

THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. IV. No. 24.

Apr. 3, 1884.

Price 10 cents.

THE RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY ACT.

The amendments which have been made during the last session of the Provincial Legislature to the Act respecting the University of Toronto, have, in some points, an importance liable to be lost sight of by all except those instrumental in their introduction and approval. We think it will not be out of place to publish in full the amending Bill as passed; it is not long, and when all the clauses are seen and read together, each can separately be considered with greater ease and intelligence. It is as follows:—

BILL.

'AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACT RESPECTING THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

'Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

'1. Section 11 of the *Act respecting the University of Toronto*, chapter 210 of the Revised Statutes, is hereby amended by striking out the words "a representative" in the seventh line thereof, and substituting therefor the words "two representatives."

'2. Section 26 of the said Act is hereby amended by inserting after the word "head master," in the third line thereof, the words "and of each legally qualified assistant teacher," and after the words "high school masters," in the sixth line, the words "and to each legally qualified assistant teacher."

'3. Section 38 of the said Act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following words: "Provided always that it shall be competent for the Senate to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, under such regulations as may be by statute in that behalf provided."

'4. The following sub-section is hereby added to section 65 of the said Act:

'(2) Convocation may meet at such times and places as may from time to time be ordered by the Executive Committee thereof, and notice of such meeting shall be given in such manner as said Executive Committee shall from time to time determine.

'5. Section 67 of the said Act is amended by striking out all the words thereof from the beginning of the section down to and inclusive of the words "meetings and" in the fourth line of the said section.

'6. Section 72 of the said Act is hereby amended by striking out the words "members present" in the second line and substituting the words "votes of members present or represented thereat in such manner as may be provided by any resolution or by-law of Convocation."

Sections 1 and 2 give high-school masters two representatives on the Senate of the University, and extend the franchise to all legally qualified assistant teachers. This clause is calculated to increase the interest of the high-school teachers of the Province in the government of the University; and it is further of importance as showing a more-general and definite recognition of the true relations existing between the schools of the Province and the Provincial University.

Section 3 is somewhat vague, but is in the main a carrying-out of the views we have ventured to express with regard to the status of our degree of LL.D. We cannot but maintain, how-

ever, that a reasonable protest can be entered against the unnecessarily hurried adoption of this most important clause, without a consultation with, or any request for the opinion of, the body most interested in its consideration. Convocation, at its last meeting, asked that the final settlement of this question should be postponed until it could be fully discussed by all concerned, and protested against the desire for hasty legislation. That protest has been quietly ignored, and the opinion of our graduates, on a matter which ought to concern them alone, is thought not worth the asking. There is little consolation to be derived from the thought that deprivation of consultation involves freedom from responsibility.

The object of the remaining sections of this amending Bill is, to give Convocation greater flexibility in its meetings and actions. Sec. 4 gives the Executive Committee (whose existence is thus recognized by Statute,) power to call meetings of Convocation. This is only a natural right claimed by the only body in a position to know of the workings of Convocation and the opinions of its members. By Sec. 5 the lapse of three months between extraordinary meetings of Convocation is rendered unnecessary. This was an absurd restriction, which could never be of any force except for the purpose of officious interference with usefulness. The amendment involved in Sec. 6 will be of interest to country members. It points to a difficulty that will not be easy of adjustment. It seems to be equally recognized that proxy-voting, pure and simple, must be carefully avoided, and that at the same time, the Country Associations must have some mode of expressing their opinions on important topics without the expense and loss of time involved in coming from a distance to meetings in Toronto. This will be one of the most serious problems to be studied and settled at the next meeting of Convocation.

On the whole, it may be safely said that the amendments of this Session have been beneficial. With a settlement of the 'fees' question, which, we are assured, will be come to next year, Convocation will be given a new lease of life and opportunities for the demonstration of an increase in vitality and usefulness.

Editorial Notes.

The latest athletic agitation is for a Tennis club. There has been plenty of talk heretofore, but very little Tennis. Let an endeavour be made to reverse this state of things.

Amongst the numerous letters we publish this week is one on the recent Literary Society elections, signed 'Outsider.' We glad to give Messrs. Brown and Little all credit for the way in which they performed their muscular task on that evening, and believe that they filled their posts as the society's policemen without party fear or favor.

We take pleasure in calling attention to the nominations of Messrs. Coyne and Kingsford for the present vacancies in the Senate of the University. Both are men who have done much