

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.

Subscribers are requested to notify the Treasurer immediately, in writing, of any irregularity in delivery.

Copies of THE VARSITY may be obtained every Saturday at McAinch & Ellis's, corner of Adelaide and Toronto Streets; at J. P. McKenna's, 80 Yonge Street; and at Alex. Brown's, cor. Yonge and Carlton Sts.

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

Contributions when not accepted will be returned if accompanied with a stamp for that purpose.

For some time previous to the Christmas vacation various imitators were in circulation respecting THE VARSITY and its management. Since its commencement THE VARSITY has met with similar treatment periodically. The present difficulty arose, so far as we can learn, over the management of a recent college event, and the attitude therein assumed by those in whose hands has been placed the conduct of this paper. We should take no notice of the charges brought against THE VARSITY were it not that we desire to correct an impression which has evidently gained currency amongst some of our readers whose goodwill and help we should be very unwilling to lose.

Our readers will naturally wish to know what the charges are. As there is no virtue in concealment we shall be most explicit and direct in our statement of them. As is well known, there is a branch of the Zeta Psi Fraternity in existence in University College. For reasons which it is not our province to discuss, this Greek Letter Society has incurred the ill-will of certain students. During the "late unpleasantness," the action taken by the editors of THE VARSITY, in their private capacity, furnished the pretext upon which the charges were based. Thereupon a regular "Rye House Plot" was unearthed, and THE VARSITY was charged with being controlled by, and conducted in the exclusive interest of, this Greek Letter Society!

Now we have a few words to say in reply to this charge. First of all, THE VARSITY is controlled by a Joint Stock Company, and is entirely independent of any society, body or clique, except its shareholders. To these, and these alone, is it responsible. In the second place, not a single Editor of THE VARSITY belongs to the Greek Letter Society. And in the next place, considering that the Editorial Staff alone has control of the columns of THE VARSITY, we fail to see how members of the Directorate, who are not Editors, could possibly control its columns in the interests of any society!

The Editors of THE VARSITY have always adhered to the rule, that a contribution from any quarter shall be accepted, provided the subject discussed is of general 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 omit 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 always will find a place in the columns of THE VARSITY. Opinions at variance with those of the Editors, and letters criticizing the editorial utterances of THE VARSITY, so long as they conform to the above rules, are never refused. It now only remains for us to add that those who persist, after this explanation, in bringing such charges as we have now replied to, will have the doubtful satisfaction of knowing that they are telling what is not true.

By a recent statement in the daily papers it is officially announced that Woodstock College is to be converted into a separate University. But there is also another statement which, while it does not surprise us, is to be regretted most sincerely. It is this: That the Toronto Baptist College is joining in the movement. It will

doubtless be made the Theological Faculty of the new McMaster University—if that institution ever becomes an established fact. And this THE VARSITY will most strenuously oppose. We have already stated our objections to the new University, and there is no need to go over the ground again. But this much may be said: That McMaster Hall is now affiliated to the University of Toronto; that the spirit of the terms of affiliation was that the students attending the Baptist College in that city should get their theological training there, and take their Arts course at University College, graduating in the University of Toronto.

Principal Castle, if we remember aright, was a prominent speaker at the great banquet in the Pavilion three years ago, when Confederation was the all-engrossing topic in University circles. He represented the Baptists on that occasion, and was clear and distinct in the expression of his and their sentiments of loyalty and affection for the University of Toronto. The Hon. McMaster is a Senator of Toronto University and a member of the Board of Trustees. He may not unfairly be asked why he should seek to complicate matters at the present juncture, and fail—as he practically does—in his support of the University of Toronto. Considering the official position he occupies in relation thereto, this might reasonably be expected of him.

As we have stated before, we would not object to the establishment of a Baptist Arts College with a good staff of instructors. There is no real pressing need even for this. The multiplication of Colleges for the purposes of giving instruction, while almost unnecessary at present in Ontario, would not have any very bad results. But the multiplication of small Colleges, endowed with University powers, has a positively vicious effect upon higher education. At the present time, when an honest attempt is being made to consolidate two of the prominent Universities in this Province, it is disheartening, to say the least, to see the project started—and that, too, by a Senator of one of the Confederating Universities—of establishing another University, which must necessarily be a rival institution. Senator McMaster's University scheme, if it goes through, will leave things in the same position practically, but in a worse condition positively, after, as before the consolidation of Toronto and Victoria. Since our last utterance on this subject the Provincial elections have been held. The same party—though with increased strength—is in power. During the contest the Reverend Principal of McMaster Hall took a hand in the discussion. His fulsome adulation of the Provincial Premier may not be without its effect. But we certainly hope the Minister of Education will think seriously before he consents to introduce a Bill into the Legislature which will confer University functions upon Woodstock College. Such a course would stultify his previous utterances and actions in reference to University Confederation. We believe he is sincere in his desire to bring the present negotiations to a successful and happy consummation. The government is secure for another four years and does not need to bid for Baptist support. We trust, therefore, that wise and statesman-like counsels will prevail, and that the government will not countenance the proposal to confer University powers on Woodstock College.

The *Knox College Monthly*, in its December number, took occasion to compliment THE VARSITY upon what it called its "change of front" with regard to theological colleges. We cannot, however, accept our contemporary's congratulations on the terms on which they are offered. We do not desire to receive praise on false pretences. We did not last year, nor do we wish this year, to be in "antagonism to theological colleges." But we did not, and shall not, hesitate when occasion arises to speak out plainly in every case in which we have reason to believe that the interests of University College are threatened, no matter from whence the danger may come. Last year we had reason for believing that the representatives on the Senate of the theological colleges had other and ulterior objects in view than those affecting the good of the University or the College as a whole. We took occasion to say so plainly. But we were not antagonistic to theological colleges, and it is most unfair to charge us with having assumed such an attitude. This year no such occasion for criticism has arisen, and we have not, therefore, said anything on the subject. From this