

THE VARSITY.

THE VARSITY is published on Saturdays in the University of Toronto, by THE VARSITY Publishing Company, in 21 weekly numbers during the academic year.

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All communications of a business nature should be addressed to THE BUSINESS MANAGER.

The Office of THE VARSITY is at No. 4, King Street East, Room 10 (up-stairs).

VOLUME IX.

THE VARSITY begins its ninth annual volume with this number. Much that we shall say has been said before in former volumes, but as our constituency changes so much with each year, it becomes necessary to bring forward, annually, the claims which THE VARSITY has upon the University public.

We still retain as our motto: "A weekly journal of literature, University thought and events," and shall endeavour to make THE VARSITY unique in each department, placing literature first in importance. As we remarked once before: "If there is any one object for which a university should exist, it is the cultivation of literature and literary tastes." We are still of this opinion, and this is the faith which finds its outward expression in the columns of THE VARSITY. It is a journal of literature, first and foremost. THE VARSITY is a meeting-ground for graduates and students whose tastes run in similar directions, and all who cherish a true regard for their *Alma Mater* will find no closer mutual bond of union than the University journal.

To the student THE VARSITY affords an outlet for literary thoughts and aspirations, and contains besides a record of his sayings and doings, information upon university and college matters, and sympathy and support in all that concerns his welfare and advancement as an undergraduate.

To the graduate THE VARSITY furnishes a medium for the expression of literary tastes, for the criticism of current educational, literary, social and University affairs, and in its columns will be found the latest and best epitome of contemporary life and thought at the University.

One important change has been made this year which applies to students and graduates alike. The subscription price of THE VARSITY has been reduced to a uniform charge of \$1.00 for the academic year. We publish 21 weekly numbers during Michaelmas and Easter terms, with special double numbers at Christmas and midsummer, and at a price which most university journals charge for their monthly issues. In making this change the managers of THE VARSITY have assumed considerable risk, but they have done so for this reason: to remove all possible reason for failure to support THE VARSITY as a competitor of other literary or university journals. At the rate of \$1.00 THE VARSITY now gives the full worth of its subscription price, and is not brought into competition with other papers of a similar class.

It only remains for the editors to add that literary contributions from alumni and students are always welcomed, as well as items of university and college news and communications. We have always adhered to the rule that a contribution from any quarter shall be accepted, provided the subject discussed is of general or practical interest, that it is written with some regard to literary finish, and that the article is vouched for as *bona fide*. The correspondence column is always open and unless correspondents fail to acquaint the editors with their names, and unless the writer wishes simply to veil personal recriminations under the cheap device of anonymity, his communication will always find a place in the columns of THE VARSITY. Opinions at variance with those of the editors, and letters criticising the editorial utterances of THE VARSITY, so long as they conform to the above rules, are never refused.

This is our policy, this our platform for the current year. All we want is the encouragement, sympathy, confidence and practical help of graduates, undergraduates, and friends of the University and of higher education. With these we can, and without them we cannot, make THE VARSITY a worthy and helpful "journal of literature, University thought and events."

RECENT UNIVERSITY MATTERS.

The year that is fast drawing to a close has been a somewhat remarkable one as far as the University of Toronto is concerned. It has witnessed the inauguration of movements and reforms which all indicate that the time is rapidly approaching when the Provincial University will occupy a very different position in the educational world than it has ever done before. By this we mean that it is more than ever taking on the true university spirit and form—as we on this continent understand the term.

A review of the work accomplished by the University, not only during the past year, but during the quarter of a century of its existence as a national and unsectarian institution, is given us in the admirable and most interesting address delivered by the President, Sir Daniel Wilson, at the last College Convocation.

And here we would take advantage of the opportunity of expressing in this, the first issue of our new volume, the great gratification with which the alumni and students of the University of Toronto regard the honour conferred, no less upon the University than upon its venerable President personally, by Her Majesty the Queen. The long, faithful and distinguished services of Dr. Wilson were most fitly recognized in his selection to receive the dignity of a knighthood, and THE VARSITY joins most heartily in tendering to Sir Daniel Wilson its most cordial congratulations, and joins in the hope that he may long be spared to wear the honours which he has so honourably won, and to remain at the head of the institution which owes so much to him.

As the President truly remarked, "the history of this university is identified with successive stages of progress from the first settlement of Upper Canada to the federation of the Provinces of British North America into the Dominion." Though the retrospect of twenty-five years is interesting and instructive we must confine our attention for the present to the more recent changes which have occurred in the constitution and management of the University. And in doing so we cannot quote a better or a more well-informed authority than the President.

The reorganization of the Medical Faculty, though it hardly belongs to the operations of last year, is still so recent that it may fairly be classed as of that rate. It is most encouraging to chronicle, at the end of the first year of its new existence, the fact that the "revised medical faculty has been brought into effective operation; and, notwithstanding the unavoidable impediments incident to the resumption of such comprehensive work with inadequate accommodation and imperfect facilities, the results have, so far, surpassed our most sanguine expectations."

In connection with this branch of university work may be mentioned the erection, now going on, of the building designed, when completed, to accommodate the science departments with adequate laboratories and lecture-rooms. The east wing, specially devoted to biology and physiology, is already far advanced towards completion, and before next convocation will be available for students both in the faculty of arts and of medicine. While the old and venerable "Moss Hall"—the abode of the Literary Society and THE VARSITY—has been thus swept away, and Science has again shouldered Literature to the wall, we have not altogether lost faith in the future of the study of the "humanities" and *belles lettres* in the University, and as a representative of literature and literary pursuits THE VARSITY still retains for her "practical" sister a warm regard and affection.

While Science has thus been successful, the interests of Literature have not been overlooked. The recent addition of a yearly income of \$6,000—the result of the compromise with the City of Toronto in reference to the Queen's Park lease—has rendered it possible to achieve a long wished-for desire. One of the two chairs thus founded by the city is to be devoted to English Language and Literature, and thus this hitherto neglected but most important department will receive fitting attention, and will, we have no reason to doubt, increase in usefulness and popularity.

Referring to the most recent work accomplished, the President continued: "This year we hail with no less satisfaction the realization of a long cherished wish in the appointment of a professor to the Chair of Political Science, not only as the first step in the reorganization of the Faculty of Law, but