

# VARSAITY

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## THE VARSITY.

THE VARSITY is published in the University of Toronto every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.  
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 Contributions when not accepted will be returned if accompanied with a stamp for that purpose.

## Topics of the Hour.

At this juncture we desire to repeat what we have previously distinctly stated, that all our articles, by whomsoever they may be written, must stand or fall on their own merits. We do not undertake responsibility for any of them. "We invite criticism and discussion of all topics touched on by the editors, as well as on the articles of contributors or correspondents. The VARSITY is maintained simply as an organ for the free expression of University thought and opinion." But in return we must insist upon it that our correspondents refrain from the use of irrelevant and abusive personal allusions. It is a time-worn expression that abuse is not argument. We would recommend that disputants confine them-

selves to the principles advanced by a writer rather than to his personality. We regret that all of our present correspondents have not seen fit to follow this course. If there is to be a continuation of this discussion by one or two of these writers we hope that a different tone will be adopted.

As the history and characteristics of our Canadian aboriginal races will always furnish the richest background of our own national history, romance and poetry, it must be gratifying to all genuine Canadians to observe the increased interest which is being manifested in the study of Indian ethnology and philology. Among recent contributions to this subject we note a series of three papers by Dr. Daniel Wilson, which appear in the published reports of the Royal Society of Canada. The first is a general article on "Pre-Aryan American Man"; the second, a longer paper, partly philological, is entitled "The Huron-Iroquois of Canada: a typical race of American Aborigines"; the third paper is chiefly philological, and treats of language as applied to the development of the æsthetic faculty among the aboriginal races. We have received also an exceedingly interesting pamphlet, written by Mr. Horatio Hale, of Clinton, Ontario, on the language, religion, customs, and present condition of the Blackfoot tribes of North-western Canada. Mr. Hale is widely known both in America and Europe as the translator and annotator of "The Iroquois Book of Rites," which is certainly one of the most valuable contributions to aboriginal study that has appeared for many years. A full notice of this book will appear in a future number of the VARSITY.

The changes and chances of political fortune have brought Mr. Gladstone into power. The Marquis of Salisbury was turned out of office upon a side issue, just as Mr. Gladstone was, five months previously. It is very uncertain at the present time, how long the "grand old man's" supremacy will last. If, as there seems to be reason to suppose, he is in favor of Home Rule, it is very probable that an appeal to the country will ensue, and a grave crisis in the history of Great Britain will be encountered. It is almost impossible to conjecture the result of such an appeal, but there are indications that the influence of Royalty and of such moderate Liberals as Lord Hartington, G. J. Goschen, W. E. Forster, and some others will be thrown into the scale opposed to Home Rule. In any event the contest will be very bitter, and the ultimate supreme triumph of either party, at present, is as uncertain as it would be disastrous.

Mr. Gladstone's task is a difficult one. And in the present crisis he is unusually unfortunate. His lieutenant, the Marquis of Hartington is at variance with him, Sir Charles Dilke, is under a social cloud, Mr. Goschen and Mr. Forster side with Lord Hartington, Mr. Chamberlain is envious of the Premiership, the Parnellites are treacherous, and last but by no means least, the Queen openly shows her repugnance and distrust of the liberal leader. To re-organize, re-animate, and weld together into one unanimous whole.