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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.



WE call the attention of the students to Sir Daniel Wilson's announcement of morning prayers. These are now held every morning at ten o'clock in the large lecture room upstairs in the main building, and we urge all who possibly can to attend. At that hour there are always several hundred students in the building, and it is only a matter of two or three minutes to drop in to prayers. It is unnecessary for us to refer to the advantages of attending prayers, though the response to the President's announcement has not been so unanimous as it should be. We hope this reminder may have the effect of increasing the attendance.

The reception given the first number of THE VARSITY was indeed flattering to the management. During the past week we have received numerous letters of congratulation on the neat appearance and the contents of our paper. The city papers were especially cordial towards us, as were also several of the provincial press. We heartily thank those journals and our well-wishers for their kind words, and trust that our future issues may not belie the hopes entertained in this regard.

Considerable dissatisfaction is being expressed at the imperfect system of mail delivery at the College. Mr. Durance, the official in charge, does his work efficiently, but the system needs improvement. At present we have no suggestion to make but in the near future may have. The authorities might do well to look into the matter.

The Senate met last Friday evening and transacted some business that will be important to numerous undergraduates. It is a well-known fact that if the regulations were rigidly adhered to a large number of students would have to lose their year owing to having failed to pass the supplemental examinations. These will hail with pleasure the following motion of Sir Daniel Wilson and Professor Loudon: "Resolved, That in view of the special circumstances arising out of the changes in the curriculum of arts and law, a special supplemental examination be held, commencing on January 2, 1891, at which all candidates in arts and law who may have failed at the regular or supplemental examinations, may present themselves." This will give those who failed in September another chance to clear off all unpassed subjects, and enable them to enter on their course with a clean sheet. In the meantime they may proceed as if they had passed; but in case of failure again they will be compelled to discontinue their course in that particular year, and be obliged to fulfil all regulations. This action on the part of the Senate we deem a most wise and satisfactory measure.

We are glad to observe that quite a number of the men are adhering steadfastly to the custom of wearing cap and gown around the college halls and in the lecture-rooms; and we would urge all others who believe in the principle to follow their example. The opinion of the undergraduates on this subject is practically unanimous, so that there is little need of our adducing any arguments in support of the movement. Everyone readily admits that the outward aspect of our University life would be immensely improved, and that its distinctive character would be greatly emphasized by the general adoption of the costume. The only obstacles in the way seem to be dread of peculiarity, indifference, and the innate laziness of man. As to the first, it is obvious that it would be removed if all the men resolved simultaneously to remove it. As to the second, we hope that every undergraduate will consider the matter seriously, and reflect that his example has its influence on those around him. If he believes in the custom in theory, he is certainly faithless to his principles if, through indifference, he fails to observe it in action. As to the third, all we have to say is that the apparent inconvenience will certainly disappear after wearing the cap and gown for a week or two. We hope that the men of '91 will conclude their college career by one year at least in academic costume, and that the men of the other years will resolve to see the good old custom firmly re-established before they leave the college halls.

There were many noticeable features in our latest Convocation, but that which most impressed us was the ever-recurring "not awarded" on the medal list. Surely we have become degenerate when we cannot produce even one man able to comply with the required conditions! Still, in some cases the conditions seem unreasonably hard. It is a strange thing that while in classics or mathematics a man is simply required to take his seventy-five per cent. on the subject, in moderns he must not only do so in the whole course, but on each separate portion of it. To be sure it may be held that the rigid and scrupulous enforcement of such conditions makes the medal a prize more honourable and more eagerly to be striven for; but we are strongly reminded of Voltaire's Englishmen, who used to "have an admiral shot now and then, in order to encourage the others."

THE VARSITY warmly congratulates the Rev. R. Y. Thomson on his appointment to the faculty of Knox College. The reverend gentleman is one of our alumni, having graduated with honours in metaphysics in the year '80. We feel confident that the staff of Knox College has received in him a valuable addition.