

THE VARSITY

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Toronto, December 8, 1904.

In the death of Principal Caven the university world has suffered a great loss. To the student body the Principal's death came as a great shock, for though it had been well known that his health had for years been uncertain, the announcement of his sudden demise was as unexpected as painful.

Everywhere, in pulpits of all denominations, in the press of every party, in the conversation of all who knew him personally or through reputation, the highest tributes have been paid during the past few days to his character and to his work. To us of the University his loss comes as a heavier blow, for though the breadth of the man, coupled with his keen insight, led him to take a lively interest in all things that related to human thought or action, it was as an educator that he appealed most strongly to us. With all the self-enfolded power that belongs to a deep, unostentatious nature, he viewed all problems in their larger and more real meaning. It is well known that as a member of the University Senate his attitude on any question commanded all that respectful attention which character and intellect, in happy combination, always compels. The energy that works in a quiet, unassuming, though none the less active, way, the steady glow that is always ready to break forth into flame should occasion demand, is perhaps the strongest power. And it was this characteristic that, above all others, marked the late Principal's character. In deliberation or debate, his colleagues will for long miss the decisive weight of that strong, sympathetic and purposeful character. Knox College has the sympathy of the whole University body in their irreparable loss.

With this issue the Editor completes the last of the regular numbers of Varsity for the term of his editorship. Perhaps a few things might be said more appropriately in this issue than in the next.

It has been the common complaint of Editors in the past, and one which the present Editor's experience fully justifies, that the undergraduate body does not give to their journal the support, even the recognition, that such an organ undoubtedly should have. When an Editor, after devoting his entire time to the work, finds that one Faculty, out of a constituency of some five hundred, contributes barely forty subscriptions, that

another of about the same number gives an equally hearty support; that Victoria College refuses even to allow a representative to send in items of news to the University paper, he will hardly be accused of petulance if he says that the position is a somewhat thankless one.

When a Sporting Editor reports that he has to insist—and even then fruitlessly—on the Athletic Association of his own University showing him the same courtesy that is offered to the Sporting Editors of the city papers, when friends of the press have to remonstrate with the committees who have in hand the management of different functions, because of their neglect in recognizing the University journal, the conventional “mingled feelings of relief and regret” with which each Editor kicks over the waste-paper basket, etc., etc., become somewhat less colorless. Up to the time of going to press, we have received no recognition from the committee who have in hand one of the best known of University functions, which one we shall not say. Judging from the fact that the Editor was told—courteously, we admit, but yet quite firmly—that no such recognition could be made, because, forsooth, the paper had no Society Editor, we consider we are justified in writing as we do, one day before the event, even though non-official rumors have reached our ears that the committee have reconsidered the matter.

It is not that the Editor personally cares a straw one way or the other, for he would request some other member of the staff who can better appreciate such functions—the Business Manager, for instance—to represent the press. Such a lapse of courtesy is a slight, not to the Editor, but to the students' official organ, and as such is keenly resented. No one knows better than the Editor the delicacy of writing thus on such a subject, but this condition of affairs has existed for long, and until some Editor incurs the odium of this delicacy, there seems little chance of matters being remedied. The students' paper should be a force in University life such as even “the authorities” could not safely ignore. But until the students' attitude toward it shows that they consider it to be in reality their organ, and not merely the enterprise of a single individual, it never will be that force.

Varsity heartily congratulates our debaters, W. F. B. Moore and J. D. Monro, on the winning of the first of the Inter-University Debates. As Queen's on the same night defeated McGill on the former's platform, we will decide the final contest on our home platform. Our chances for winning the championship are very bright.

It is hoped that the Christmas number of Varsity will be issued not later than Friday, Dec. 16. The following well-known writers are contributing:

Goldwin Smith, Rev. Prof. Clark, Arthur Stringer, Armstrong Black, Agnes C. Laut (authoress of “Lords of the North”) Norman Duncan (author of “Doctor Luke of the Labrador”), Claude Bryan, well known as collaborator with Sir Gilbert Parker; Arnold Haultain, Jean Blewett, Eva Brodlique Summers, Alma Frances McCallum, Ethelwyn Wetherald, Edmund Hardy and others.