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THE VARSITY.

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Topics of the Hour.

The tenth popular concert took place in the Pavilion on Monday evening, and was very fairly attended. The solo vocalist was Miss Annie Howden, of Millbrook, Ont., who possesses a very sweet soprano voice, clear and true. She won a most pronounced success, and was recalled after each number. She sang "L'Extase" (Arditi), and "Orpheus with his Lute" (Sullivan), the latter being very prettily sung. Fraulein Kitty Berger played some excellent solos on the Zither. This instrument, however, is more suited to a drawing-room than to a large concert hall, and consequently the charming effects produced by Miss Berger were entirely lost by the majority of the audience. The Quartette Club played a

"Minuet and Trio," composed especially for them by Dr. Strathy, of this city, and the "Andante and Finale" from a quartette by Rheinberger. Both were favorably received, but were not specially attractive. Herr Corell played two short pieces by Popper—"Widmung" and a "Mazurka."

The members of the Modern Language Club are about to address a memorial to the University Senate, praying that their department be placed on an equal footing with others in regard to the scholarships granted by that body. The Club will not commit itself to approval of the principle of scholarships, but modern language men rightly think that so long as rewards of this nature are given, no unfair discrimination should be made against their department. No one who is competent to express an opinion will now seriously contend that modern language study requires less mental ability and application than classics or mathematics, yet each of the latter subjects has two scholarships allotted to it of \$130 and \$100 respectively, whereas modern languages receive only one scholarship of \$100. This is in the first year. At matriculation a discrimination is made against modern languages to the extent of \$20, and in both examinations the other subjects count higher in determining the scholarship for general proficiency. This is an obvious injustice and it should soon be righted.

We admire the courage and self-denial of the citizen soldiers of Canada who composed the expeditionary force to the North-West last year. But at that time we referred to the war as a great national tragedy. Subsequent revelations of the disgraceful mismanagement of affairs in these territories approved the statement. War, indeed, seemed to be almost a necessity at the time, but it was a pitiful necessity at the best. It was a crying shame against the whole Canadian people that it was a necessity. While politicians and people were fighting over trivial and contemptible party issues, our fellow-countrymen were being wronged and their repeated appeals for simple justice were neglected. But now that the war is over and reparation being made to the injured people, we should not do anything to glorify or perpetuate the memory of the sad affair. Seen in this light, the application to the Imperial Parliament for war medals was a mistake. We are not Jingoese nor the sons of Jingoese. As a nation sackcloth would be more becoming to us than medals. And even if rewards were to be given, Canadians fighting for Canada should look to Canada alone for recognition of their services.

North America promises to be the grand ethnological theatre of the world. Many of the great stocks of the human race are present in sufficient numbers to make the conflict exceedingly interesting for the scientific observer. The Indian question is practically solved, as the final extinction of this much abused race seems to be not far distant. In the south there is the negro problem, which is now engaging the serious attention of many thoughtful Americans. The people of the United States have wisely or unwisely declined