

THE ' VARSITY:

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WANTED—A LEADER.

The present juncture in University matters is one which requires the services of a man of position, talents and energy. The object in view is sufficiently simple. There is among our people a growing sympathy with the cause of higher education. They recognize that there is something in superior attainments which commands respect. In many cases, as they have not themselves had the opportunity of acquiring those accomplishments, they feel the want of them, and they wish their children to have what they themselves lack. In other cases, there is a patriotic wish that the country should shine in letters as it stands out in material progress; others are moved by the thought that the practical application of the arts and sciences to manufactures is a branch of learning to be encouraged because it directly conduces to the more advantageous employment of capital, and to an extension of the field for labor. Older men are apt to encourage the taste for study because their experience—too often a bitter one—teaches them that there is no consolation like literature. The younger are insensibly and often in their own despite led along the rugged paths of learning by the ever opening vista of fresh fields of knowledge; fresh opportunities for investigation and research. It is pre-eminently the privilege and the duty of the University and College, which claim to be national, to encourage and satisfy these desires. But while superior knowledge has allies such as these, it has to combat foes in the present day just as it has had to do in all time. Many men nowadays contemn study, deeming it a useless waste of time. They are all for business—their aim is to make money.

'Si possis recte; si non quocunque modo.'

They declare this doctrine openly. Others, although they do not go so far, are yet no friends to learning. Their practice or their business engrosses all their attention. With such men, it has become the thing in too many cases to sink their scholarship. They studiously ignore any reference to what they once knew, and they often try to disavow their earlier training. The too zealous friends of education are also often its stumbling blocks. They have theories vulgarly known as 'fads,' which they strive to thrust upon the community. They believe in various 'isms' which they are too anxious to see tried. They have too much zeal.

Still, in spite of all these obstacles, there is undoubtedly a recognition by the country as a whole of the benefits to be obtained by a systematic diffusion of higher education, and the people as a community are prepared to receive a well considered proposal for the more complete and satisfactory establishment of the Provincial University in order to meet that requirement.

Besides, there are others who have a special interest in the question. Those men who by their profession, as teachers, or from natural inclination, or from a love of learning, have not abandoned their hardly acquired knowledge, are ready and anxious to do something to show that their devotion to letters are genuine. They await the signal to come forward and assist in guiding and maintaining in its proper course a movement to widen and deepen the influence of the University. Who shall lead them? Who will come forward as the champion of learning? Who will say to the people of this Province, 'I am here on behalf of the claims of literature—science—art. Our University is in need of further funds. You expect it to do certain work in the training of our youth and in the guidance and nurture of our national literature. It is impossible to carry out these objects without further means. Will you therefore assist us by your private benefaction?' Who will go, supported by his fellow-graduates, and urge upon the

people's representatives the claims of the University and College to a share of the surplus which lies unused in the State coffers? Who is prepared to inaugurate this crusade? He should be, we have said, a man of position, talents and energy. His position should be such that what he says will be spoken with authority. His talents will be required to persuade, to confute objections, to give candid and satisfactory explanations, to frame a large and comprehensive scheme for the application of the increased endowment. His energy will be required to remove existing abuses of management; to arouse apathetic supporters; to keep committees up to their work, and to combat the various hostile or obstructing influences of which we have spoken.

And what will be his reward? He will, after all, only have done his duty as a good subject and citizen, but his name will be enshrined in the memory of his countrymen as a public benefactor. The immediate result of his action may not be felt in his own time, but later generations will bless the thoughtful care which, by directing in a statesmanlike spirit the growth of a young nation, secured for it a healthy and sound progress.

THE SCIENCE OF POLITICS.

No term has been more abused wherever the English language is spoken than the term 'politics,' and nowhere has it been more abused than in Canada. Etymologically, 'politics' means the science of citizenship, and in its highest and best meaning, it is the science of human government. It embraces every aspect of, and every circumstance connected with, the relation of individual citizens of a country to each other, and of each citizen to the state. It has to do with the true theory of citizenship and of the state, and it has to determine, from time to time, amidst incessantly changing conditions of progress, how affairs of state can best be administered in the interest of the whole people.

One of its most important functions is to inquire why, in a particular country, government, which implies restraint of the individual, is necessary, and how in each case it happens to have assumed a certain form. In other words, it includes, as one of its departments, constitutional history. It is only by learning how the present was evolved out of the past that we can make experience a safe guide for the future. No system of government is perfect, but there would be fewer defects if the knowledge of the results of experience were more widely diffused.

It would be a great mistake to suppose that the political problems coming up so persistently for solution are merely old ones recurring. Experiments in politics are not possible in the same sense as they are possible in physics. The chemist can tell to a certainty what will result from the admixture of two inert substances under certain conditions, because the substances are the same in one experiment as in another. But each experiment in statecraft is part of an educative process, which changes the character of the material to be operated upon in the next, namely, the masses of the people who constitute the state. This is what makes it so difficult to decide whether a 'science of history' is possible in anything like the ordinary sense of the term 'science,' for as Dr. Goldwin Smith well puts it, the foundations of such a science must be laid in the shifting sands of individual freedom.

There never was a time in the history of the world when the problems coming up for solution in politics were more perplexing than now. The dictum of Buckle, that the true function of government is to protect person and property, and that it ought, as far as possible, to be confined to that sphere, is more earnestly attacked