

THE VARSITY.

THE VARSITY is published in the University of Toronto every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.

The Annual Subscription, including postage, is \$2.00, payable before the end of January, and may be forwarded to THE TREASURER, T. A. GIBSON University College. Applications respecting advertisements should be made to J. A. GARVIN, Business Manager.

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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITORS, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.

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In connection with the recent athletic sports we have a word to say in regard to the prizes. We should prefer to have medals for prizes and to discountenance the giving of "useful" presents to winners, believing that a spirit of "sport for sport's sake" would be thereby more largely encouraged, and the somewhat selfish desire of competitors to enrich themselves at the games discouraged. We also hope that a larger measure of undergraduate support will be given to athletic sports in coming years, and thus obviate the present most unpleasant and somewhat undignified proceeding of canvassing the city for funds and prizes. Notwithstanding all this, the sports this year were an unqualified and most gratifying success.

Now that King's College building in the park is being pulled down, old memories are awakened in those who remember it in its happier days, of whom there are but few remaining. There is in the Library a water-colour drawing of the building as it was conceived, which is of some historic interest. Of the building as originally designed, the portion now in course of demolition was only the east wing; the whole building, if completed, would have stretched a long distance across the park, with a southern frontage. It cannot be a matter for great regret that it was not completed, because the gentleman who occupies a seat among those who sit Round the Table could not have penned his little rhapsody, last week, on the architectural beauty of University College.

There has been no proposal of late to which THE VARSITY could wish to give a more unqualified approval and advocacy than that on which the men of the Fourth Year decided to take action at their meeting last Monday. It was then arranged that a reception on the part of the seniors be tendered the first year; the feeling which prompted the suggestion of this innovation,—for with us it is indeed an innovation,—being a regret that there should be among students so little of social life, and such a lack of the sentiment of fellowship. The knowledge which may be acquired from books is as nothing when compared with the knowledge of mankind to be gained only in hours which the hard-working, bookish student foolishly considers lost time. The step taken by the fourth year is decidedly in the direction of better things.

It is announced, that a gentleman, who for the present desires to remain unknown, has founded a scholarship for the Natural Sciences in University College. Whatever objection might be reasonably taken to the University offering scholarships out of its own funds, already severely taxed to provide necessary instruction, it cannot but be gratifying to all University men, that private liberality should thus be forthcoming to supplement her resources. The founder wishes his gift to be known as the "Daniel Wilson Scholarship," to commemorate the faithful services of the President, and to keep ever green in the memory of the students the recollection of his scholarship and example. There could be no more graceful compliment to the President than thus to bear testimony to his long years of devotion to the interests of the University, and the watchful guardianship of its rights. For it should be frequently called to mind that to the efforts of the late Chancellor Moss, and more especially to Dr. Wilson, it is owing that the Provincial University was not robbed of its endowment, and so crippled in resources as to have been unable to take the high stand that it now holds among the universities of this continent.

A gentleman who takes great interest in collections of natural history, and who has visited the principal museums of the world—writes a correspondent to us—spent an hour in our museum the other day. He expressed himself much pleased with the excellence displayed in special departments, but his severe scientific mind

was inexpressibly shocked by observing some ludicrous transfers in nomenclature. One specimen, he was pained to observe, and a very diminutive one at that, was weighted with a thundering classic appellation, that the man of science, with an eye to the eternal fitness of things, had appropriated to a goodly sized ruminant. We know how difficult it is to keep track of objects of natural history that are regularly used in the lecture room, but a little attention on the part of the curator would prevent the humiliation of submitting to witnessing the scorn of captious visitors. It might be pertinent in this connection to draw attention to the fact that Canadian Coleoptera and Insecta are not adequately represented in our museum. The Provincial University certainly should afford the student of Canadian fauna and flora every facility for studying his special branch in its museum.

Our correspondent, T. A. Gibson, brings up a matter which we are pleased to see taken up at this early date. The annual undergraduate dinner is one which should appeal very strongly to all students in attendance at University College. We believe a few plain words upon this subject will not be out of place; indeed they are imperatively called for, if the dinner is to be a genuine success. In the past few years the annual dinner has been only nominally an undergraduate affair. The students have had charge of the preliminaries of these gatherings, but in all the pleasant details in connection with the after enjoyments of the dinner they have been entirely overshadowed and overpowered by the presence and eloquent rhetoric of the invited guests. We hope that this year the students will make a decided change, and manage the dinner themselves in every particular. Another very important point is that the price of tickets be placed at a figure which will admit of every single student being present, and thus remove any reasonable excuse there might possibly be for non-attendance. We would cordially second our correspondent's suggestion that the dinner should be held sometime towards the end of November, when there will be no possibility of its interfering with the conversation. There is one other point worthy of remark. Last year there was a deficit which the committee was obliged to make up. This was in itself an unpleasant circumstance; but it was infinitely worse to ask certain guests who had received cards of invitation to subscribe towards the payments of arrears. It is to be hoped that such an unfortunate necessity will never arise again.

The most interesting thing about King's College now is the foundation stone. Strange to say, no one seems to know in what part of the building the stone was placed. It is to be hoped that it was not placed in a similar position to that occupied by the foundation stone of University College, because it is well known that the stone in the old building contained a bottle, and if it has already been taken down, the men at present engaged in the work may have allayed their intellectual thirst—where there is so much fine dust—by appropriating the contents. Our readers may be curious to know how we found out about the bottle; so we append the following, copied from the original, at present hanging in the Senate Chamber. "Programme of the Order of Events at the Ceremony of Laying the Foundation Stone of King's College, April 23rd, 1842. The procession will be formed at 12.30 p.m. on the grounds of Upper Canada College, under the direction of the Marshall, Geo. Gurnet, Esq. On the arrival of the Chancellor, an address will be presented from the officers of the College. The bell will then be rung and the procession will move forward in the following order: Escort of First Dragoons; Pupils of the Home District Grammar School; Head Master and Assistant Master of the Home District Grammar School; Porters of King's College and Upper Canada College; Superintendent of the Grounds; Contractor; Superintendent of the Building (these three gentlemen abreast); Clerks of King's College; Pupils of Upper Canada College; Junior Masters of Upper Canada College; Members of the Faculties of Arts, Law and Divinity; Architect, Bursar, Solicitor (these gentlemen abreast); Senior Masters of King's College; Council of King's College; Bedel and Verger (two deep); Esquire Bedel; Chancellor (in the middle), President of King's College and Senior Visitor of King's College (one on each side of him); Governor-General's suite; Executive Councillors; Legislative Councillors; Members of the House of Assembly; Bailiff; Mayor and Corporation; Judge, Sheriff and Warden (three deep); Magistrates; Band; St. George's, St. Patrick's, and St. Andrew's Societies; Masonic Society; Mechanics' Institute; Fire, Hook and Ladder Company; Gentry; Escort of First Dragoons. Arrived at the Ground, service will be read by the Lord Bishop of Toronto (Dr. Strachan), after which the 'Laudent Omnes Deum' will be sung. Prayer will then be offered by the Rev. John McCaul, D.D., and by the Rev. H. J. Grasett, M.A. The Hon. L. P. Sherwood will then present to the Chancellor the silver and gold coins and the bottle (*sic*) and the Hon. Wm. Allen will present the charter and papers. The inscription on the plate will be read by the Hon. R. S. Jameson, Solicitor General, and by the Hon. W. H. Draper, Attorney-General. After this the 'Non Nobis Domine' will be performed; and the procession will then be re-formed and will return to the grounds of Upper Canada College."