

# THE VARSITY

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## Editorial Comments.



At the last meeting of the Senate a letter was read from the Hon. Edward Blake, offering to transfer the subscription of \$10,000, made last February after the fire for building or other purposes, and to add thereto another \$10,000, the whole sum of \$20,000 to be applied to the endowment of matriculation scholarships, the

holders of which shall be exempt from fees during the tenure of their scholarships. On motion of Sir Daniel Wilson, seconded by Mr. Justice Falconbridge, the following resolution was adopted: "That the Senate gratefully recognize the renewed evidence of the earnest sympathy of the Chancellor in the prosperity of the University and the advancement of national education in its highest departments in Ontario, by his generous offer to make a liberal provision for the permanent endowment of scholarships available for honor students at the matriculation examinations. The Senate gratefully accepts the Chancellor's generous gift on the terms stated in his letter of the 16th inst., and, while recording their high estimation of valuable incentive to literary culture among Canadian students, they trust that the generous donor may find some adequate return in the attainments of many gifted students who will hereafter owe their successful entry on the University course to their winning, in honorable rivalry, an Edward Blake matriculation scholarship." Comment on this action of the Chancellor, an action that has already excited the admiration of all interested in higher education, is unnecessary. It speaks for itself. THE VARSITY can but express gratification at the liberality of our honored Chancellor, and at the wisdom that directed the establishment of matriculation scholarships rather than any other. The words of the Senate are but the re-echo of the feelings and wishes of every undergraduate of the University of Toronto.

The above leads to the consideration of what rendered possible the transfer of the Chancellor's handsome donation from the building fund, and here again is found a subject for hearty congratulation. The sum of \$70,000, the amount necessary for the erection of the new library, has been entirely subscribed, by the trustees of the University it is understood; the plans for the building have been prepared and accepted, and at the present moment everything is in readiness to proceed. That within less than a year from the time our college was laid in ruins the generosity of her friends should have put her in a position of safety as regards the restoration of a main building and erection of a library is a happy outcome unexpected by the most sanguine, and therefore one at which there is just cause to rejoice. As to further needs, a committee has been appointed to consider the amount and report upon the extent of grounds that should be set apart for the athletic sports of undergraduates and upon sites for library, geological museum, chemical laboratory, gymnasium, Convocation Hall and

such other buildings as may be erected in the near future for academic purposes. Within a very few years all these buildings will, with a continuance of the present state of prosperity, be accomplished facts. Now seems an opportune time for the undergraduates to make some move with a view to aiding in the speedy erection of a gymnasium and club house. The Literary Society once appointed a committee to consider this matter, but the report of that committee is still to come. Some member should move that the committee be asked for a report so that the Society may be in a position to act intelligently in taking any further steps.

The amount of attention now paid by the authorities to the department of Modern Languages suggests that heretofore that department have been neglected, and that at this juncture in University affairs, when a general survey of the requirements of the whole is being made, more attention is necessary in order to bring modern languages to a level with the other departments. Every one with a sense of justice will feel a satisfaction that, if in the past there has not been a due recognition of any one department, now that special department will receive its just measure of the attention so necessary to the welfare of itself in particular and of the University in general. The statute providing for additional fellowships in Modern Languages has been passed, and this, though not sufficient to enable modern languages to be taught as they should, will to a certain extent relieve the present pressure. Why it is thought necessary to devote a professor, a lecturer and half the services of a fellow to the teaching of Greek, while French with a considerably larger number of pass and honor students and more lectures is allowed to get along as best it may with one lecturer and half the services of one fellow, is, to the lay mind, an unsolvable enigma.

The endeavor of the lecturers in Moderns and Latin to secure representation on the College Councils, the different phases of which have been noted in these columns, has assumed a new shape, and one over which there has been considerable discussion in the newspapers and in the Senate. It is now proposed to appoint "associate professors." Wherein the difference between "professor" and "associate professor" lies is not plain unless it be in point of importance, and judged by this standard an "associate professor" is inferior to a "professor." Now as what is done will determine the position of all departments for many years of the future, this proposal means simply to relegate the largest departments in the college to an inferior position for many years to come. Against any such action strong objection can be and is taken, and it is to be hoped that the opposition aroused will prevent any such injustice being done. The simplest and best way to overcome the difficulty is by the appointment of the present lecturers to the vacant professorships, and this, from the present outlook, will probably be done.