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College Topics

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TORONTO, TUESDAY, MARCH 1ST, 1898.

HEARD IN THE HALLS.

John Gunn, editor of *The Varsity*, has returned to college after a two weeks absence at his home in London.

Nominations for officers of the Varsity Ladies' Glee Club will take place this afternoon.

Miss Susie Little, '99 Arts, vice-president of the Y.W.C.A. of U. of T., is attending the convention of the S.V.M. in Cleveland.

Borris Gahan, '98 Arts, is visiting at his home in London.

A committee was appointed at the Varsity Women's Lit Saturday evening to confer with the Hallowe'en committee regarding the presentation of a play by the students next Hallowe'en. The following is the committee appointed: Miss G. Hunter, president; Miss M. Northway, vice-president; and Miss D. Wright, secretary. It is likely that the committee will meet this week.

The nominations for the officers of the Women's Literary Society of Varsity for next year take place Friday afternoon.

"Wilfy" Forbes, '99 Arts, went home to vote Saturday.

Friday afternoon the Philosophical Society of Varsity will hold a joint meeting with the Classical Society. W. H. Alexander, '99, will read a paper on "Aristotle's Theory of Action" and M. A. Shaw, B.A., will discuss "Christian Doctrines Considered Philosophically." A large attendance will doubtless be present.

At the Varsity Glee Club concert next Monday evening the Suro Sisters will be one of the leading features of the programme.

At the request of the class of '98 we publish the following extract from the Editorial Board's Report on Torontonensis: "These are faults both of omission and commission which would be wanting if your board had had more time. It is a matter of much regret with your board that the sensitiveness of any one has been wounded by anything which appeared in the pages of Torontonensis."

Professor A. B. Macallum, president of the Canadian Institute, made an interesting communication to the members of that society on Saturday night. Professor Macallum claims that an important discovery has recently been made by Dr. J. H. Elliott, who, while experimenting in the laboratory of the University of Toronto, has found one, or possibly two, new acid reactions with proteids. What these reactions depend on or what is their significance is at present unknown but it is believed that they depend on the existence of a phenol group of atoms in the proteid molecule.

Prof. Ramsay Wright delivered the final and one of the most interesting lectures of the University Extension course before a very large audience assembled in the Biological building on Saturday afternoon. The subject, "The Life of the Great Lakes," was ably treated, and the nature and conditions of the plant and other life of these waters illustrated by a number of excellent views. The course, which has just been closed, has been remarkably successful throughout.

"Jack" Bone, '99 Arts, is contemplating a trip to the Klondike next spring. He has already secured several maps, guides, etc., and has made other preparations for the trip.

A. H. Montgomery and Lorne Robertson, '98 Arts, are spending a few days at their homes.

The elections of officers in the Varsity Political Science Association will be held Thursday afternoon.

Professor Mavor spoke before the social and Tax Reform meeting Saturday night in St. George's Hall.

"Jack" Inkster made a rousing speech at "Grit" meeting in Bracebridge last night.

H. G. Grant, '99, McMaster, received

news Sunday that his brother William had died from an attack of pneumonia while en route to the Klondike. Mr. Grant was a classmate of many of the boys at Woodstock Collegiate, who were greatly pained to hear of his death.

The members of the class of '98 Varsity are requested to attend to their photos for the class picture before the 15th of March.

D. C. Ross, B.A., '92 Varsity, has been campaigning for his father in West Middlesex.

George Black, '98 Arts, is spending this week at his home in Georgetown.

The manager of the General Course Gladiators of Varsity is only awaiting the "fattening" of the purse. Some of the men are now under severe training. The following are the classes: Heavy-weights, "Bob" Glenn or Thackeray; Middle-weight, Olegg; Light-weight, Groves; Feather-weight, Jermyn.

Freddie Cleland is spending a few days at his home in Meaford.

At the meeting of the Mathematical Society on Friday of next week the following will be the programme: 1, The Ether, its nature, properties, etc., Mr. Wilson, '01; 2, Mathematics applied to Chemistry, J. J. Gibson, '00; 3, Biography of Kepler, Mr. Powell, '99; Physical experiments, Messrs. Mode, '98, and Wager, '98.

