

VARSAITY

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF

LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY THOUGHT AND EVENTS.

Vol. VI.

University of Toronto, Oct. 24, 1885.

No. 1.

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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, J. EDMUND JONES, University College, to whom applications respecting advertisements should likewise be made.

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

Copies of VARSITY may be obtained every Saturday at the Post Office Book Store, corner of Adelaide and Toronto Streets; and at J. P. McKenna's, 80 Yonge Street.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, 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.

Topics of the Hour.

OUR readers will doubtless be pleased with the change in form which the VARSITY assumes in this number. The new form is more convenient for handling and more suitable for binding. Our sheet is now of the same size as that of the old *White and Blue*, the first paper issued from Toronto University. In the other particulars of the "make-up" of the paper we have followed the lead of several of the best English and American literary journals.

WE are pleased to announce that we have received the promise of contributions during the current year from the following well known University men—William Houston, T. Arnold Haultain, Charles Whetham, Robert Balmer, F. H. Sykes, Arch. MacMechan, E. J. McIntyre, H. L. Dunn and W. H. Huston. Many of the undergraduates will also contribute, but in deference to their characteristic modesty we omit their names at present.

THE old editors congratulate themselves on the additions that have been made to the editorial staff. Mr. Irwin's vigorous pen contributed several articles to our columns last year. Mr. Miller is the author of the University prize essay on Matthew Arnold which was recently published in the *Educational Weekly* and favourably referred to in the *Boston Literary World*. Mr. Stewart is a University prize poet, and his productions have appeared in the *Chicago Current*. Such poems as "The Death of the Year," and "An Ancient Rondeau," which appeared in the VARSITY last year, speak of themselves for Mr. Healy, who is also a contributor to the *Current*.

OUR fellow-students need to be constantly reminded that education is not rank in the class-lists, nor scholarships nor medals. It is development and cultivation, and this—not simply in one direction, but in many. Hence it is a vain delusion for a student to confine all his energies and time to his books with the idea that he is thereby receiving the highest education. Far better would it be for him to become an active member of at least two or three of our various clubs and societies, physical and intellectual, and so acquire that breadth of culture and knowledge that always mark the highly educated man.

Since our last regular issue about seven hundred volumes have been added to the Library. Among them are many works of interest to the general reader. In poetry we notice Wm. Morris, Gray, Lowell, Holmes, Swinburne, Browning, and others. In Biography some of the new works are Hake's, Gordon, Leslie Stephen's Dictionary of National Biography, Vols. I. and II., and Max Muller's Biographical Essays. There are several volumes of Freeman's Historical Essays, and two of Milman's works. Not least is a complete edition of Ruskin, illustrated. A list of the more important volumes appears in our columns.

THE first meeting of the Modern Language Club this year marks an epoch in its history. Then for the first time in the history of the students' associations of University College were women admitted to membership. It will be remembered that last year the Club invited the lady undergraduates to attend their meetings. This request was gratefully acknowledged, and it was decided to act upon it at the beginning of the new academical year. A hearty welcome was given them on their first appearance, and there is every indication that this infusion of new life into the club will make that institution even more successful in the future than it has been in the past as a centre of intellectual activity and progress.

A REMARK made by Mr. Vandersmissen the other day at the meeting of the Modern Language Club is deserving of the serious attention of all students. Referring to Wordsworth's poems the speaker said that the best advice he could give his hearers was that if they wished to appreciate Wordsworth or any other author they could do so only by reading his works. Too many people are satisfied with reading the opinions of critics and annotators, and do not trouble themselves very much with the authors themselves. But such second-hand knowledge is a delusion. It serves no end whatever. The acquisition of it is merely a memory exercise. For the rest, the process is mechanical and deadening, and the result is flat and most unsatisfactory. There is the supposition of culture without the culture. Let us study literature and not opinions about literature. It is of more real value to the student that he be self-