

and are supposed to abide by the decisions of those who, by virtue of experience, wisdom and learning, are appointed to regulate, recognize and appreciate all that is done mentally, morally and physically in those who claim recognition in men of brains, brawn or brass; and therefore if such a system is not founded and encouraged by those whose chief business it is, surely it is a strong argument against the adoption of it by those who are by no means in as good a position to judge. If a position on the staff of the paper is accepted by a student, he either considers himself able to carry its responsibilities in addition to his regular work, or he is a fool to accept it. Any man who knows the difficulties and disadvantages under which a college editor labors, reads and judges accordingly; if he is not acquainted with the facts he has no business to criticise. The college paper reading world is, after all, limited, and does not expect to find displayed among young men inexperienced, laboring under difficulties and with attentions divided, that ideal journalism, that *ne plus ultra* in literary work, that highly wrought, beautifully polished, or profoundly abstruse style of composition which are found in the great reviews and quarterlies, and even dailies of the world to-day. The best possible, under the existing circumstances, is satisfactory and, to our minds, likely to remain so.

THE University students of Fredericton are again exercised over an affair which, though really of slight importance in itself, involves a principle deserving of some consideration. The students have seen fit, in accordance with an established custom to use one of their freshmen somewhat roughly and the result is, resistance on his own and the part of his friends. The freshman was, in technical language, hazed and otherwise threatened if he did not comply with certain regulations of the students own invention. "Now, while we do not entirely disagree with the custom by which certain restrictions are placed upon young men who carry themselves in such a manner as to become obnoxious to their fellow students, we yet think there is a tendency to carry the principles altogether too far; so far indeed, as to render it liable to the criticism that it interferes with individual rights and liberties to an extent wholly unwarranted. When a young man becomes intolerable by reason of some peculiar characteristic or characteristics which can be dispens-

ed with to the advantage of himself and associates, or commits some flagrant breach of student rules, or honour, or even persists in a spirit of culpable independence, we believe students are warranted in dealing with the offender in any manner which commends itself to their judgment; whether it be a resort to the cool and delightful waters of the pump, or merely the time honoured custom of gently tossing the youth to the ceiling and then kindly catching him again when he falls in the soft and luxurious embrace of a stout warm blanket. Such things have been done and in *extreme cases* we think properly. But authority can easily be carried too far, and especially is this the case when no *real* authority exists. Freshmen are human beings after all, and a first year in college is as necessary as a last. Moreover the majority of freshmen, though proverbially impressionable, are not right from the back wood; or barn yard, and therefore do not stand in need of such extravagant solicitude as is occasionally exhibited towards them by those who perhaps are *one year* in advance. Why therefore, they should not be allowed to carry canes if they wish, why it is denied them the right to cultivate that which even nature has seen fit to inflict them—a mustache or whisker—but above all, why they should be interfered with if, by any possibility they can manage to occasionally walk with ladies, is more than we can imagine. Taste justifies the first, ambition the second, the irresistible, spontaneous and most beautiful quality of the human heart, affection, which, in the freshman as yet flows out in its pure, unsullied and unadulterated sweetness, the third. Should such amiable qualities as these be remorsefully, cruelly checked? Blighted in their freshmanic virginity? Crushed in the ardor of their new-born enthusiasm? A thousand times a thunderous no. We think and trust that a truer enlightenment and broader views of toleration combined with a determination to forsake customs recommended solely by antiquity, will lead to sounder views with respect to the privileges of freshmen than at present seems to be entertained by many institutions of learning in this country.

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