

the majority in that Province. We trust that the Principal and the authorities of McGill will not cease the good work they have commenced, and that their hands may be greatly strengthened to carry on, to a successful issue, the good war against race prejudice, religious intolerance and ignorance, which are arrayed against them.

#### LITERARY AND EXCHANGE NOTES.

The Christmas number of the *New York Mirror* will be issued on December 10th. Encouraged by the success that this holiday publication has enjoyed during the past seven years, Harrison Grey Fiske, its editor, has concluded to make the forthcoming edition the most elaborate and artistic of the series. Many well-known literary people, actors, actresses and journalists are numbered among the contributors, including Dion Boucicault, "Nym Crinkle" (A. C. Wheeler), Joseph Howard, jr., Brander Matthews, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, "The Giddy Gusher," Clay M. Greene, Rudolph Aronson, Sarah Jewett, Osmond Tearle, Chandos Fulton, Edward H. Sothorn, A. M. Palmer, Alfred Ayres, Harry Paulton, Milton Nobles, Robert Hilliard, Frederick Warde, Fannie Edgar Thomas, Edward E. Kidder, Emma V. Sheridan, Albert Ellery Berg, Cornelius Mathews, Nelson Wheatcroft, H. S. Keller, Scott Marble, John E. McCann, Sydney Armstrong, Elsie Leslie, Mary H. Fiske, Marie Petravsky, Ullie Akerstrom, Joseph Arthur, Vernon Jarbeau, Graham Durfee, Mittens Willett, and others. The number will be beautifully illustrated by Ogden, Day, Bodfish, Goater and other skilful artists. It will be enclosed in a unique cover, bearing a lithographic reproduction of a graceful water-colour composition.

The *Illustrated London News* for the current week is an excellent number. It contains pictures of the shipping disasters on the Mersey, the Lord Mayor's show, Jenny Lind, the consecration of Truro Cathedral, Sketches of Venice and many other topics of passing interest. The accompanying letter-press is good, and is chiefly devoted to descriptions of the pictures. The announcement is made for the Christmas number, which promises to be a most interesting one. In it will be found seventeen wood cuts and four colored chromos. The artists include R. Caton Woodville, A. Hunt, G. Montbard, Louis Wain and Hal Ludlow. The literary contents will include an original story by Bret Harte, entitled "A Phyllis of the Sierras."

The National Bureau of Unity Clubs was born in Boston during the anniversary week of the American Unitarian Association, and had its christening on the 26th day of May, 1887. It was organized with Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D., as President, and with a Board of Directors of twelve men and women, residing east and west. It has at present two head centres—at Chicago and Boston. Its object is to render assistance in the social, literary, philanthropic and religious work of churches and communities. It is divided into thirteen sections, viz., Art, Biography, History, Fiction, Poetry, Science, Charity, Social and Political Science, Religious History and Thought, Music, Dramatics and Lectures, Amusements, and Organization and Method, with a gentleman or lady at the head of each section, some of whom are preparing plans of study for the season. Prof. W. F. Allen, of Wisconsin University, is the first to present his plan, which has been carefully prepared, on the *History of Ireland*, adapted to classes or clubs desirous of pursuing an elaborate course, and to younger readers who desire something more simple. It is a timely topic, and will be eagerly accepted by clubs and reading circles for winter's literary occupation in all parts of the country. The list of reference books is valuable, and no less useful will be the hints on the study of history, and of reading in the preface. This leaflet will be mailed to any address for 10 cents by the Unity Club Bureau's publishers, Charles H. Kerr & Co., 175 Dearborn Street, Chicago.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents. No notice will be taken of unsigned contributions.

