

THE COLLEGE GIRL

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JUST now, when "going home" and "Christmas" are thoughts uppermost in the mind of the college girl who must, perforce, for lack of Women's Residence, spend most of her days in a boarding house, she begins to believe that, after all, life is not without its compensations. Whether it is that the all-pervading Christmas spirit has settled upon her, or whether it is merely that the thought of a joyful home-going so fills her with feelings of kindness that, like Mr. Dooley, she cannot, for the life of her, "think of dislikin' anybody in the wide worruld," certain it is, that trouble seems to sit lightly upon her, and that even the exasperations of the boarding-house, and the terrible, secret knowledge of an enormous amount of work, accumulated and accumulating, are not able, in the least, to shake her optimistic mood.

It is not pleasant to awake in the morning to find the temperature of the room such as to remind one forcibly of that poor, threadbare topic of conversation—the coal strike, and all its attendant horrors; but when Christmas is only three weeks away, it is quite impossible to be miserable, and though one may lack the courage to rise, one gains the courage to defy the breakfast bell. In February, when the aspect of things in general has changed, and when there is nothing to look forward to but the month of May, and after that, the judgment, it will be cause of annoyance, perhaps, to find one's windows completely covered with the work of the Frost King; just now, however—such is the effect of a cold nose, at this season of the year, upon the imagination—one rejoices in the possession of an east window, and when one sees upon it, quite as well as in any lantern-slide, Notre Dame de Paris, with its three great arched portals, its rose window and all, and all about it a beautiful white city with towers and spires glistening and sparkling in the morning sun, one is apt to be quite happy enough to defy the breakfast bell still longer. Or when the sun, passing through the stained-glass birds above the window, plays upon the pure, cold features of the Madonna on the wall, until they soften and melt into the love-lit countenance of a real human mother, and upon the child, until he dimples in the rosy light and smiles, yet with more than the understanding of a child, one is apt to feel that, after all, there are no compensations due.

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The subject of Christmas presents is one to which, although it is an all-important one at this season, the College girl has had very little time to give. For some time past she has been living in an atmosphere of Christmas presents; wherever she goes she sees them in process of preparation; whenever she picks up a paper or magazine she is sure to open at, "What to Give," or "Bright Ideas for Clever Fingers," etc., all of which suggestions must fall upon unfruitful soil. The College girl must needs content herself with gifts, long-meditated perhaps, but finally bought ready-made at Eaton's or Simpson's, and, should she be in the blissful condition of the girl who was heard to remark recently that she had been living for two weeks upon two cents, her Christmas gifts will probably consist of her prayers and good wishes. Then, like the sage Hibernian philosopher, Mr. Dooley,

she will find herself, should she take the same view of the matter as he does, very much in debt on Christmas morning, and very regretful of the fact that she did not begin to save in July instead of November.

VARSITY-WYCLIFFE DEBATE.

THE first inter-college debate was held in Wycliffe Convocation Hall on Friday evening. Before the debate there was a short business meeting of the "Lit" in the Students' Union, Vice-president McGuire in the chair. The resignation of Mr. S. P. Biggs as Curator was read and received. Mr. C. H. Russell was elected to represent the Society at the Knox College "At-Home" on December 12, and Mr. W. Treadgold to attend the Dental function on the same evening. The meeting then adjourned in order to attend the debate.

Proceedings commenced at Wycliffe with a chorus by the ladies of the Havergal Glee Club which was well rendered. The chairman—Rev. Professor Cody, M.A.—then announced the subject of debate: "Resolved that labor unions improve the social and economic conditions of Canada."

The affirmative was advocated by Messrs W. Nichol and C. H. Russell, for University College, while Messrs. W. E. Taylor, B.A., and R. M. Millman, B.A., of Wycliffe, supported the negative. The chairman announced that sixty per cent. would be given for matter and forty per cent for style.

Mr. Nichol, for the affirmative, claimed that labor unions are the necessary outcome of modern economic conditions. That combined labor must confront combined capital. He emphasized the advantages to workmen of collective bargaining and claimed for the unions increased wages, shorter hours of work and hence increased intelligence.

Mr. W. E. Taylor, B.A., for the negative, occupied himself almost wholly with the social side of the question. He claimed that there is no tyranny of capital in Canada to-day and hence that unions are unnecessary and mischievous. He claimed that the unions were a disadvantage to the men themselves as it destroyed their self-respect to have their trade disputes settled by an organization in the United States. He laid stress upon the tyranny exercised by the union over both men and employers.

Mr. C. H. Russell, for the affirmative, claimed for the unions increased production and greater efficiency. He urged that the general tendency of the unions was good, that the advantages outweighed the disadvantages. He referred to beneficial labor legislation, which was due, he said, to the influence of the unions. It was the policy of the union to strike only as a last resort.

Mr. R. M. Millman, B.A., closed the debate for the negative. He urged that the rate of wages is fixed by economic laws and that interference by unions is therefore mischievous. He claimed that the "level" wage keeps good men in the ranks who might otherwise rise to be employers. He claimed that unions restricted production, and gave a rapid summary of the negative arguments.

Mr. Nichol replied most effectively, and the judges, Prevost Macklem, Professor A. C. McKay and Mr. J. S. Willison retired to consider their decision. During their absence the audience was entertained by a couple of vocal solos charmingly rendered by Miss Margaret Nelson and by a humorous reading from Ian Maclaren by Miss Davies.

Prevost Macklem then announced the decision of the judges in favor of the negative. The affirmative and negative were equal the judges found, as regards matter, but Wycliffe excelled in point of style.

The final meeting of the "Lit" for the term will be held next Friday evening. A good meeting is expected to close the most successful term in its history.