

# THE VARSITY

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## Editorial Comments.



THE residence question—i. e., the extension of residence—has been much discussed in the past ten years, and steps are now being taken to provide a residence for the women students. The authorities, however, do not intend an immediate extension of the quarters of the male students as the funds of the university are not in the condition to stand a drain so serious, as the erection of a suitable building would entail.

The present residence is so small that it cannot be considered as representing anything more than the germ of the residence idea in either advantages to the students or profits to the management.

There are at present on the pages of the university calendar the names of twenty-seven hundred undergraduates. It is not too liberal a guess to say that out of that number five hundred men could be induced to live in a residence if well equipped and run on business principles.

The idea of such a large boarding-house may be regarded as chimerical, but the possibilities are proportional only to the size of the scheme.

The average student pays one dollar a week for room rent but at this rate a residence building which would accommodate five hundred men would yield an income of fifteen thousand dollars per term of thirty weeks.

Money can be borrowed on the credit of the Ontario Government (as the university are now doing to the extent of a quarter of a million). The income from such a building would be ample to pay the interest on half a million for which a most comfortable and thoroughly equipped building can be erected.

The steward's department, when on so large a scale could be conducted so as to pay the running expenses of the building, and at the same time give meals at a rate as low as any boarding-house in the city.

It is to be remembered in connection with this scheme that a great corporation such as the university, having the government to endorse its credit, can negotiate if desired, a perpetual loan at a low rate of interest by issuing bonds, which, while negotiable, are not redeemable; that the university will have to pay nothing for land on which to build the residence, that much of the management would be in the hands of resident fellows as at Oxford and Cambridge, who, as they are already employed by the university, would probably undertake the additional duties of partial supervision at a merely nominal salary.

It is true that the large dormitories in connection with many of the universities in the United States have been built by private benefactors, but it is also true that they are the source of large income to the university authorities. The plan is therefore one not beyond the pale of practical politics, and we hope to see it discussed.

Our remarks in last issue *re* faculty appointments, appear to have aroused some interest as we are informed the majority of that august body are going round with the offending shoe in their hand inquiring whom it can possibly fit. Do not, we beg of you gentlemen, display this unaccustomed diffidence over an *appropriation*. Try it on and if the shoe fits, wear it.

## CORRIDOR SKETCHES.

A haggard face, marked by lines that might be only care and sorrow, that might be sin and shame as well; dishevelled grey hair thrust into a sort of hasty order, as if some thought of better days had suggested a regard for appearances; eyes fathomless in their despair and longing, that seemed to yearn for something from the bright joys of other days:—such was old Mary Malone as she stumbled up the steps into Isaacstine's pawn shop, clasping in her shrivelled fingers a faded velvet case, such as we find stowed away in the attic drawers and quiet home corners, where lie faces of toddling children now men grown, and of grown men now long passed behind life's pictured scene. The trembling fingers pressed the clasp revealing a fair young face, a form glistening in bridal robes, ripe rosy lips that smiled back life's cheery morning greeting. The old woman's lips trembled, and into those worn eyes there crept a flash of hope, the last trace of that bright glance which had looked out from those eyes on her wedding morning. Slowly she approached the counter and laid her picture on it; then resting her toilworn hands on the shabby case, she spoke in a voice of earnest pleading, whose trembling tones struck now and again a chord of that tender music which had filled the world for her when life, so long ago, had seemed one endless song.

Straightening her bent figure and lifting her eyes, now shining with the divine light of hope, she exclaimed: "Could yez give me the price of a drink on the picture, Mr. Isaacstine?"

"Not on your tin-type, Mary," said the Jew.

S. J. R.

One hundred and two members of the House of Representatives are college graduates.