

The Varsity

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TORONTO, MARCH 6, 1912

OUR ONLY PARLIAMENT

Who will stand forth and say that the students of the University should have no representative organization? Who will say that that organization should not be strong? However little necessity for constant activity on the part of that body, there should nevertheless be a backbone, which would not only serve to give stability, but would be the conductor of the sensory connections between all the various parts in the organic whole of University life.

University Spirit! How we talk of it, cherish what we have, and constantly long for more! University life, without the sense of unity in that life, without the consciousness that we are all striving to upbuild a common citadel of honour, culture, good fellowship and altruism would be a blank and awful thing. There would be no inspiration, no rounding of character, no development of the individual into the most beautiful relations with fellow men.

The present Parliament campaign is merely an effort on the part of those already in the Parliament to extend its influence in the University, and so to make for more unity of thought, act and purpose.

There has been apathy, disinterestedness, and even cynicism with regard to the Parliament. If these ever had a basis, they merely exemplified how little respect we had for ourselves and our own institutions. Does any other than a foolish person spend all his time deriding the character of his own product? Does the inventor waste hours in merely laughing at his invention, or does the father cast slurs upon the child that is learning to walk? Certainly not: each endeavors to bring about improvement, and make the object of his attention worthy of a status in the community.

We have a Parliament. We have let it become weakened. We have in many cases done nothing but disparage efforts to improve it. The time for such childishness is past. We must put this central body—our only central body—on its feet. Let us change its constitution, change its personnel, change its functions,—anything to make it truly and thoroughly and effectively representative.

The first step is already being taken. Numbers have been cut down, an earnest effort to have the students direct just what powers shall be given, and to bring out the best men is being made. This is no time for any man to let the work go unaided. If the University of Toronto is to develop and increase its prestige, it must have a strong, solid, respected central organization.

Men of Toronto, here is your opportunity. Throw your influence into getting strong men elected, and help solve one of the main perplexities of the Parliament by voting with firm conviction either for or against the adoption of student control of discipline.

TO-DAY!

ONLOOKER'S CORNER

What worried, anxious-looking, panic-stricken mortals are observed walking with nervous and nerve-racking step along the grand old college halls, and the straight (?) and narrow "short-cut" which leads to the much frequented Library! What is the cause of that unbecoming and not at all pretty expression glued upon the physiognomies of 'Varsity students? The malady must be facetious (infectious—), and it has become a grave consideration when such a vast number is affected.—Gentle Reader, what remedy would you suggest?

How many of you have had your heart cheered, when, dashing wildly along, already ten minutes late for an important lecture, you have met one blissful human being strolling along, conveying by his whole appearance, that he, for one, considered life too delicious and ideal to mar by a surly nod, vacant stare, or by delaying the tardy one and declaring emphatically.—"Dear me, I just know I am going to lose my year: I haven't glanced into a solitary book and I don't know a thing." Upon a polite protest from the recipient of this unexpected, awe-inspiring shower of prevarications, the cold, cruel retort follows—"Oh, it is all very well for you to say that: you know everything." You all can hear the deep sigh of sheer exasperation heaved from the lowest region of the late and later one's heart.

What an absolutely disgusting and disheartening conversation to hold on the broad, expansive campus, on a gloriously bright and exquisite Spring morning, and during Lent when we all surely deny ourselves some immense pleasure, whether it be the abstaining from Curry, Coffee or Caustic remarks!

What folly it is to discourage co-enthusiasts over College life and exquisitely excruciating examinations! Why, oh why does not each one cultivate the habit, which would joy the hearts of others and his own, of chirping out at their friends, cheerful, happy little thoughts which inspire them to brace up,—that they are not the only ones who have five belated essays to write, and that any way nine (mystic number) whole long delightful (?) weeks lie betwixt them—and the examinations.

THE ONLOOKER.

HABITUAL HIGH-BROW



Time was when a man ran great risk of annihilation if caught being a poet. This is an enlightened age and my Muse bids me discretion to the winds that blow! When the summer lies behind you and the days are growing shorter, when the dusty heat of August has become a memory—

When the flies are getting drowsy and the leaves are turning yellow and the robin has forgotten his concordant melody, Did you ever get the longing, feel it growing, ever growing, just to be among the fellows once again at Varsity?

Remember?
—That's September!
When the grass is growing greener with the same old springtime greenness, when the evenings are longer and the breeze is fresh and damp—

When those dread examinations, like a Judgement, come upon you and you spend the midnight watches bending by a study lamp,

Did you ever get the longing, feel it growing, growing, growing, just to breathe the mystic silence of another night in camp?

Ek?
—That's May!

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Under the head of "Student Self Government in Disciplinary Matters," I would like to say a few words. With all due respect to the Caput for what it has done as a disciplinarian and for its justice and fairness in decisions given, it can still be seen that there are none who know the students so well as the students themselves. Their representatives if strong and able men can govern in disciplinary matters with almost unerring judgment.

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If the Parliament had this power students when asked to give evidence of any disturbance would not feel so reluctant to go up before their representatives as before the Caput. More depends on evidence in making a decision than on anything, and here the Parliament would have their advantage.

It has been said, the Parliament would not be fair; that is, the faculty most largely represented in any disturbance would get a heavier penalty than they deserved on account of the minority of their representatives on the Parliament. Now, sir, I say, with capable, just and broadminded men on the Parliament an unprejudiced decision would be arrived at and all faculties would be equally decided for or against.

This system has been in vogue in other large universities and has been a success. Why, therefore, cannot it be a success here. The larger the university the greater is the need for student self-government.

And now a new issue has come up. Who shall act in case of single faculty disturbances? As the faculty council at the present time has the power and not the Caput and as we have had no opinion as yet on student government from the faculties, it is hardly wise to make any rash statement regarding this, but a feasible way of looking at the question is this. Allow the faculty society to settle the trouble. In case that is not satisfactory and the faculty council is willing, hand the matter over to the Students Parliament for settlement, preferably though have it settled in the faculty itself.

And now sir, this condition can only be brought about by all students interesting themselves in this referendum and going to the polls prepared to vote for their representatives and on the referendum according to their convictions. "Toronto this day expects every student to do his duty."

A. S. MILLER.

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Dear Sir:

As regards the control by the Students Parliament of the discipline of the University, I would like to say a few words before all have decided on the side they will take.

If the Parliament is to have full control, it is of course apparent that it must have the support of the students as a whole and the question to be decided on Thursday is not simple. "Is the Students Parliament going to be in Charge?" but "Am I

Continued on Page 4, Col. 2.

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