

CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

DEAR VARSITY,—The Christmas vacation has come and gone, and once more we are all assembled within the 'Classic Halls' of Cambridge. Last Friday, Saturday and Monday were the days fixed by the different colleges for the men to come up, and nearly all the men put in an appearance by the appointed time. The term we are just beginning is an unusually long one on account of the lateness of Easter this year, and, moreover, the Lent term is generally looked upon as the 'slowest' of the three. The weather at this time of the year is anything but pleasant, and the only sports that can be indulged in to any great extent are football and rowing. The latter is already in full swing; in fact the University eight came up early in term and have been practising now for nearly a fortnight. It is to be hoped that the energy they are displaying will prevent a repetition of last year's humiliating defeat.

The Oxford v. Cambridge match at football came off during the vacation. The *Cambridge Review* thinks that 'the less that is said of it the better,'—from which despairing remark you will easily perceive that Cambridge was worsted, and very much worsted too! Oxford played splendidly and surpassed even itself, while the Cambridge team, for some unaccountable reason, was far below its average play.

Selwyn College, notwithstanding the fact that this is only the second year of its existence, appears to be in a flourishing condition. A new block of buildings has been commenced and will, it is said, be completed by next October, when a large increase in the number of undergraduates is looked for. At Oxford, too, a new building, known as the Indian Institute, is in course of erection, and, to quote the words of our Oxford correspondent, it 'bids fair to be one of the ugliest buildings in Oxford; it is a heavy edifice in a semi-classical style, and is now developing a hideous cupola.'

The most interesting event at Oxford during the vacation was the refusal of the Senate to ratify Mr. Horton's nomination as examiner in the Rudiments of Faith and Articles of the Church of England on the ground that he is a Non-Conformist. The High Church party beat up recruits from all parts of the country and voted down the measure by a large majority. When Convocation met, the vice-chancellor, Prof. Jowett, made the usual introductory speech in Latin, and then changing his tone of voice, began in English with the words, 'To avoid mistakes'—but he was interrupted by a loud shout of laughter and derision. When the 'insulted' country clergy had quieted down, Prof. Jowett rebuked them with the sarcastic remark, 'I am afraid, gentlemen, that if I had spoken in Latin you would not have understood me.' The *Times* of the following day contained this verse:—

'Nomen,' quoth Jowett, 'vobis approbandus'—
'But perhaps in English you'll not understand us;
'So in plain English—all that followed after
Was lost (quid mirum?) in a roar of laughter.'

Yours very truly, T. C. S. M.

St. John's College, Cambridge, Jan. 22rd, 1884.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR 'Varsity,—The matriculation for the Lent term was held last Monday, when seventy persons subscribed to the University statutes and ordinances. This makes the total number of matriculants for the present academical year 930, by far the largest entry ever recorded.

The 'Poll' examinations are gradually undergoing a variety of changes. The latest improvement provides 'that any student who has passed both parts of the previous examination may be admitted to the general examination in his fourth or subsequent term of residence.' Under the existing regulations students who commenced residence in the Michaelmas term cannot sit for the 'general' until the end of their second year, but when the new regulations come in force they will be allowed to sit in the first term of their second year. This will give them the advantage of a year and a half in which to prepare their final examination, known as the 'special.' The numberless changes that the examinations are undergoing here must make Conservative Oxford hold up her hands in holy horror!

All our College sports have been seriously interfered with during the past week by most terrific gales. The boating crews especi-

ally have found no little difficulty in combating the elements and many of them have been obliged to give up the struggle until the winds moderate. The University crew have been in practice for about a fortnight, but they are now taking a rest for a week or two, as there seemed great danger of over-training. The crew have not yet been finally determined, and there seems some difficulty in deciding upon a stroke. Among the men who have been tried in the Oxford eight is one whose height is no less than 6 ft. 6 in., and he is in consequence described as being 'rather a hard man to get into a boat.' The river at Oxford still keeps 'within its appointed bounds,' but is in daily danger of overflowing its banks.

Clare College has sustained a severe loss and is mourning an untimely death. I cannot do better than to close this letter by quoting the touching *In Memoriam* which has appeared in the *Review*:—
'In Memoriam: Joseph, the junior cat, whose election upon the College foundation was a barely recognized fact, went during the vacation to join the great majority. Whether his untimely end was due to public violence or a private lack of vitality is a question suited to the rising demands of the College Debating Society. Tom only is left. Our loss, however, is fully repaired by the addition of five by-term men.'

Yours sincerely,

St. John's Coll., Camb., Jan. 30th, 1884. T. C. S. M.

General College Notes.

McGill has a hockey club.

Oberlin recently received \$29,000 from wills.

Wisconsin University has a Scandinavian Literary Society.

Yale's foot-ball team has a surplus in the treasury of nearly \$500.

A student at Williams College was killed while coasting recently.

There are 104 college graduates in the present United States House of Representatives.

Upwards of thirty thousand students are now enrolled in the three hundred American colleges.

College students in Siam are allowed two wives. This is the Siamese method of hazing.—*Ex.*

Oxford won the annual foot-ball match, for 1883-84, that took place between that University and Cambridge.—*Ex.*

Apropos the question of endowment the University at Texas has the largest endowment of any college in America, amounting to \$5,250,000, and a million acres of land. Columbia has an endowment of \$5,000,000.

The following are the colors of some of the leading colleges in the States: Amherst, white and purple; Brown, brown; Columbia, white and blue; Cornell, red and white; Dartmouth, green; Harvard, crimson; Lafayette, maroon and white; Princeton, orange and black; Williams, purple; Yale, blue.

"TO LEEWARD."

To one who is confined by scarcity of leisure, or limits himself by preference to the reading of present works of fiction, the appearance of Mr. F. Marion Crawford as a novel writer will have been an event of no small interest. Notwithstanding the number of such publications at the present day, we do not often do more than read them hastily and lay them aside to be forgotten. Mr. Crawford has published—and we presume written—three or four novels within twelve or fifteen months, and although, as a general rule, such a voluminous production does not augur well for the writer, we may safely say that they have successively been acceptably received by the novel-reading public. *Mr. Isaacs*, the first publication, and *Dr. Claudius* are by this time tolerably well-known. *A Roman Singer* and *To Leeward*