The Natural Science Association will hold a meeting to-morrow afternoon. E. A. Gray, '00, will read a paper on "The Petroleum Industry and R. B. Armstrong," '99, will talk on Chalcidology.

A very interesting programme was given at the meeting of the Varsity Women's Literary Society Saturday evening. The number which attracted most attention was the presentation of Howell's farce, "A Likely Story." The dramatis personae were:

Mrs. Willis Campbell... Miss E. Preston, '99
Mr. Willis Campbell... Miss H. Hurlbert, '98
Mr. Arthur Welling... Miss H. Hughes, '00
Miss Nellie Greenway... Miss N. Cleary, '99
Miss Marg. Rice... Miss L. Darling, '01
Jane, a maid... Miss A. Morrison, '99

The remaining numbers of the programme were: Piano duet, Misses Wegg and Lang; Scientific Report, Miss M. Northway; Violin solo, Miss Patterson and Piano solo by Miss B. Cowan.

An animated discussion took place at the meeting concerning the advisability of continuing the yearly publication of *Sesame*. Decision in the matter was laid over until next meeting.

The Varsity Rowing Club held its annual meeting in Students' Union yesterday afternoon. After the business of the meeting was finished, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Hon. President Professor Baker; President, J. G. Merrick, B.A.; Vice-Pres., H. F. Gooderham; Sec.-Treas., F. A. Young; Captain, "Thrill" Burnside; Committee, W. E. Douglas, V. E. Henderson and H. E. Spence.

A very pleasant evening party was given by Miss Carrier, cousin of "Bud" Bogart, '99 Arts, at her home on Church St. last Tuesday evening. Among the Varsity men present were: Messrs. Bogart, W. F. MacKay, J. B. Hunter and F. Hogg.

OSGOODE ORATORS COMPETE.

CONTEST HELD AT THE HALL SATURDAY EVENING—THE WINNERS.

The second stage in the oratorical contest for Principal Hoyle's prize of \$25 took place in Convocation Hall, on Saturday night. Of the dozen or more who had qualified in the impromptu speech contest of the preceding meeting, but six had sufficient reliance in their own oratorical powers to face the judge in the final struggle.

J. A. Rowland, B.A., was the first speaker and he had selected for his subject, "The Abolishment of the English Jury System." His speech was an exceeding clever one, but theoretical rather than practical. His voice was pleasant, but lacked force, and was apt to grow monotonous by reason of the extreme regularity of accentuation, reminding one of the even passive tones of a minister in prayer, rather than a strong debate, or a person speaking to convince an audience.

Joe Montgomery, B.A., was the next aspirant for the toga of Cicero. His subject was "Canada and the Empire," and he dealt with his subject in his usual careful and elaborate way. Joe's style was in direct contrast to that of the first speaker. Instead of the even, passive, ecclesiastical style which characterized Mr. Rowland, he simply laid stress on every other word, at the same time adding additional force to his remarks by expressive nods of his head or motions of his body. However, his speech was both eloquent and convincing, and was much appreciated by his audience.

A. R. J. F. Hassard, B.C.L., commenced as follows: "The subject I have chosen for the theme of the evening is that of 'Oratory.' If a syllogism, accurately demonstrated, indicates the orator, then Euclid would be greater than Aristotle or Cicero. What is it that makes a nation great? It is the greatness of its men, of its orators. If politicians divide countries into nations and creeds, it will be the orators who will unite them. The tones of Demosthenes have perished on the ocean

shores. No longer is the voice of Cicero heard in the Roman Forum. The eloquence of the great Chatham is stilled forever. The burning words of Patrick Henry, which roused a nation, have long been silent. Although they have passed away they will be remembered as the greatest of their time." Mr. Hassard closed his speech with such a burst of eloquence, that the orators on the House-boat on the Styx grasped frantically their hard-won reputations in fear of this eloquent law student.

J. G. O'Donohue next regaled the audience with the seasonable topic of "The Duty of a Canadian Citizen in the Exercise of his Electoral Franchise." He said that he "did not intend to refer to alleged swineries and mythical surpluses, but would confine his attention to the rights and responsibilities of the voter." Mr. O'Donohue makes great use of the argumentative style of speaking, but he closes his sentences with too much decision and abruptness, which has the effect of spoiling the easy flow of language so desirable in a speaker.

