

# THE VARSITY.

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TORONTO, JANUARY 20th, 1901

EVERY year there are scores of men from the School of Science engaged in surveys in the wilds of the far west. Every year there are dozens of student missionaries from the theological colleges working amid surroundings so different from anything within the experience of the average reader that an account of even the ordinary day's work would prove interesting. Every man of those we have mentioned could tell of extraordinary events, grand scenes, or difficulties surmounted. Some could describe adequately the odd characters among the settlers. A few could do both of these, and enrich the composition with the reflections of an earnest mind, wakening it all into life by a touch of the imagination. Descriptions of the first and second types would be readable and appreciated by student readers. Those last mentioned would be literature worth preserving. The *Presbyterian Review* discovered Ralph Connor. We would be proud to be remembered as having discovered his peer.

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T given to college matters in the city press. SEVEN HIS year has been remarkable in the prominence of the newspapers have conducted regular departments dealing with matters of student interest ever since the term began. The needs of the University have also come up for extended discussion, so that the public should have a better grasp of University questions than was the case formerly. There can be but one result from this. Money expended upon the Provincial University in necessary buildings and equipment will be spent with the popular approval.

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THE round of gaiety still continues, so that the old-fashioned student inquires as to the end of all this social whirl in college halls. Class receptions and faculty dinners, college at-homes and annual

balls, the Rugby and the conversat, the Engineers' dance and the dance of the Women's Lit, the Union dance and the Arts dance—these form a brief category. Then there are the Y. M. C. A. receptions and the afternoon teas; also the open meetings of a dozen societies of various kinds. If it keeps on, we will be compelled to enlarge THE VARSITY and appoint an editor for the society column. On the propriety of these increasing demands upon the time of the student we offer no comment. Doubtless one is at liberty to absent himself from some of them if he so chooses. To others he may not be invited. Be this as it may, the indications are that either the student finds such recreation an aid to good work, or that there is a tendency to consider a college course as so much time to be spent as joyously as possible, with a degree at the end to show for a little work done between whiles.

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WE publish this week a letter from Mr. A. L. McCredie, which explains itself. Mr. McCredie was our authorized representative in Glasgow in 1901, and, at a banquet in honor of the representatives from colleges all over the Empire, he proposed a toast to the University of Glasgow. In his speech he suggested the sending of the medallions mentioned in his letter. No action was taken in the matter, when Mr. McCredie reported what he had done to the Executive of the Undergraduates' Union, by whom he was sent. The officers of the Union did and do not feel that funds should be used in providing what should manifestly come from the student body at large. The Union is representative of the undergraduate body only in the terms of its charter, and not to any extent in its membership. If reproach lies upon the students because of the action or the inaction of anyone trusted with the management of their affairs, steps should be taken to have the matter cleared up, and the stain removed from their honor.

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A GREAT deal is being said and written about the supposed evils of specializing in a college course.

Whether these evils are real or not depends upon the individual student. If individuals did not differ, it might be possible to lay down the law for all cases. The boy of sixteen who enters the University without any experience of life and its problems and without any settled conviction as to his life work, requires a little paternalism in the mapping out of his line of study. For him his whole course is an extension of his high school education, and a training that should fit him to choose intelligently the work in which he will best expend the energy there is in him. He comes to the college in need of knowledge, but also of judgment and correct habits of thought. On the other hand, there is the man who has gained his experience before he ever saw the University, and whose judgment has ripened through years of practical application. For him knowledge is the matter of supreme importance. He knows exactly the line of train-