

and defended to-day than ever before. Never was the question of the correct relation of the land of a country to its people so pressing as now. The amount of control which the state should exercise over its highways, including railways, and over the transmission of communications by wire as well as post, is entirely a modern and almost a recent problem. The whole question of municipal government is evidently in a transition state, and our representative system is properly described as on its trial. The laws which regulate the production and distribution of wealth are still matter for earnest discussion. Each new invention brings in a new set of conditions, and reopens the whole question to which it belongs. In short, the science of government is really as wide as the sphere of modern civilization, and includes many social and moral questions which are not usually regarded as having anything to do with politics—crime, pauperism, the purification of literature, the censorship of the press, the control of immigration, and the recognition of religion by the state, are all unsettled matters with which the politician, using the word in its true sense, must be prepared to deal.

Surely, in view of all this, no department of human knowledge can be of greater intrinsic importance than the science of politics, and yet, strange to say, for a third of a century—with the exception of a limited number of lectures on constitutional history—the whole of this immense field has been completely ignored in the teaching arrangements of University College, while very little attention has been paid to it in the University of Toronto. Why this state of things has been allowed to continue so long; whether it is possible and desirable to take a new departure, and how that may be most satisfactorily accomplished, are questions too important to be discussed within the scope of the present article; but we shall return to the subject in a future number.

A DAY IN THE LIBRARY.

The Owen's College, Manchester, the sole college at present included in the new Victoria University, is an institution about as old as our own University; it is undoubtedly wealthier; its endowment is ample, and private bequests are not unknown; it has a more complete staff of professors and lecturers; its curriculum is wider, but its library is no larger than our own. Twenty-five thousand volumes, or thereabouts, is the number in each; a good number, of which the English college is proud, and the Canadian college, we hope, equally proud, and with more reason, since a Canadian college has more difficulties to contend with in fitting out a library than an English one. Whether the contents of our twenty-five thousand volumes are as much to be proud of as the contents of the Owen's College twenty-five thousand we cannot say; but we propose to mention some of the noteworthy points in our library, and leave it to our readers to consider. One point is its omnivorous character; no subject is unrepresented. Whether this is a merit or a fault is a doubtful question; we ourselves incline to the former view, for when there is an unlimited prospect of growth in the future, it is well to have a variety of nuclei around which this growth may take place; and if there is no place at the outset for any one department, the chances are against a place being ever found for it. Another point that ours has, in common with all educational libraries, is the prominence given to educational departments: Classics and classical antiquities occupy a large space; mathematics and metaphysics are well represented; history, chemistry, biology, and medicine are well represented; and novels are under a permanent interdict; no, we forgot, the lover of light literature may feast his soul on 'Sir Charles Grandison,' 'Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded,' and other long-winded romances that used to thrill our simple forefathers. The many volumes of the Rolls Chronicles and the Calendars of State Papers furnish valuable material for British history; the collections of the Massachusetts and New York Historical Societies do the same for early American history; and a number of precious pamphlets on Canada, recently added to the library, await the future historian of Canada, whenever he may think fit to put in an appearance. The Owls, we see, are contemplating a survey of Canadian history, so perhaps they may be glad to refer to original sources. Another valuable historical series is a collection of Byzantine historians, the originals of Gibbon. We do not wish, however, to urge any undergraduate to emulate Gibbon; to read him is sufficient for the present. The theological depart-

ment boasts an array of the Fathers that Trinity College itself would find it hard to beat—St. Augustine, in twelve thick folio volumes, St. Chrysostom, in thirteen—in short, the ponderous works of most of those mediæval gentlemen called saints in this nineteenth century, as it were by courtesy. A Canadian Mithridates will find the Bible translated into something like fifty different languages, that will give him opportunity for practice for some time. If any Japanese scholar is to be found among the readers of this paper, the librarian will no doubt be obliged to him for information about a certain book on education, in order that the word 'top' may be inscribed in ordinary English characters at the head of the title page, as a guide to all future librarians. While we are on the subject of the curiosities, we must mention the original edition of Johnson's Dictionary, with its jaw-breaking definition of 'network,' much too long for incorporation into these columns; the mysterious description of cabbage as a 'glaucous-colored plant,' and all the other time-honored side-splitters perpetrated by the great lexicographer; a book of illustrations to Ovid's 'Metamorphoses' may give the classical student some new ideas on that non-Darwinian theory of the Origin of Species; an edition of Dante, dated 1491, exhibited on Conversazione nights as the oldest book in the library, will be found very trying to the eyes, and the woodcuts with which it is illustrated are, undoubtedly, unique productions of the original wood-cutter. A remarkable feature of the library, noticed by most visitors, is the variety and tastefulness of the bindings; this is an advantage of having the books bound not all at one place; England, France and Germany all furnish their characteristic styles of binding, and the result is a combination pleasing to the eye by its variety, and not unworthy of the exquisite setting of the library itself. A lamentable defect in our library is the emptiness of those niches destined to hold the great sons of the University, a defect doubtless soon to be rectified when the present generation of undergraduates have matured their budding genius. Poor old William of Wykeham stands alone still, the object of admiring wonder to visitors by the description given of him as the first Bishop of Toronto, who attained the amazing honors of gold medallist in classics, mathematics, modern languages and metaphysics, and Prince's prizeman, and who found his last resting-place in the quad, where the big chimney was erected as his memorial.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN canvassing the students for subscriptions for the 'VARSITY,' though the result on the whole is quite gratifying, the objection is frequently met that it is too dear. To such, and to all in fact, it is right to explain that this is a matter which received (at their first meeting this year) the earnest consideration of the directorate, and the result was conclusively reached that it would be impossible to float it at a smaller subscription price without encroaching on capital. Now, this any person we are sure would not wish, nor would it be reasonable; for although we have had some generous indications of a desire on the part of those not stockholders to assist us in the laudable enterprise of building up a first-class paper—one of which the students of Toronto may feel proud—yet there can be no doubt that the burden of this work must fall on the stockholders. Now, to expect them to do the burden of the work, pay their own subscriptions (which they all do), and then find themselves with a deficit—a surplus they don't look for—at the end of the year, is something which the most indifferent would not like to see. It is also proper to say that the 'VARSITY' is, so far as we know, the cheapest College paper in America. To mention no other, the *Acta Victoriana*, the journal of Victoria University, Coburg, which, though undoubtedly a most creditable production, is only a monthly, costs a dollar a year; whereas the 'VARSITY,' a weekly, is only fifty cents more. With these explanations all, we are sure, will be prepared to admit that, for a college journal, the price of the 'VARSITY' is exceedingly low. But many, though willing to make this admission, say, 'We don't doubt the paper is cheap, but it is too dear for us to afford.' Nor do we doubt that in some instances this is true. Many of our best students are cramped for means. But whilst we recognize this, we do trust that the sympathies at least of all are with us, and that in all