

Y. M. C. A.—The following large delegation left the city this morning to attend the Convention at present in session in Kingston:—Messrs. A. J. McLeod, B.A., J. M. Baldwin, B.A., J. McP. Scott, S. M. Talbot, H. F. Laflamme, E. S. Hogarth, H. B. Fraser, G. A. Wilson, G. Logie and G. B. McClean. The interest taken in the Annual Convention by our Association is one of the propitious omens.

In the absence of Mr. Gale the regular meeting was led by Mr. Talling, whose subject was "Knowledge of the Truth." There was a fair attendance. N. H. Russell takes the place of J. H. Hunter as Convener of the Committee on Religious work. J. Drummond teaches in the Boys' Home on Monday evening.

The second of the list of popular lectures (of which the programme appeared in these columns in the first issue of this year) was delivered in Convocation Hall of Trinity College, on Friday afternoon, 29th inst. The subject of the lecture was "Social Life in Rome Under the Early Empire," the lecturer, Professor Boys. In discoursing on his subject the lecturer reviewed both the social and political life of the Romans, showing how the former was eclipsed in importance to such an extent by the latter as to be quite overlooked by historians. If we wish to understand Roman social life, then, we must go, not to the historians of the times, but to the literature. In it is embodied the thought and philosophy of the age, and on it is stamped the impress of the licentiousness, envy and cruelty which characterized that highly civilized but indulgent people. The lecturer also referred to the low state of morality generally prevalent in the time of the Early Empire, and to the very noticeable lack of knowledge of high moral principles. The relation existing between religion and statecraft was discussed, and the influence of the Stoic and Epicurean philosophy pointed out. The lecture was both interesting and instructive and was listened to by a large audience.

The regular weekly meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society was held in Moss Hall on Friday evening. Owing to the unfavorableness of the night but a small number were present. Those who were in attendance, however, enjoyed a pleasant programme and a lively debate. Vice-President Ferguson occupied the chair. Routine business was of little importance. The reading and essay were voluntary. The debate was on the subject of "Educational Qualification for Exercise of the Franchise."

Mr. T. Rogers, for the affirmative, maintained that every voter ought to be intelligent and honest, and that his intelligence and honesty ought to be made the test of his qualification. As against property qualification he argued that property holding is no assurance of either honesty or intelligence, and, therefore, not a suitable qualification for the exercise of the franchise. He claimed also that to view a State from a financial standpoint is to measure it by the lowest standpoint possible. Property qualification prohibits many from voting who are eminently qualified to cast a vote. There are many throughout the country now to whom the franchise is extended who vote, not because they understand what they do in exercising this privilege, but because, it may be, they pay a certain amount of rent for some petty holding. For example, who are better qualified to vote at the coming general election than University students? They have made a study of political and civil questions and know how these are dealt with, and understand the principles involved in their solution. Why, then, are they not enfranchised for this educational qualification?

Mr. J. S. McLean said Mr. Rogers' claim for intellectual qualification was an indefinite one and not sustained. Is a man to pass some specified examination in order to be allowed to vote? If such were necessary many who possess sufficient property to qualify them as voters under the present system and who do vote without any manifest inefficiency would be denied their present privilege. Students certainly have the theory of political matters, but there is a broad difference between theory and practice. Did such men possess the liberty of the franchise, they would also be eligible for election to parliamentary office, and, in putting into operation their theories, would get beyond the requirements of the day, would, in all likelihood, push their theories too far, and would fail to comprehend existing circumstances. Again, nearly every student who is of age has a vote, for if he is supported by his father, that father must surely have property enough for himself and son to qualify on before he is able to educate the son. On the other hand, if the young man is supporting himself at college he will have money enough of his own to qualify him for the exercise of the franchise. Practically, then, every man of the proper age has already the privilege of the franchise within his reach. The exercise of the franchise is a sufficient education in itself.

Mr. Smith followed in support of Mr. Rogers, and was in turn followed by Mr. Harkness. Both these gentlemen spoke for the first time before the Society.

Discussion was then thrown open to the meeting, the debate having

been hitherto conducted in parliamentary form. Mr. J. Johnson said that a man's interests lie in his property and that, therefore, property should be the qualification. Mr. A. T. Hunter and other gentlemen followed in the discussion of the question. Mr. Talbot maintained that every man who is governed and is not a criminal or lunatic should have a voice in saying by whom he shall be governed. Such also was the bearing of Mr. Acheson's remarks. Mr. Harrison showed that there are many men of such improvident character as to require to be governed, and not governing. Hence a universal suffrage is impracticable. Arguments were brought forward also by Mr. N. H. Russell in favor of an educational qualification in preference to one of property.

Mr. J. Ferguson, who occupied the chair, performed the functions of critic, and gave practical advice to the various speakers relative to the etiquette of public speaking, phraseology, etc., before proceeding to sum up the arguments urged pro and con. in the course of the debate. The question was then submitted to the audience, and decision was given in favor of a property qualification, as against a qualification founded on an educational basis. Notice was given from the chair of the address to be delivered before the Modern Language Club by Mr. G. Mercer Adam some time in March. On motion of Mr. Fred. Redden, the Society returned to order of business. Mr. Acheson was appointed, in Mr. Hume's place, to represent the Society in the intercollegiate debate with Queen's. The motion to place *Arcturus* on the files was carried. The rule of order requiring notice of motion to place a paper on file, was dispensed with by a two-thirds vote of the meeting, and it was determined to place on file the *Ottawa Free Press*, and the *Standard*, the new Conservative organ.

The fisheries question will be debated next Friday evening.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE VARSITY is conducted by undergraduates of the University of Toronto, and will appear every Saturday of the academic year. It aims at being the exponent of the views of the University public and will always seek the highest interests of our University. The Literary Department will, as heretofore, be a main feature. The news columns are full and accurate, containing reports of all meetings of interest to its readers.

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