

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

(BY A VISITOR.)

One Friday evening a short time ago I suggested to a fellow boarder, a student of University College, that a slight jollification down town might not be out of harmony with the then state of feeling of either of us. However, he disagreed, saying that it was the evening of the meeting of the college literary society, and as the time for the election of officers was drawing near he could not afford to be absent another night during this term. But he invited me to come along with him, and I, surprised and delighted thereat, unhesitatingly accepted his kind invitation. Knowing that I was going to attend a meeting of the *Illuminati* of the first university of this noble Dominion, I resolved to profit thereby, and so took the following notes of the proceedings:

The meeting was unusually large, I was told, between 40 and 50 students being present, whose external appearance was almost equal to the average of modern young men. It was opened with due ceremony by the president and the secretary.

A young man whose gown appeared to have seen better days now arose with a lengthy document in his hand, and after speaking some 25 minutes read it through, and then moved its adoption. His name, my companion told me, was Mr. Windbag. (I may here state that all the undermentioned names I received from my friend.) I.e. Mr. W., now handed the document to the president, by whom it was again read through, occupying about ten minutes. It was then suggested that it be adopted clause by clause, except (from clause 16 to 37 inclusive, which should be adopted word by word. Here a lengthy discussion followed in which Mr. Sophthred, Mr. Flatt, Mr. Blower and many others whose names I did not learn displayed their keen insight and hair-splitting abilities in the most eloquent manner. Mr. Wiseman now suggested that the dispute, being all about nothing, should come to an end, and business be proceeded with. Here Mr. Latecomer entered, and after divesting himself of his overcoat, cane and gloves, he moved that the society return back to order of business *g*. This motion was seconded by Mr. Readygab, but was objected to by Mr. Sharpe as unconstitutional.

The utmost confusion now followed, and was only stopped by the president's most emphatic calls to order. Mr. Latecomer's motion was carried, when he discovered that it was order of business *f* he wanted instead of *g*. Matters were set right in about fifteen minutes, and the business in order *f* being of but slight importance was speedily despatched, with a few protestations, suggestions and inquiries from Mr. Flatt, Mr. Pettifogger, Mr. Sophthred and Mr. Windbag, who with several others sat on the right of the president.

Mr. Windbag's document was again introduced, and upon being adopted clause by clause the most inexplicable confusion and cross-firing and contradiction and misunderstanding and explanation of terms and display of wit took place, the members on the right of the president principally monopolizing the floor.

The vast assemblage on the left my friend designated as the *hoi polloi*. Many of these had in

their hands what appeared to be small pamphlets with red covers and which must have contained something wonderfully interesting, as they held them in close proximity to their noses, anxiously scrutinizing page after page, many of them utilizing spectacles of all shapes, colors and sizes. I requested a gentleman sitting near me to allow me to look at his red book for a moment, but he replied that really he was very sorry but he could not possibly let it out of his hands until the meeting was over.

Here and there sat a solid sensible looking individual who did not possess a red book, and who acted the part of quiet spectators during proceedings, apparently visitors like myself. However I found out that these were scholarship men. They appeared to be most unsocial individuals, for they would not speak until called upon and urgently requested to do so by the whole society, and even then they only talked plain common sense (*sic*).

At an early stage of proceedings the secretary vacated his seat and unceremoniously made his exit, being followed by two or three lively students from the back seats, as well as by Mr. Latecomer. An uproarious racket now greeted our ears, to the exclusion of the speaker's voice, as these youths were descending the stairs. A few more yells and slamming of doors announced the departure of the party from the building and their voices dwindled away in the distance without further disturbing the meeting to any extent. Upon inquiring what this strange procedure meant, I was informed that it was a customary part of the early proceedings of each meeting.

For the next two hours and a half I must confess that I could take but little interest in the meeting, due no doubt to my inability to appreciate the mysterious, the confused, the ridiculous and the frivolous. About 11.50 it was moved and seconded that the debate and entertainment be postponed until next evening. An amendment was moved on the ground that the debate had been postponed four times already, and that there was a better prospect of having it to-night than there would be for some time again. (Applause.)

In the mean time many members had occasionally taken their departure, and the meeting had become perceptibly diminished, the remaining members consisting principally of those who intended to bear office in the Society next year. As for the debate, it was resolved to have a vote of the meeting on the yea and nay system, to decide whether or not it should take place. A secretary *pro tem* was now appointed and he called out the roll, which consisted if I remember rightly of 613 names. The result was 16 for the debate and 17 against. Mr. Sharpe now discovered that there were only 21 members present, and upheld that there must have been some mistake, consequently the roll was called once more, occupying again 25 minutes. The result was that the debate was postponed and the members took their several departures. We arrived home at 1.30, and next morning, upon wading over the above account of the manner in which the previous evening was spent, I could not but express the sentiment of my classical friend *amici perdidit noctem*.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday evening last, the vice president in the chair. The following gentlemen were proposed for membership: W. B. McMurrich, B. A., J. P. McMurrich, B. A., J. A. Turnbull, B. A., Chas. Millar, B. A. The secretary reported that he had received from Prof. Croft a large number of specimens of dried plants. A unanimous and hearty vote of thanks for his donation was passed by the association. The report from the general committee recommending that the annual meeting be held on Wednesday, April 7th, was adopted.

Prof. Chapman was then called to the chair and presided during the rest of the evening.

The first paper was by Mr. G. H. Carveth, entitled 'Some useful applications of Electricity.' After a few preliminary remarks on magnetism and electricity he proceeded to describe the apparatus employed and the principles involved in the instantaneous lighting of all the gas-jets in large buildings, with special reference to the Metropolitan Church and the Grand Opera House. He next described in detail the fire alarm system used in Toronto.

Mr. G. Acheson read an article from the *American Naturalist*, by C. S. Minot, on genoblasts and the relation of the sexual elements, in which the writer advanced a new theory on the relations existing between the male and female products.

Prof. Chapman gave a brief account of the geology of Toronto and vicinity. The sinking of a well on the east side of the Don to a depth of a thousand feet had shown the character of the underlying beds to be the same as that formerly assumed on geological principles only.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Prof. Chapman for his kindness in presiding and addressing the association.

THE RIVER TADDLE. WF

Those of our readers who are already prepared to assert that they have never heard of this river will perhaps recognise it, having read the following graphic account thereof, taken from the letter of a freshman to his cousin, a pupil at a ladies' seminary in St. Catharines.

'The grounds (of the college) is intersected by a beautiful and meandering stream, having its source in the Height of Land. On its right bank but at some distance from the water the college buildings are erected; on the opposite shore and further down is the Monument, occupying a noble bluff, immediately overlooking the bed of the river; still further down and on the same bank is to be seen the classic structure of our Society, nestled among top-waving pines. Not a great distance below this building the Taddle—for such is the name of this fair-flowing stream—is crossed by a rustic foot-bridge whereon the students love to linger, and to drop over its sides little paper boats on which they write verses in honor of their adored ones, indicating thereby, as they say, that as these tiny boats are irresistibly borne to the sea in like manner their thoughts tend to the mistresses of their hearts. But I cannot stop to tell you of the other points of interest near to Taddle. Mr. Perkyms, a gentleman in the year above me, has promised to take me for a walk up the stream and to show me the site of a battle fought many years ago between the Objibways and the Subjibways. When I have made this visit I will write you an account of it, and some of the other sights hereabouts.'