

# THE VARSITY

*A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.*

VOL. XII.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, JANUARY 25, 1893.

No. 11.

## Editorial Comments.



WE should take up with considerable diffidence the editorial pen so ably wielded by our predecessors but for the comforting reflection that the duties devolving on the editor of THE VARSITY are, in great measure, editorial, critical and selective rather than constructive, and that the able support so willingly accorded to the editor in the past will be extended as cordially and efficiently in the future.

We shall keep in mind the object in view on the establishment of the paper, and we hope to speak out without fear or favour on all questions in which we consider the interests of the undergraduates are involved and we invite discussion of such matters in our columns.

Toronto University Conversazione is of the past. The changes incident to the disaster of February, 1890, have rendered its re-establishment on the former basis impossible. Those who heard the President of the Literary Society rehearse the reasons why the Council had decided to refuse the use of the building for conversat purposes must have felt the futility of further efforts to obtain the necessary consent. In this matter the students have not met with that frankness from the Council which we think they deserve. In withholding for a time their reasons for refusal, they left us the choice of considering those reasons insufficient, or the student body not possessed of sufficient judgment and control to accept conclusions patent only to maturer minds. With that high sense of dignity and infallibility characteristic of undergraduates, we could not accept the latter, and, consequently, the other was forced on us, with the result that, halting between two opinions, we have left the consideration of the alternative scheme to a later date than we should under different conditions. We have much confidence in the considerate judgment of our rulers, Council or Senate, but a confidence that is wholly one-sided is not established on the most permanent basis.

Some few weeks ago an event that will be of much interest to many of our readers occurred when the Benchers of the Law Society accepted the recommendation of a committee, that henceforth the regulations in regard to the admission of women to the practice of law be the same as those now existing for men. But one application for admission has been received—that of Miss Clara Martin, a graduate of Toronto University. The Globe in referring to this matter remarks that though it may be somewhat disconcerting for one lady to attend lectures

with so many of the other sex, that in a few years it will be all the other way when bashful youths may be seen seeking a quiet corner unappropriated by the legal-aspiring maids. So, one by one, the barriers are crumbling, and emancipated in this, women will, in the next century, work out the long-disputed question of women's equality or inferiority, and decide, conclusively if not satisfactorily, whether her present subordinate position in the world of affairs, is the result of inherent weakness or historical circumstance. Whatever the result may be, the effort can result only in good and THE VARSITY congratulates our fair graduates and undergraduates on the opening up to them of a wide field of action and usefulness.

Mr. Heliems' retirement from the editorship will be regretted by all who have had the pleasure of being connected with him in his editorial capacity, and every fair-minded reader will acknowledge that during the past term THE VARSITY has been conducted by the youngest occupant of the editorial chair with ability and judgment worthy of riper years. We should not have referred to a matter on which the readers of VARSITY are so well-informed had not some VARSITY student taken advantage of his irresponsible position as correspondent of a city newspaper, to indulge in a sneer at college journalism in VARSITY. College journalism has, we believe, been maintained at as high a standard in Toronto University, as under similar conditions of experience and opportunity, it has reached in any other seat of learning, and if during the present term that standard be attained, the editor will not consider that he has been unsuccessful.

We regret very much the non-appearance of the 'VARSITY' last week, but barring illness, strikes and other dispensations of Providence, the future numbers will issue promptly.

## LIBRARY NOTES.

Very few ladies make use of the library at night. This is no doubt a source of regret to the authorities and to many who are not in authority.

Better ventilation, a more equable and considerably lower temperature would perhaps, render the reading-room less satisfactory as a sleeping apartment but could scarcely fail to have a good influence in other respects.

Natural science men have great difficulty in getting the books they wish to read. The few science books that are in the library seem to be generally in the hands of the Faculty.

It is not an invariable rule but results would seem to indicate that it is the usual practice for the men who wear eleven's or have squeaky boots to take the seats farthest from the entrance.