

The Varsity

TORONTO, January 20th, 1897.

Published weekly by the Students of the University of Toronto.
Annual subscription \$1. For Advertising Rates apply
to the Business Manager. Address all communications for publication to the Editor-in-Chief, University College.

A. B. WATT, *Editor-in-Chief*.

W. A. MacKINNON, *Business Manager*.

GEORGE BLACK, *Assistant Business Manager*.

Editorial Board.—Miss A. E. Tennant, '97; B. K. Sandwell, '97; W. K. Stewart, '97; C. H. Clegg, '97; Miss M. M. Stovel, '98; H. J. O'Higgins, '98; J. T. Shotwell, '98; O. M. Biggar, '98; Miss I. Tennant, '99; W. F. McKay, '99; V. E. Henderson, '99; R. M. Millman, '00; C. McBeth, F. Little and J. A. Bow, S. P. S.

Business Board.—Miss M. Harvey, '97; H. M. Little, '97; Miss F. E. Kirkwood '98; E. N. Armour, '99; R. Telford, '00; L. J. Burwash and A. N. McMillan S. P. S.

STUDENT MANNERS.

IT IS not often that a journal of any kind (a college journal at any rate) is called upon to address a portion of its readers upon a subject of good manners; but standing in the relation that we do to student life, and feeling it our duty to call attention to everything in connection with that life which we think in need of improvement, we would desire to draw attention to certain features which have for some time past characterized the various gatherings which students are in the habit of attending. No one who has ever been present on such occasions can have failed to be impressed, in one way or another, with the manner in which the gallery or "gods," composed as it is of a number of undergraduates, has conducted itself. The demonstrations carried on have undoubtedly been at times the source of much genuine amusement. If a collection were to be made of all the witty remarks that have come down from above, it would certainly make very pleasant reading matter. Without this assistance from within the body of the spectators such events as these would lose much of that flavor which marks them off as peculiarly the University's own. But everything loses its charm with immoderation. When the undergraduates in the gallery try to absorb the attention of the audience to such an extent as to take away the enjoyment from the body of these, our guests, of that which they have come to see or hear, whether it be the exercises of Convocation, a Glee Club concert, or any other such events of our own, then we believe that it is high time that a remedy of some sort should be applied. Within the last year we have seen the conductor of a concert stop his programme on account of the noise which distracted the audience. We have heard such an uproar while a musician, who was not one of ourselves, was performing that he could not be listened to

with appreciation. We have seen several of our very best essayists and debaters given the shabbiest of treatment at the hands of those from whom they had the right to expect the best. We have seen ladies insulted, and an evening spoiled for a large part of those assembled in the hall. All this we have seen and considered, and at last have come to ask if the students of this University are fully awake to the consequences of such conduct.

This is a matter of great importance to the relation in which we are to stand to those who have in the past taken such a kindly interest in our work and life here. If the state of affairs is to continue, which we have described, how long can we expect them to honour us with their presence on the various occasions on which we throw open our doors to them? It has, we believe, already materially affected the composition of our audiences. No one, who has carefully watched University assemblages in the last few years, can fail to note how much less frequently undergraduates seize upon our various events of the college year to provide entertainment for their friends. Their friends, for the most part, object to being made conspicuous at the hands of the gallery, and as for the poor undergraduate, he himself usually joins the unruly crowd above on future occasions. And who can fail to note the absence of that large class of firm University friends, whose temperament or age prevents them from entering into the spirit of the mirth provided, but who would otherwise enjoy the evening's programme, if it could be proceeded with undisturbed? To such as these we owe a duty. We have a large place in the life of this province, and if we are to keep in touch with that life, if we are to continue to be its intellectual centre, we must make use of every opportunity given us to bring its people within our influence, and ourselves within the circle of their interests.

We do not advise that the men of this University cultivate the habits and customs of a monastery. By all means let them preserve the spirit of jollity and rollicking good-fellowship, which goes so far to make up one of the best features of our college life. But in nothing let them imagine that they are freed from their ordinary duties as gentlemen, in the truest sense of that word, with its often distorted meaning. Dr. Parkyn, in his address in reply to the toast of Canada, at the University College dinner, dwelt upon what seems to us one of the greatest needs in this new country of ours, and in this University, representative as it is of all that is best in this country, namely, the cultivation of that style, that dignity, that finish, which goes so far in the perfecting of an individual or a nation. Would that in this connection we could impress that message upon our undergraduates. Let them but act upon it, and then see how quickly our position in relation to the world around us would improve. If they would indulge all the buoyancy of their natures, as they wish, at suitable time and occasions, but still show that they know when this sort of conduct is out of place, then we believe that the outside world would begin to think that they see more evidence of the training which a university is supposed to give.

We have a large amount of confidence in the undergraduate; but, of course, he is not without his failings.

We have been in business JUST FOUR MONTHS in Toronto, and it has come to this:—Ask any student where