

# The Varsity

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BY

## THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The office of THE VARSITY is at the corner of Spadina Avenue and College Street, Rooms 2 and 3, in the third storey, where the EDITOR and the BUSINESS MANAGER will be found every evening from 7 to 8 p.m.

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FEBRUARY 8, 1893.



GRAND and glorious is the Lit. Great and glorious are its meetings, and of the greatest and most glorious was that of last Friday. At 8:15 the president called the meeting to order, and the secretary *pro tem* read the minutes of the preceding meeting in that tone of voice which it is the ambition of all secretaries to acquire; one which effectually prevents any mortal from understanding the matter read. Our representatives to Queen's, having been fully exonerated for not having surrendered any of our ancient and inalienable rights and privileges to our Eastern friends, we proceeded to elect first year councillors, Messrs. Robertson and Allen, desired with becoming humility and blushing modesty to withdraw their names. But their nominators refused to come forward, being cast down with grief and shame, at having nominated freshmen. After some time we found that the society had elected Messrs. Burns and Scott.

Ah! but see! the august Lit., has suddenly transformed himself into a parliament. Hardly has the speech from the throne been read when up *pops* Mr. Greenwood from his leafless bower and in a speech full of smiles and similes moves the adoption of the address. We desire to congratulate him on this his first effort. It was indeed a stirring piece of oratory. Mr. Dewar, with the intention to *do or die*, written eligibly on his notes, seconds the adoption in an able, though nervous speech. Both speeches were hailed with loud governmental applause. But wherefore this counter hurrah? See; Boles, the mighty champion of independence rises and proceeds to demolish their flimsy free trade platform. "Quarry the granite rock with razors, moor the vessels with a thread of silk, then may ye then hope to drive reason and common sense into the minds of the government." Shrieks of pain, agony and grief, arose from the back benches as he, in fearful colors, depicted the awful state of the mechanic in a free country. But lo, and behold, Helles, rises to take up the cudgels on behalf of free trade. Aply and eloquently answered he the arguments advanced by Mr. Boles, but when he, in conclusion, made mention of the good qualities of the dear departed Strath, his feelings, which he had thus far succeeded in repressing, burst forth. His lips quivered, his firm cheeks trembled with emotion, his voice choked, and he tried to the utmost to regain mastery over himself; to

prevent an unmanly burst of feeling. And now the independent Reeve rises to speak. Hardly had he launched into *medias res*, hardly had a few *flowing* sentences *streamed* from his lips when suddenly he *reefed* his *sails* and *sunk* into *deep* oblivion. Do not be discouraged Mr. Reeve, Demosthenes stammered, and Beaconsfield was hooted the first time he spoke in public, and yet they both became orators. The opposition finding that this sort of attack had no effect upon the stalwart defenders of the government, determined to try a new and more terrible engine of war. Volleys of questions were fired from all parts of the room upon the hapless ministers, but they who bore the brunt of the attack were the Ministers of Agriculture and Militia. The Minister of Agriculture averted defeat only by pushing to the extreme the doctrine that language was given to man to conceal his thoughts. But the Minister of Militia was the chief point of attack. The ex-Minister of War turned all his batteries upon the veteran of Waterloo and Inkerman, but all his efforts, mighty though they were, could not break through the bulwark of calm irony with which the Paladin fortified himself. But *ecce!* Fry is burning to distinguish himself, he places himself at the head of a forlorn hope, with one bold dash he has dis-  
countenanced the valiant V.C.K.G.B.

Of alantean shoulders fit to bear  
The weight of mightiest monarchies.

but Helles appears again; victory is once more disputed, the veteran's frown disappeared like the marks of a black lead pencil beneath the softening influence of india rubber; the veteran's smile lengthened, the speaker left the chair, and we untwisting the kinks from our weary limbs put on our hat, thought of the vanities of the world, and went out to face "the hunger of the bleak north wind." L.

### PROFESSOR MAVOR'S LECTURE.

The course of Saturday Lectures was begun last week, when Professor Mavor delivered his inaugural address. The subject of the lecture being "The Poverty of Nations, the relation of Economic Study to Public and Private Charity," interest was manifested in it, both from the fact that this was the first appearance of our new professor of Economics, and also on account of the reputation Professor Mavor has gained through his valuable publications on that subject. His treatment of the subject was clear, brilliant and thorough, and was marked throughout by scholarship and learning. He gave in the short time allowed a concise account of the true method in which to approach the alleviation of poverty, and illustrated his remarks by examples of modern systems of charity.

Professor Mavor opened his address with a short consideration of the popular ideas with regard to Economics. It is regarded as a dull subject, simply because it concerns itself with the life about us. We send missionaries to foreign lands because that is novel and romantic, but we neglect the real poverty about us. Anything that approaches the romantic is eagerly discussed, but the questions of commonplace life are too uninteresting. In the words of the lecturer, the subject is generally considered to be "a study of dull people, by dull people, and for dull people."

The question as to whether Political Economy is an art, was ably treated by the lecturer. Action is the dominating force in practical affairs, while science is the reign of thought. Science and art are, however, not opposed, for though the theory must be built up apart from the practice, yet its truth or force may only be discovered by practical application. Our system of party politics, tends to distort the truths of economics, and it is only by a knowledge of the true facts of Political Economy, that a politician is able to take a comprehensive and liberal view of the matter in hand. This study has also a beneficent influence in that it instills modesty into the politician, for when he considers what a small influence he can exert in the sphere in which he is placed, and