the fact that Oxford and Edinburgh are denominational Universities. The learned Principal of Queen's seems to miss that clear perception of the spirit of the times he emphasizes so strongly, if he does not see, as his address would warrant us in concluding, that all the larger Universities of Great Britain are, in spirit, secular now, and are fast becoming so in reality. The strength of Dr. Wilson's argument is that he does see this; and he enforces it emphatically though temperately. That University College has little to gain by the proposed affiliation is amply evidenced by the unusually large Freshman class of this year.

## Leading Articles.

### THE 'VARSITY.

THE 'VARSITY enters upon its sixth year with a prosperous outlook. All its old friends have been retained and new ones are being constantly added. It is the hope of the present management that during the current year the 'VARSITY may attain the very first position in the ranks of college journalism. An end so desirable can only be reached by the vigorous co-operation with the editorial staff of all who have at heart the best interests of Toronto University and its affiliated institutions.

The 'VARSITY is not the organ of any college, or any set or party. It is conducted entirely in the interests of the graduates, undergraduates and friends of our university. It is maintained simply as an organ for the free expression of opinion on all intellectual matters by any of these persons who choose to write for it. Apart from the restraints of space limitation the only conditions of entrance to our columns are that the writer have something to say and that he say it in a fairly readable manner.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that the editorials are at all times open to challenge. They, no less than the contributions, are merely the views of individuals, and must go for what they are worth. We make no pretension to oracular deliverance. We invite criticism and discussion of all topics touched on by the editors, as well as on the articles of contributors or correspondents. Our duty will not have been performed if such results do not follow our management. Earnest and vigorous dissent means life, energy, progress. Civilization has advanced, and only can advance, when men do something that others do not do, think something that others do not think, say something that others do not say.

If only one tenth of our friends could be induced to tell us what of genuine original thought they themselves have developed or could develop on various matters, entirely apart from what any other or all others may think, the 'VARSITY would become one of the most successful papers in existence. It would be a delight and a wonder—the organ of a perpetual Renaissance.

We shall welcome to our columns not only the greatest variety of matter of a discursive or didactic nature, but also original poems and light sketches.

If this earnest request for co-operation and sympathy receives its proper consideration from our readers, we shall be able to lay before them a journal which will reflect credit not only on them, but also on the noble institution with which we are connected.

### THE NEED OF A POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB.

We have in University College a very flourishing Mathematical and Physical Association and an equally flourishing Modern Language Club. That these two societies are doing a good work for their members we believe, and therefore we venture to advise the earnest students of political science to organize a similar society for their mutual improvement. They have the more need to do so inasmuch as there is no member of the College staff charged with the duty of teaching either Political Economy or Jurisprudence, both of which are on the present curriculum, and will undoubtedly be on the next.

One way of making up for the want of lectures in this important branch of university work is to meet frequently for the discussion of matters dealt with in the prescribed text-books. Especially is this practice calculated to be useful in Political Economy, in which there are many unsettled problems of great difficulty and of surpassing interest apart altogether from preparation for University examinations. What we recommend is essentially the German "Seminary," which has been transplanted to American soil, and flourishes there with all the vigor of an indigenous growth. The "seminary," as it exists in Johns Hopkins or Cornell, may be described as a free-and-easy meeting of the teacher with the members of his class, amongst whom he is for the time only *primus inter pares*. One of those present—sometimes the teacher, more frequently a student—reads a paper or delivers a prelection on some point connected with the course, and the freest possible discussion and criticism, alike of the views of the essayist of the evening and of all others who advance anything on the subject, are indulged in. No better substitute for College teaching could be devised, and no College lectures can be thoroughly effective unless they are supplemented by something of this kind.

Though Political Science has never received its fair share of prominence in the University curriculum, and has always been completely and unnecessarily ignored in the College teaching, it has always had a large number of devotees. This is not surprising in view of the nature of the science. It has man in his social relations for its subject matter, and it deals with the whole problem of human civilization, both analytically and historically. The origin and growth of institutions, the nature and sanction of public law, the relation between subject and sovereign, the various theories of the state and of the family, the laws which govern the production and distribution of wealth, the tenure and ownership of the land, the proper objects and best methods of taxation, the never-ending struggle between individualism and collectivism, the part played by religious systems in social progress, the theory and practice of representative government, the political and economical value of colonies, the possibility of substituting other arbiters for war in the settlement of international disputes, the relation between ethics and politics—these and scores of equally important matters, affecting the well-being of our own and every other people, must always attract thoughtful students whether their attention is called to them by formal lectures or not. That the College has neglected its duty in the premises is not to its credit, but there is all the more reason for the students taking steps to supply its defects.

### REV. JOHN CARRY AND DR. WILSON.

The Rector of Port Perry has lifted up his voice like Jeremiah of old, and has uttered his lamentations. But unlike the prophet of sacred history, the reverend doctor does not divine unerringly nor prophesy faithfully. Dr. Carry laments that Dr. Wilson should glorify the secular character of University College, and professes to see in it "awful and most blasphemous atheism." But Dr. Carry lets his pen run away with him. He does not appreciate the true meaning of the word 'secular.' To his ecclesiastical ears it is most objectionable. There is, however, a great difference between 'secular' and 'atheistic' education. By using the word 'secular' Dr. Wilson meant—and so any candid reader would credit him with meaning—that the instruction in University College is confined to those branches of learning and to those modes of teaching which, though they are entirely apart from, are not therefore antagonistic to theology, religion and morals. In fact such a system of instruction is the only one which is practicable in a college which