

AN EARLIER TERM

In a late number of the WHITE AND BLUE there appeared an article on a subject which has not attracted the attention it deserves. I mean the question of a September term. I propose enumerating some of the advantages which such a change would entail, and taking exception to what appears to me an error on the part of L. in his article. He says 'September is not particularly pleasing as a holiday month.' This is simply incorrect. Every one admits that September is one of the finest months of the Canadian year. With it the intense heat of August begins to mitigate. It is in fact the mean between the two extremes of summer and winter. On the score, however, of its being an unpleasant month, L. urges the desirability of including it in the Michaelmas term. For the opposite reason I adopt the same view. September is a cricket month, a football month, and a boating month. If, then, our college boat club is to be a success, it is not only desirable, but absolutely necessary, that September should be the beginning of the term. The idea of getting up a boat club for the sake of one rowing month carries absurdity on the face of it. October is a rowing month. November certainly is not; nor will anyone, be he ever so an enthusiastic admirer of our Canadian climate, claim April as such. According, then, to the present terms, October is the only month in which the boats could be used. It is true that the men who live in Toronto would have the benefit of the club during the summer. But are the rest of the students to be expected to contribute yearly to a club of which the Toronto men would alone enjoy the benefit, and in which they themselves would, in all probability, never handle an oar? If, however, the terms were changed there would be three clear rowing months—September, October, and May. This would enable the crews to have two annual races if they desired. One at the end of October, the other at the end of May. Some one will, perhaps, object that if the academical year commence in September the spring examinations will take place in April. Certainly I think, however, I shall not be thought too rash if I say that the crews of the previous autumn would be willing to remain in Toronto during May, a month in which there is little going on elsewhere to make it desirable for them to leave town.

From what I have said it may be supposed that I wish to oppose the boat club scheme. Nothing is further from my intentions. I heartily hope it may be carried through. All I say is, that with the terms as they are a boat club is impossible.

But it is not boating only that would be benefited by the change; football, cricket, athletics generally would share in the advantage. The yearly complaint amongst the students is that by the time we are able to celebrate our annual games the weather is too uncertain to be depended upon, and too cold for the spectators. It is the same with the football clubs. As soon as the teams are organized and in working order the season has almost reached its close.

And then again the cricket club, which is present almost a nonentity, with an additional playing month, might become as popular amongst us as football.

So far I have considered the gain which would follow from an earlier term only from an atheletic point of view. The benefits from a reading point of view are, as L. pointed out, obvious. The final cram, for instance, which generally takes place during March and April would be greatly obviated, as more work would have to be done during the Michaelmas term. The abolition of this bane of our college course, which is comparatively unknown in England, should alone be sufficient to recommend the change to the College Council.

Another advantage would be this. The lectures would commence at a time when botanical and zoological subjects could easily be procured for the natural history classes. The difficulty of procuring these, under the present arrangement, lays the professors under a considerable disadvantage in illustrating their lectures.

I have not yet mentioned the college examinations. If the College Council are still determined to retain these wearisome encumbrances a September term would not necessitate their abolition. The first might still continue to be held in December and the second during the first week of April, thus postponing the university examinations until, say the 12th, leaving ample time for their completion before the end of the month. Such an arrangement would not interfere with the schools of the province. The matriculation examination, which is all that concerns them, would still be held in June.

I have endeavoured to put the case as plainly as possible, and I hope L. will pardon me if in doing so I have gone over again a good deal of the ground which he has already covered. If a few more were to take the question up and it should be found to meet the general approval of the students a petition might be got up and sent in to the Council before the close of the present term.

HUMILIS.

THE RUGBY GAME.

The last number of the WHITE AND BLUE contained some remarks on the subject of a match with Harvard next Autumn. I have been given to understand that Harvard would be willing to play in Toronto if a sum of \$200 were guaranteed them. This sum could easily be raised. I would suggest the following plan: If the tickets were put at 50c. each, a sale of 400 would be necessary. The committee consists of 14 members. If, then, each member undertook to dispose of 30 tickets, or failing to do so to make good the amount, a sum of over \$200 would be obtained. In a place like Toronto the sale of 400 tickets could be a matter of no difficulty, and could only fail through the negligence or indifference of the committee. Thus, then, would the guarantee fund be secured, and as 'S. O. C.' remarked, could be handed to the treasurer of the visiting club on their arrival. Judging from the remarks of several of the students I have no hesitation in saying that sufficient money could be raised by contributions not only to pay for advertising, but also to entertain the Harvard men at dinner the evening after the match.

Now, as regards the time, the last week in October is as early as we could expect to be able to play; and even then, only on the supposition that

the team will be willing to meet and go into active training some time before the term commences. As there are no fourth year men on the team now it is probable that, unless some very good men matriculate in June, the present team will be re-appointed next term. At any rate, 12 of the team might be selected before vacation with the understanding that some of them may, at the discretion of the committee, be compelled to resign should better men present themselves. This would leave at least three places open to the freshmen, and give the rest of the team an opportunity of training before the commencement of the term. The match at Detroit last year, though a draw, was in favor of the Ann Arbor men, and few will deny that Harvard is a better team than theirs. Our men, then, must, if they expect to have any success against Harvard—or any other first-class club—put in considerable practice, and with this in view be willing to go into a regular course of training for at least six weeks before the game.

As regards the place for the match there will be some difference of opinion. Our own ground, although there may be some objections to it, is on the whole the best. If men were placed at the four gates of entrance to collect tickets they could, with the assistance of policemen, easily prevent any but ticket-holders from entering. And even if any unwelcome visitors should come over the fence their presence would not financially trouble us, as the requisite number of tickets shall have been disposed of beforehand.

RUGBY.

MISS NEILSON.

A good deal of newspaper talk has been going on lately about Miss Neilson; a certain class seem to consider it the right thing to run down her acting and contrast it unfavorably with that of other artists, especially foreign ones. I have never had the pleasure of visiting Europe, and therefore have to confine my ideas of good acting chiefly to the Toronto stage; and there may be, possibly are, better actresses than Miss Neilson, but there is no doubt that she has surpassed all others who have visited Toronto, in the portrayal of Shakespeare's heroines, and for anyone to sneer at the enthusiasm (roused by such beauty and talent) of a number of college boys seems to me to show, not only a narrow mind, but one entirely incapable of appreciating the beautiful. Should Miss Neilson give us the pleasure of again seeing her in Toronto, I have no doubt there will be found plenty of college boys ready to brave the sneers of the ill-natured and draw her home again.

MACK.

THE diploma of the dental department of Michigan and Harvard are the only ones in America that admit their possessor to practice in the British kingdom.

PRINCETON (future) telescope, 22 inch.; Harvard college, 15 in.; Hamilton, 15 inch.; Michigan university, 12.5 inch.; Vassar, 12.3 inch.; Oxford England, 12.2 inch.; Cambridge, England, 12 inch. The Princeton glass has been ordered from Clark, of Cambridge, Mass. It will be about the fifth or six in size in the world.—*Princetonian*.