

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The society was allowed to scrutinize the periodicals in the reading-room longer than usual Friday evening, for the executive held a protracted session before the meeting began. What was done I tell no man—for indeed it hath not been told to me. When we finally invaded the hall, it was evident by the gentle and innocent expression which most of the leaders wore that there was trouble in the air, but the cloud rolled by. The president was in the chair, and seeing Messrs. Bell and Sellery in the audience, invited them to share Olympus with him; but being modest gentlemen both, and perhaps also a little desirous of being nearer anticipated bloodshed, they firmly declined. The secretary's report was a record-breaker for length; after this a synopsis should be substituted. Mr. Hobbs now rose and in all kindness made inquiry if the recent censure was not of necessity invalid as it appeared to be founded upon a mistaken idea of the constitution. Now in our present state of misery the constitution is a Saragossa Sea of sail-less, rudderless calm, and when we drift into it horror seizes upon us.

"Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down,
'Twas sad as sad could be;

Day after day, day after day
We stuck, nor breath, nor motion,
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean."

But our captain came to the rescue and ruled that the vote of censure should stick until it was reconsidered, that a well-meant action, even though ethically upon a doubtful basis, was not to be set at naught. It seems probable that the whole philosophical department will be called in before the matter is settled. About this time Mr. Urquhart entered, and was accorded an ovation. As the scribe did not look round he does not know why they did this thing. Then under notice of motion, Mr. Narraway—for Mr. Donaldson—withdrew his, as its signer did not vote against the ratification of Mr. Biggar's election, concerning which matter this notice of motion was. Mr. Black also withdrew his little memorial. Now Mr. Hill rose and moved the reconsideration of the censure, advancing the constitutional doubtfulness of the measure. Mr. Hinch seconded with laconic force. The other side said never a word, but the reconsideration was out-voted. "Weren't it 'orrid of them, 'arriet?" Mr. Inkster then desired to speak his mind, but was declared out of order after having rashly said "constitution." Mr. Narraway gave him answer even unto the third and fourth clause of the censure. Mr. Docker pointed out that in 1890 the society had taken over the control of THE VARSITY. Had it since then emancipated itself? Mr. Auld thought that to hide behind our constitution was like getting behind a wire-fence on a wet day. (Great applause.) Mr. Hobbs again spoke, and called attention to the fact that not a few members of the Editorial Board of VARSITY are elected by the School of Science and the Women's Literary Society. Has this society a right to censure them? And for a time the sternest censor could not answer. Mr. Alexander, however, called attention to the fact that the where-as and be-it-therefore-resolved document censures "gentlemen," and the ladies not being therein concluded can hardly take it much to heart. Mr. Hinch now rose and told the society that he was responsible for the report. He demanded that all blame be laid upon himself alone, and that the editor be absolved as guiltless. I think most of us felt better after Mr. Hinch's straightforward avowal—the age of generous manliness is not gone by. And however much some of us may oppose the idea and

principle which he supports, I know one of us at least who regrets having so bitterly attacked the individual.

Mr. Murray being absent, the essay was "taken as read," and Mr. McLeod opened the debate. In the name of humanity he arraigned the British Government for not having protected the Armenians. He told us of the Turks who waded ankle deep in gore, of two hundred thousand massacred in cold blood. (But wait till he sees the next Lit Elections!) He also said *vox populi, vox Dei*; and, when chaff is set aside, he said much that was good and eloquent, making the best speech of the evening. Mr. Auld replied and said *vox populi vox Dei* was no such a thing. He soon showed which side he was on, and the British Empire crept behind him and was at rest. He told of a gruesome writing found in—the palace of the Preadamite Sultans was it? which showed that the hated infidel was a bad lot generally. Mr. McFarlane now made a speech which was too evidently an impromptu, but he left Mr. Merritt time to arrange his ideas. He lived up to his name in supporting the negative. He bandied with his opponents in faction and o'er-ran them with policy; and when Mr. McLeod replied he was the leader of a forlorn hope. Then the president summed up and gave the negative the victory amid general assent. This ended the meeting. FESTE.

THE STRATHROY OLD BOYS.

The Old Boys' excursion to Strathroy on Wednesday last was a most decided success. A decorated car in the train carrying about 150 old boys—and former lady residents of the town, with orchestra and college songs and a yell in concert at this station—this was the prelude and opening scene to a drama such as few towns can present. After an informal reception by the townspeople the old boys were taken to the Lyceum Theatre and banquetted and toasted till early morning. Among the old boys were the Minister of Education and Hon. Ed Blake. Mr. Blake honored the Old Boys' Club by delivering during the evening a most important speech, the first one which he has given in Canada dealing with public questions since his withdrawal from Canadian politics, seven years ago. In it he stated his desire to return to the land of his birth as soon as opportunity should arise. However, as the daily papers have given his speech in full, VARSITY readers will not be troubled with it. The old boys are to be congratulated on the success of so bold an enterprise; and special mention should be made of the work of the indefatigable secretary-treasurer, Mr. Wallace A. Maclaren, B.A., who conceived and carried out the idea. About thirty old boys, including J. T. Shotwell and G. M. Murray, still at Varsity, were at the banquet.

PUBLIC DEBATE TO-MORROW NIGHT.

In the Gymnasium, to-morrow evening, the 154th public debate of the Literary and Scientific Society will be held. Mr. Justice Falconbridge has kindly consented to occupy the chair and the University Glee Club and the Banjo Club will render some of their popular selections. The subject of the debate is "Preferential Trade," and H. H. Narraway, '98, and A. H. Birmingham, '99, will argue pro, while G. C. F. Pringle, '98, and John McKay, '99, the head men in Philosophy in their respective years, will support the negative. F. A. Cleland, the "public reader," and A. E. McFarlane, the "public essayist," will help to add variety to the entertainment. The interesting topic of discussion and the abilities of the men on the programme should attract a large crowd.