

give the matriculant a second chance in the fall in case he were plucked which would be better than complicating things by granting a supplementary matriculation at Christmas. These are two suggestions which we think the Council would be wise in considering.

THE STUDENTS' UNION.

A slight review of the objects and purposes of the Students' Union, which has been much heard of lately, may not be out of place in view of the numerous invitations which have been extended to the Students of this University to enroll themselves among its members.

In the preliminary circular issued by the Union, beyond certain Utopian Schemes, such as Student representation in Parliament, and the like, which, however desirable, are and will be, for some time to come, very far distant, nothing definite in the way of attraction or advantage was referred to but a co-operative scheme for obtaining books at a lower cost than at present. This is the point which all the meetings, which have been held up to the present time, have put forward as the keystone, as it were, of the Union. The scheme in question is to establish an Emporium, where all the students of the Union would obtain their books, apparatus, &c., the proprietor of course getting them at wholesale prices and charging on such prices such an advance as would ensure to him a reasonable return for his risk and trouble. At first sight this seems to be a very feasible idea, but on closer examination various difficulties will appear which, when weighed, will be found to more than counterbalance the advantages. In the first place, though the scheme has been laid before all the great book-selling firms in this city, they have all, up to the present, declined to undertake it, the sole offer coming from a Mr. Smith, proprietor of a druggist's establishment on Queen Street West, and he is not by any means prepared to take up the matter as his own speculation. He requires a guarantee of so much business. I think at the last Mass Meeting \$1,000 for the first year and \$10,000 a year afterwards, were the terms mentioned. In addition to this the various details of the business, such as keeping the accounts, receiving orders, &c., would necessitate the employment of a Secretary whose salary would have to be paid by the Union.

The refusal of the leading bookselling firms to undertake the business, the question of the guarantee, the inexperience of Mr. Smith in the trade, are all points which would naturally cause some hesitation in undertaking the matter, but granted that these difficulties could be surmounted the main question comes up as to what profit the students would derive from such an Emporium, supposing one started and in full operation. At the Mass Meeting held in the Temperance Hall on February 23, this question came up for discussion and was argued very fully on both sides. Mr. Lob-

the author of an able argument in the *Varsity*, of Feb. 17, made an able speech in which he conclusively shewed that the pecuniary advantages were so little, if any, in advance of what can be obtained by any number of students acting in concert, that, if the Union had no other particular aim in view but this one, its promotion would certainly not be of any benefit. He stated that the average profit made on students' books was some 25 per cent., roughly speaking. By the establishment of the Emporium, there would be an apparent immediate gain of 14 per cent., Mr. Smith requiring 10 per cent. above the wholesale cost price for his time and trouble; but to offset this and the salary of the Secretary, and the 10 per cent. discount which any student can now obtain for cash under the present system. This leaves a profit of say 5 per cent., and this certainly is not sufficiently large to form any inducement to Trinity to enter a Union offering no other practical advantages. In fact if we only combined among ourselves in the same manner as McMaster Hall and Knox College, we could obtain a discount of 25 per cent. from any wholesale house in town, which would amount to more than could be obtained under the Emporium system viewed in its most favorable aspects.

We have dealt at some length with this question of co-operation, as so much stress has been laid upon its advantages ever since the inception of the Union. With every wish to see a hearty co-operation among student bodies on all matters affecting their general welfare, we cannot think the Students' Union, as far as it is at present developed, meets the want. As a trading Association, we think it would soon prove a failure, and as existing for no higher purpose than social objects, could not sustain itself.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE LATE MEETING IN THE CONVOCATION HALL.

To the Editors of Rouge et Noir.

DEAR SIRS.—A short time ago we were called together to "a gathering of the Friends of Trinity College for the purpose of receiving a report as to the progress of supplemental endowment fund, and considering what steps should be taken for completing the work in Toronto." The invitations to this meeting were, I suppose, issued to all those who, it might be supposed, were interested in the College, doubtless with the very laudable object of raising an enthusiasm somewhat commensurate with the amount to be raised and the work to be done; and very encouraging it was to see, from the report issued, the way many of our old friends had come forward with the greatest liberality.

At the meeting there spoke from the platform three Bishops, one Chief Justice and one Clergyman, besides the Provost and Chancellor. Of these, the three Bishops, the Chief Justice, and the Chancellor have, more or less, been most prominent in the government of the University for many years, and yet the speeches were a