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Editorial Comments.



CONSIDERABLE dissatisfaction has been, and is, expressed among the students at the lack of an efficient mail service at the college. The present system is one that might have done very well when the college was in its infancy and the number of students small, but now it is several years behind the times and should at once give way to a better one. THE VARSITY makes the suggestion that the authorities apply for a branch post office in the building. This has been done in many of the American colleges, not to speak of the large universities where such a system as we are content with would not be endured for a day. For example the cases of Tufts College and Haverford College may be cited. These are but preparatory colleges but they have post offices, and the plan has been found to work admirably. Then why not do likewise in the largest educational institution in Canada? Some change for the better is necessary, and the plan proposed seems feasible and remedial. There is not the slightest doubt but that if the authorities were to make application for such an office they would easily obtain it, and by so doing they would confer a great boon on all connected with the University.

It is a pleasure to note the very active interest the Honorable Edward Blake, the Chancellor, is taking in the affairs of the University. Not content with showing his sympathy with and devotion to his *Alma Mater* by the magnificent donation of \$20,000, he is making a thorough study of all the needs of the University, and his guiding hand is being felt in all departments of the work that lies before those in charge. His wide experience at the Bar and in public life cannot but be of incalculable service in deciding the many important problems which are now pressing for solution. We honor our Chancellor and have every faith that, with him at the helm, our *Alma Mater* is secure.

The continual mutilation of the notices placed by professors and students on the notice-board is nothing less than a disgrace. A stranger passing through the halls and seeing the state in which are the notices now on the board would form but a sorry opinion of the good sense of the students of the University of Toronto. Those guilty of such vandalism doubtless fancy they are doing something very cute, but could they but know the disapprobation of such actions all right-thinking students feel and the contempt with which they view such exhibitions of small-mindedness they would see themselves as others see them and be forced by very shame to desist.

The site for the new library has not yet been chosen, but it is understood that the structure will be erected on

the east side of the lawn and to the right of the carriage-drive leading to the main building. Overlooking, as it does, the ravine to the west and the spacious lawn to the east, and in close proximity to all the academic buildings and magnificent new home of the Ontario Legislature, the spot admirably fulfils the requirements of both picturesqueness and convenience. One thing only is lacking, the provision for which want can be an addition to both natural beauty and convenience of the spot. We refer to a suspension bridge across the ravine. By this means there would be easy access from the Biological building to the library and main building and from the University to the Provincial Parliamentary library, and at the same time a shorter route to College street. The scenic effect of such a bridge over an already beautiful ravine would satisfy the most æsthetic, while the presence of the bridge itself would confer a benefit on all classes of students and the public generally.

Mr. J. C. Robertson, of Owen Sound, is the first to take practical steps to improve the elementary teaching of Classics. He intends to publish a new text-book for the study of Latin, based on a method which he has been testing for several years and claims to have found successful. In his circular issued last month to the Classical Masters throughout Ontario, he builds up a very strong argument against the text-books now used in teaching Latin to beginners. His own method is largely inductive, and his system aims at giving the student from the very beginning an ever increasing reading power in the language. He is fully alive to the fact that typical Latin Grammar in which the language is treated like a subject in Natural Science, is by no means the kind of book to be put into the hands of the learner. Mr. Robertson's system may do violence to the conventional ideas of some teachers of the old school, but the good sense of the younger generation will no doubt recognize it as a step in the right direction.

The letter of Mr. Chant in another column is a distinct contribution to the controversy on the Medals question, and will be read with interest by all who have followed the articles and letters on the subject. Some very strong proof will be necessary to show that no injustice has been done to somebody. THE VARSITY promises some further interesting contributions on the subject if no attention is taken of this appeal for a hearing.

Instead of the rush and the nightly hazing tours, it is the custom at Wellesley for the Sophomores to serenade the Freshmen at the beginning of the year.

Yale's professors and graduates have been prominently identified with the work of preparing the edition of Webster's Dictionary that is soon to be issued, ex-President Porter having been the chief editor.