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THE 'VARSITY.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF—Fred. H. Sykes.
ASSOCIATE-EDITORS—A. Stevenson, B.A.; F. B. Hodgins.
BUSINESS MANAGER—W. H. Irving.

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Editorial Notes.

THE curators of Edinburgh University have chosen Sir William Muir as successor to the late Sir Alexander Grant in the Principalship of that institution. The new Principal is in his sixty-sixth year, and, like his predecessor, had a distinguished career in the East Indian Civil Service. He is a well-known Arabic scholar and the author of several historical works on Mahometanism and its literature. The late Dr. John Muir, an eminent Sanskrit scholar and the founder of the chair of Sanskrit in the Edinburgh University, was an elder brother of Sir William. The literary work of the latter won for him the honorary degree of LL.D. from Edinburgh, of which he was already a graduate, and of D.C.L. from the University of Oxford.

ONE of the interesting educational movements of the day is the increased importance attached to university work in the Southern States. The University of Virginia is an historical institution, which has to-day more of its alumni in the United States Senate than any other college has. Since its establishment in 1819 it has received donations amounting to \$719,000, of which \$653,000 have been contributed since the close of the war. Virginia has always been liberal in its treatment of the university, giving it at first \$15,000 and afterwards \$40,000 a year. Its revenue amounts to \$282,000 a year, or more than three times as much as the revenue of Toronto University. To those who assert that a State college can never appeal successfully to the wealthy for donations, we commend the instance of Virginia University, in which, even during the stormy reconstruction period, appointments to the staff were made regardless of political bias.

OUR correspondent, Δ, in criticising a remark of ours in the editorial of last week misconceived our meaning. No one would be more inclined than the writer of the editorial to give due credit to the ability of our professor in classics were it not too well known to need panegyric from us. But, admitting his superiority in that department to all other competitors, we have still grounds for regretting that Mr. Allen was unsuccessful. It is quite true, as our correspondent says, that "the graduates of Toronto University are surely not prepared to say that a second-

class Oxford man, who does not make classics his specialty, is to be preferred to a first-class Oxford man and a Fellow of his college there, merely because the former happened to be born in Kingston." But they, just as surely, regret that Mr. Allen, who not only is a fair classic, but, moreover, has such ability and wide culture as to be a metaphysician, a worthy disciple of Herbert Spencer, and the "poet of evolution," in addition to his being born in Kingston, has not attached the name of our university to the fame which his genius is winning him.

THERE seems to be a fair prospect of a consolidation of universities and colleges in the Maritime Provinces. We called attention recently to the rapid development of Dalhousie College, which is, like the University of Toronto, a Provincial institution. The Anglicans have been keeping up King's College in Windsor, but owing to a variety of circumstances, it seems to have declined, and negotiations with a view to amalgamation with Dalhousie have already commenced. The Baptist theological faculty of Acadia College has been consolidated with that of Toronto Baptist College, and there does not appear to be any formidable obstacle in the way of its Arts Faculty coalescing with that of Dalhousie. The Methodists have a nominal college at Sackville, but there has never been any university work worthy of the name done in it. There is no university in Prince Edward Island. There is a university at Fredericton, N.B., and a union of it and Dalhousie might follow a political union of the Maritime Provinces, which seems to be looming up in the not distant future. At all events a consolidation of university interests in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island seems not merely feasible but probable.

SEVERAL interesting letters on "Country Life" have appeared in *The Globe*. The writer is Mr. Thomas Conant, of Oshawa, one of our sturdy Ontario farmers. In these letters Mr. Conant sets forth the advantages and pleasures of country life, and takes it upon himself to defend our Province against the aspersions cast upon her by ignorant strangers. He also gives now and then a pleasing anecdote relating to the manner of life of the early settlers, in which we catch a glimpse of the wealth of historical matter which Mr. Conant could furnish us if he would. It is to be hoped that he and others like him will see to it that valuable information of this nature be not lost to their country. In last week's letter he calls attention to the fact that the beautifully illustrated article in the February number of *The Century*, relating to winter sports in Canada, is not characteristic of Ontario at all. The farmers of this Province know nothing of snow-shoes, toboggans and the like. If foreigners pay any attention to what American magazines and books say about us they will certainly have no very clear ideas of what we are. Wherever a reference is made to Canada, Quebec is almost invariably meant. Such men as W. D. Howells and John Burroughs speak of Canadians as if we were all *habitants*. Our brethren of Quebec may be more picturesque than we, may appeal more strongly to the artistic sentiment of our good friends from Uncle Sam's country, but we desire to protest against this manner of classing us all together, or of quietly ignoring the existence of Ontario altogether.

WE understand that next Friday evening has been set apart by the unanimous decision of the Literary Society for the discussion of the custom of giving prizes for reading