

THE DEBATING SOCIETY OF 1911-12

(By W. R. Walkinshaw)

In proportion to the number of students there are few if any colleges that can count amongst their numbers so many able debaters. We are proud of them and the object of this brief article is to acknowledge our indebtedness to their prowess.

The season opened, very appropriately, with a debate on the question of "Church Union." Lloyd Hughes led the case for the affirmative in true Celtic style and it was soon evident that we were in for a rousing time. The leader of the negative was Mr. John Buchanan, and as befitting a man from the town of blazing furnaces, his blows were hot and heavy. They were certainly calculated to make the opposition wince—but

"Stout Cameron stood with wakeful eye;

Eager to leap with a plunge and a bound,

Into the fray like a mettlesome hound."

The Highland blood was roused, and stepping to the front, a fierce look in his eyes, W. J. C., with a great swing of his arm, began: "Gentlemen, we want union—we will have union—we must have union—living, active union—not the half-hearted thing offered by our friend, Mr. Buchanan." Then he told a story. The congregation were singing

"We are not divided,
All one body we"—

when a facetious member remarked—"Yes, we are all one body, we are frozen together." Such said Mr. Cameron, in conclusion, is the union proffered by the negative to you tonight.

The case for the negative was put in

a nut shell by "Andy's" naive question: "Did you ever see a cow and a horse hitched up together." We leave our readers to decide as to which body was referred to as the cow and which the horse.

The debate on "High Science" was full of good things, but we will not pause to enumerate them, neither will we tabulate in cold print the many queer places visited by the two C's. in their endeavor to compile evidence for their side. They won out, and perhaps the end justified the means, but they are troubled in conscience ever since.

Naturally, in a college with such a large body of men from the "Emerald Isle" the debate on "Home Rule" for Ireland caused quite a stir. Despite the great efforts put forth by Crute and Heslip—the latter, by the way, believes he was born in Ireland—the day was lost, but the decision was so far favorable that we expect the Imperial Parliament will settle the vexed question at an early date (John Redmond please note) by granting a parliament for purely Irish affairs, to sit in Dublin. We cannot pass from this debate without referring to the fierce fight put up by "Mac" the leader of the negative. What looks! what seathing words! but really "Mac" unless the speaker himself is convinced of the justice of his cause—we know you are a "Red Hot Rad"—he cannot hope to convince his audience.

"That the fear of punishment has a greater influence on people than the hope of reward" was ably debated by both sides. From the "Mutiny at the Nore" to the "Vancouver Hold-ups" was a big jump, Bob, but it was effective argument. One thing is certain you have been studying the newspapers as carefully as your books and