

successful until it could meet in a club-room owned by University men. It seems as if this prophecy was likely to be verified. The Society this year appears to have taken a new lease of life, and to have entered on a successful course. This is largely due, no doubt, to the officers elected by our influence, but we think the other fact has also had something to do with it. The GAZETTE itself we have not the slightest doubt will receive reflected benefit, and have its already large influence immensely extended.

We ask the committee of the Club to constantly keep before them that if this attempt fails, the idea may forever be buried in the depths of oblivion.

THE FACULTY OF LAW.

For many years it has been a well known fact that the condition of the Faculty of Law was far from being what it ought. The School has been the subject, of adverse criticism on every hand, and as time goes on matters do not seem to be mending. Last year we published a letter signed "B. C. L." drawing attention in a very moderate and calm spirit to the state of affairs which existed, and calling on the authorities to take some steps to put an end to the glaring defects which were bringing the Faculty into disrepute. We republish this letter because it contains many suggestions upon the excellence of which there seems to be an unanimity of opinion among those who have given the subject any consideration. This letter was published early last year, but so far not one step has been taken in the direction indicated. Having now reason to believe that the members of the Faculty itself are beginning to recognize that something must at once be done, and knowing that any suggestions or friendly criticisms which we can make will be kindly received, we have taken the trouble to ascertain the opinions of a large number of the legal profession upon the subject. And here let us say one thing, which it ought really be unnecessary for us to emphasize but which we are sorry to say experience tells us it is necessary to reiterate, and that is this, that in bringing the full light of public opinion to bear upon this question and in making criticisms and suggestions we are actuated by nothing but the most kindly feelings towards the University, towards those who are in authority and towards the members of the Faculty of Law itself. We are desirous of working for the benefit of the University. No person receiving a salary from the funds of the University is more desirous of that object than we are. We may not always agree as to methods, but the common aim ought surely to secure us sympathy and a kindly forbearance.

In the present instance we have adopted a certain plan after deep consideration, and we are prepared, if necessary, to give our reasons for believing it to be the best which we could have adopted. It is necessary for us now in this connection merely to remind our readers that the low condition of the Faculty of Law has been known for a long time, and yet not a stir has been made to apply remedies. Perhaps when reform is attempted, it may turn out to be too late.

From the interviews which we publish below our readers will be able to form some idea of the present reputation of the Law Faculty, and will be able to see for themselves what reforms are considered necessary by the large number of lawyers whose opinions are given. There is one point upon which there is a startling unanimity of opinion. All professors as well as those outside the Faculty, are agreed in saying that something ought to be done to remedy the present state of affairs.

In discussing this matter we are of opinion that the standard of excellence, or rather of efficiency, which we should set before us for the Law School is not that of any of the other Schools which exist in this Province, but rather that of the other Faculties of our own University. If the Faculty of Law were as efficient in its sphere as the other Faculties are in theirs, no School in this Province could be held up to us as an example. The question forces itself upon us, why should the Faculty of Law be neglected—why should she be allowed to drag behind the others? To us it seems incomprehensible. It is certainly the very worst policy possible for the University authorities to pursue. The legal profession has perhaps more influence than any other in the community. It is true that legal men themselves are not generally the most wealthy, but they have very often large and wealthy connections. Besides, they are very numerous and hold the positions of greatest influence. They have the largest voice in the legislation of the country. In Toronto the great influence of the legal profession has been recognized and made use of by the University. The short-sighted policy of our University in this matter ought at once to be reversed.

The most tangible proof of the indifference which we complain of is seen in the small allowance from the general funds of the University which the Faculty of Law receives. Money is to be lavished on the other Faculties, but the Faculty of Law is to be considered as a kind of outcast or poor relation that must be content with the bread-and-water of a few hundred dollars. In the words of one of the Professors, the Faculty should either be allowed to become defunct or made a credit to the University of which it is supposed to form a part.

As to the Faculty itself we think this is about the state of affairs. The lectures are delivered in rooms situated in the garret of a building in St. James Street. The rooms are furnished with the most uncomfortable seats which it was possible for any one to construct. There are two rooms without any library, and without any one to take care of them. The University owns a large number of law books but they are at present utterly useless from being inaccessible. The lectures are delivered in the most perfunctory way and on an