

# THE VARSITY.

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TORONTO, December 10, 1902.

THIS week closes a round of festivities in which every College about the University has participated. The students and faculty have been brought together around the festal board to fortify their physical natures against the prospective feast of reason and flow of soul, or have engaged in the social function of a conversat. The object aimed at is the same in either case, and no doubt the desired end is obtained. There is a tendency for the men in a university which has not the social influence of a residence to live too much in themselves. The student, if he be at all inclined to be reserved, has this characteristic accentuated. He attends his lectures, and then goes to his lonely room to work, and leaves himself less and less open to the genial influences which have so great an effect in moulding and strengthening character. Yet this is an unnatural condition.

The elements in our nature which draw us one to another, and which led the philosopher of many centuries ago to describe man as a social animal, are still normally as live and active as they ever were. It is this feeling which leads the men of the various colleges to cast aside their cultivated reserve, to come out of their shells, and feel that they are not units but one integral part of a larger unity, the student body, in which one spirit moves, and influences, and is influenced in turn by every part.

A yet wider influence is felt by coming in contact with the Faculty and guests who are not directly engaged in university work. It tends to broaden our interests and to make us see the many-sidedness of life. We listen to men who have had difficulties to encounter, ideals to strive after, and who have succeeded. It is an accepted theory that a man will rise to his surroundings, and on this principle the meeting with and talking to men of worth will be of the utmost value in turning out a better class of men. It is sometimes held that we run to excess on the social side, but the opposite extreme also is to be carefully avoided. The golden mean, in which the earnestness of the student is tempered by a reasonable liberty of the emotional and sympathetic side of his nature, and the social side is held in check by due earnestness, is the ideal after which we must strive.

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At the Medical Faculty dinner, Wednesday night, Mr. Byron E. Walker made a notable speech in which he advocated a radical change in the system of raising our Provincial revenue.

Mr. Walker's plan was no less radical than that hobgoblin of the politician—direct taxation. In spite of the sinister aspect of such an innovation, it has much to commend it as a business proposition, and would undoubtedly stimulate interest in Provincial politics as nothing else under the sun. The proposition that a beginning be made by imposing a small direct tax in support of the Provincial University is novel in Ontario; it should be popular, and undoubtedly would be effective. The total Provincial assessment for 1899 was \$816,765,473. A levy of one-sixth mill on the dollar—a mere bagatelle—would yield an annual revenue of practically \$140,000.

Just imagine our University with such a revenue from the Government! No, imagination has limits. Yet, in the case of many of the State Universities to the south, this system works admirably. The University of Michigan is a case in point where a much larger sum than the wild estimate above is cheerfully raised by direct taxation, and no State institution in Michigan holds a warmer place in the hearts of the citizens than the classic piles around the campus at Ann Arbor.

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The spirit of unionism is permeating every phase of life, plumbers and carpenters, masons and barbers, steel-workers and coal-miners, dock-wallopers and skilled mechanics, even the navvies have their unions and their crusades for shorter hours, more pay and higher standards of comfort for the working classes, and now that the long-suffering, downtrodden, overworked and underpaid victim of society's greed, the country schoolteacher, seeks the betterment of his condition via the union route, the vials of bourgeoisie wrath are poured on his devoted head through the press. What does the domine seek? Not shorter hours? It must then be filthy lucre! Fie, for shame! What need has a pedagogue for gold? When, forsooth, has learning been divorced from rags? What becomes a Greek text so well as an outworn binding? Back to your tawse you varlets! Would you have brains and gold? Gadzooks!

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The football season is over and now comes hockey to take its place and engage the attention of the college athlete. The splendid facilities which the University of Toronto offers for manly sports have been utilized to the full by her students. Scarcely an afternoon in the last three months but our playgrounds have been thronged with lithe, clean-limbed, young "Sons of Anak," splendid specimens of vigorous manhood. Now, hockey will call out another section of our men, and, with the disappearance of the ice, our own peculiar game—lacrosse—will enlist its devotees. The very diversity of our sports saves us from the excesses of which American colleges are sometimes accused. The past football season, although bringing us but the City Championship, has been otherwise most satisfactory. And so long as the same high standards of honor and skill are maintained in Inter-Collegiate football so long will this royal game flourish.