#### HAZING.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—I ask a little space in your paper to express the feelings of every undergraduate who can truly lay claim to elevation of mind and purity of thought, with respect to a certain low practice born in secrecy and carried out in darkness, annually, among our undergraduates. I refer to the senseless, cowardly, degrading, loathsome practice of hazing. I have witnessed hazing as it is carried on by some of our undergraduates, and truly a more profane or despicable proceeding I never witnessed; for coarseness of jokes, for vileness of language, for inhuman conduct, it stands ahead of anything the most pessimistic being would expect from those who should set the community an example of sobriety, purity

and intellectuality. Could there be shown a necessity, a reason, for these proceedings, they might be more pardonable, but never yet have I heard a valid reason for their existence; indeed, I here challenge anybody to give one sound argument in their behalf. It is claimed that hazing is necessary to put down impudence (vulgarily called cheek) among the students of the first year. I ask was ever impudence stopped or checked by hazing a freshman? Was hazing ever directed against true impudence? Is impudence met with among those of the first year? No, I answer to all these questions. On the contrary, here are a few of the charges on account of which it is thought necessary that meetings should be held, that would cause a chill to pass over a pure-minded student:

- (1) That a certain freshman has a stately bearing.
- (2) That another freshman is in such circumstances that he can put on his hands gloves of a peculiar quality.
- (3) That on the face of another freshman the signs of physical manhood appear.
- (4) That another freshman has been seen going to the dread extreme of walking with a lady on the street.

Every one of these charges has been urged, to my certain knowledge, as proofs of the necessity of hazing different freshmen. For these so-called crimes on the part of freshmen, students resort to the cowardly, low practice of hazing.

But, if the principle be bad, how is it put into execution? In the first place, trickery, treachery, and base dishonesty are resorted to in order to secure the culprits—treachery like that of last week in connection with the drawing up of the football list, treachery which in that case will cause its author to be pointed at as a very source whence falsehood springs. Again, look at the meetings themselves. Consider the foul language, the cowardly tricks, the exaltation of mere brute force, taunting and maltreating those who cannot escape. Think, you that believe in the principle, though, perhaps, not the present practice, think of the wickedness that indelibly stamps, stamps forever, the actors, of the disgrace to the College and to the name of University student, and then consider whether you will not be forever averse to these proceedings. Even though the profanity could be removed, the proceedings would then be disgraceful, but time has shown that the profanity adheres to them and cannot be rooted out. Therefore, I say it is time that every undergraduate should resolve that this practice shall no longer exist in connection with this College.

FREDERICK J. STEEN.

#### RECENT CHANGES IN THE ARTS CURRICULUM.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY:—

SIRS,—In common with others who are interested in the Department of Modern Languages I am glad that the Senate have at last granted to Fourth Year men an option between Spanish and Ethnology. This is only an instalment, however, and should be so regarded by those who are endeavouring to put the study of Modern Languages on its proper footing in the Provincial University. Second and Third Year honour men have as much need to be relieved of Ethnology, if not more. Last year I moved in the matter in the Senate, but found only two to support me, Dr. Oldright, and Mr. Embree. If students of Modern Languages in University College, and members of the Modern Language Association persist in their efforts, I have no doubt that the relief will in time be secured. There is no good reason for associating honour history with Modern Languages that will not justify associating it with every other department of the curriculum.

On the expediency of compelling honour men in Mental and Moral Science to take the French and German of the First and Second Years I express no opinion, but I deeply regret that the Senate did not see fit to make a further change, in a direction which I indicated last year. There is no special reason why honour men in Mental and Moral Science should be compelled to take Civil Polity, and, on the assumption that if they are to be relieved of that they should be required to take something else in its stead, I moved a resolution, which was seconded by Prof. Hutton, to the effect that they should be allowed to substitute for Civil Polity the pass and honour work in any one of the following subjects: (1) English, (2) French, (3) German, (4) Latin, (5) Greek, (6) Hebrew, (7) History and Ethnology. Now that they are required to take pass French and German of the First and Second Years, it would be a reasonable, useful, and therefore proper concession, to allow them to take instead of Civil Polity the pass French and German of the Third and Fourth Years. The object in compelling them to take these languages at all is to make them competent to read the works of French and German writers in the originals; that object would surely be more completely secured by the change I suggest, and the students would lose nothing in the way of culture. No one will suspect me of underrating the value of the subjects grouped under the misleading term "Civil Polity," when I express the opinion that the pass course in French and German of the Third and Fourth Years is quite equal to it as a means of mental discipline.

WM. HOUSTON,

Legislative Library, Toronto, Nov. 21st, 1887.