Frank Proctor spoke on "The British System of Government"—those underlying principles upon which the whole structure rests. Mr. Proctor's selection of material for his speech was excellent, but his hesitating manner of delivery spoilt what would otherwise have been a capital speech.

Findlay Perrin, B.A., was the last speaker, and his subject was "War and Arbitration." "Europe," said he, "has been in a state of contagious unrest for some time, and we must inquire what is the cause of this disquietude? what sets nation against nation and brother against brother? Is it not the power of man and his desire for aggrandizement?" Mr. Perrin took a rapid survey of the historical causes of war, and the present prospect for peace and arbitration. His speech was the best of the evening, dignified and eloquent, and carrying with it the sense of conviction.

After the speeches had been concluded, the judge of the contest, Mr. A. Munro Greer, in a few well chosen words, announced that Messrs. Perrin and Hassard had tied for first place, while Messrs. Montgomery and O'Donohue were good seconds; and that all the speakers had acquitted themselves not only with honor to themselves, but to the credit of the Society.

EMILE ZOLA, THE AUTHOR.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF THE MAN WHO HAS STIRRED ALL FRANCE TO REVOLUTIONARY HEAT.

Even if the body politic of the French people, in all its blind devotion to the military fetish and the traditions of anti-Semiteism, acquiesce in the actions of the army dictator; in refusing to ex-Captain Dreyfus a trial that civilized people consider fair and just these same civilized people have learned one thing of which they were egregiously ignorant. They have learned what manner of man Emile Zola is.

When in town M. Zola works here every morning from 9 o'clock until 1. This room gives no suggestion of the sanctum of a hard-working author. The style that characterized the lower halls and billiard-room is here, but more pronounced. There are only two bookcases, containing between them, perhaps, 500 books. One is beside the huge tiled fireplace. Over it hangs a portrait in oils of Gustave Flaubert. The fireplace extends from floor to ceiling, and is inclosed, as it were in a frame of oak elaborately carved in the style of the renaissance.

Before the window is a huge oblong table covered with a dull-colored piece of tapestry upon which have been worked religious subjects. Upon it lie many curious and valuable pieces of writers' bric-a-brac. In the centre of the table is a huge glass tube. It is the inkstand, and near it is a tray containing quill pens and a pad or two of foolscap divided through the middle. Half a dozen books lie upon the tapestry. On the floor, at the right of the window, stands an Oriental Cabinet, and before the window a large chair, a chancel chair, episcopal, severe, with huge square legs, and a straight high back. Over this back hangs a richly embroidered stole. There is a definite, an orderly, a consummate taste in all this; but the motif is not of religion. It is ascetic and ecclesiastical, but there is no breath of holiness. Hang a picture of "The Descent from the Cross" in the place of Flaubert's portrait and the apartment might well be taken for the retiring-room of a bishop.

He talks rapidly, in well modulated tones. On topics that are trivial to him he is rarely positive, rarely aggressive; he yields a point for the sake of hearing more. He does not speak with the air of one that knows a great deal, notwithstanding that he is one of the best-informed men in Paris. He talks easily, like a man of the world, whose knowledge is general.

When he speaks he removes the pince-nez. His shoulders gradually straighten against the back of his chair and seem to rise from it. His sentences at first come more slowly, but are deep in tone and have well-rounded periods. His articulation becomes more rapid. Then he often misplaces a word. He corrects himself. Presently the word appears again in its proper context. He taps the table lightly with the pince-nez, but with exact emphasis. He

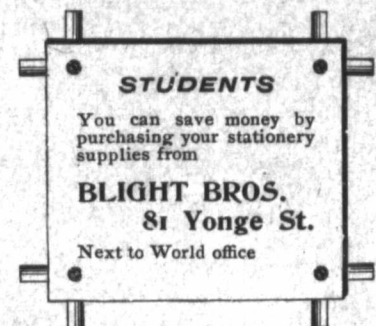
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