

The Varsity

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR, IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BY

THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

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MARCH 10, 1891.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



HE Literary Society held a four-hour meeting last Friday night with an attendance of nearly two hundred members. In Mr. Gibson's absence the 1st Vice-President, Mr. C. A. Stuart, took the chair. It was Constitution night, like, and yet unlike, former Constitution nights. There was perhaps too much excitement and ill-directed enthusiasm, just enough pleasure, and not too much monotony. On the whole it was a meeting such as would have been better held in a larger hall and in a different building.

When Mr. Stringer had read the minutes a little variety was introduced into the orthodox method of adopting them by a complex attack of a peculiar kind. Mr. McNicol arose and appealed against the ruling of the President on Article II., Section 7, on the ground that it was in direct violation of the Constitution. He pointed out that the expression, "a student in actual attendance at University College," which, according to the ruling, meant a Medical student as well as an Arts student, had been explicitly defined in the amendments to the Constitution adopted in November to mean a student registered as in attendance at University College, and that this could mean only an Arts student. Mr. McKinnon objected to this appeal on the ground that it was not in order, and asked for the chairman's ruling on the point. The chairman decided that the appeal was in order. Mr. McKinnon then appealed against this ruling, but the Society approved of the decision of the chair. After some more discussion and confusion and increased complexity, Mr. McNicol's appeal was put to the Society and was sustained. In consequence of this, the motion amending Article I., Section 1, and Article II., Section 7, which was based on the President's ruling, was declared null and void. Then, on a motion by Messrs. McLay and Stewart, the minutes as amended were adopted.

The result of the motions, amendments, rulings and appeals of the last two meetings leaves the sections in the Constitution which determine the membership and the franchise in the following position: Article I., Section 1, "The Society shall consist of (a) male students in actual attendance in University College, or in the Faculty of Arts in the University of Toronto, or at the School of Practical Science; (b) male graduates or undergraduates of the

University of Toronto in the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Law; and the extent of class (a) shall be determined by the official lists of students registered as in attendance, and that of class (b) by the official lists of graduates and undergraduates." Article II., Section 7, "No member who is not a member of the staff or a student in actual attendance in University College, or at the School of Practical Science, and no member from whom any fee is due to his college shall be permitted to vote at the annual election for any office except that of President."

The Literary Programme was the most pleasing feature of the meeting. The Residence Orchestra was there, consisting of Messrs. Coleman, Barker, Armour, Glascoe, Moore and Cameron. They were down for two selections and each time had to respond to an enthusiastic encore. An essay was read by Mr. S. J. Robertson on "The Philosophy of Cant." A subject for debate had been set, but on Mr. Clark's motion it was omitted.

The Society then passed on to Business from Committees. Mr. Lillie introduced the report of the House Committee recommending a list of periodicals for the Reading Room next year. This report was adopted, and at once various gentlemen proceeded to add thereto periodicals to which they were partial. Mr. Thomson wished to see the *Scottish American* on file; and *United Ireland* found a strong supporter in Mr. McKinnon. However, the Society rejected both. A French review, proposed by Mr. McLay, was, however, tumultuously inserted on a vote highly complicated by the Laurier issue. Next came the report from the committee appointed on the Friday before to nominate THE VARSITY Directorate for the next academic year, and this too was adopted. The Directorate as appointed consists of Messrs. J. W. Odell, '92; G. E. McCraney, '92; J. A. McLean, '92; W. C. Clark, '93; J. W. Knox, '93; E. B. Home, '93; S. J. McLean, '94; A. S. Gregory, '94; V. Marani, School of Science, and G. M. Ferris, B.A., School of Medicine.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with business arising out of the minutes. There was a resurrecting of the much-tortured Glee Club motion. Mr. Donald moved it, Mr. Barker seconded it, and then it went through smoothly enough.

At this point Mr. Nicol brought up a motion which he said was now before the Society because of the reversing of the decision given by the Chair a week ago. It was the motion to change Article II., Section 7, from a negative into an affirmative form. The Chairman thought it could not properly come up now, and ruled it out of order. This decision was appealed against and was reversed by the Society. A long and somewhat tangled discussion ensued on the motion itself. The Society set to work to try and find out what the effect of changing a negative sentence into an affirmative would be. Mr. McLay and Mr. McKinnon thought it had something to do with the Medical students. Mr. A. M. Stewart thought it had nothing to do with the Medical students. Mr. Thomson thought the Law students would be affected in some way. Some one else thought the Law students would be affected in no way. At last the vote was reached. The "yeas" went to one side, the "nays" to the other. The sheep all knew their shepherds and their folds and were faithful. The majority was large but did not avail against the inflexible minority. Mr. McLay moved the motion of which Mr. Ferguson had given notice, that two councillors be given to the School of Science. It was a trump card, and Mr. McKellar attempted to play a higher trump by giving one councillor and the office of Corresponding Secretary to the School. The Society objected to this, and Mr. McLay's motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Knox's dollar motion was lost, but not before the mover had made use of it to criticise the Society's lavish expenditure during the year. Mr. McLay's motion to strike out Rule of Order 6 was carried easily. Mr. Helms then proceeded to move the motion of which he had given notice, but surprised the Society and himself by suddenly withdrawing it. And then the meeting adjourned.