

the beauties of Mr. Stewart's poem. These your writer has entirely ignored. They are beauties which, had they not been marred by some few blemishes, would have made the poem a masterpiece. That one so young as Mr. Stewart should have written it heightens our admiration. Among the prize poems which have so far appeared in University College, Mr. Stewart's ranks first. The prize poem which will excel it has yet to come. And he who will write it may call his poem a masterpiece and himself a poet.

B.

THE "BYSTANDER" CHALLENGED.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

It is simply not true that, as Bystander alleges in a recent issue of *The Week*, the admission of women to University College was gained by "operating on the weak nerves of a Party Government." When will this man cease from his continual misrepresentations of the various phases of this matter? It is well known that party government is his *bête noir*; he finds in it the source of nearly all the evils of society. But party government had nothing to do with this question, for any person, who knows anything at all about it, knows that when the measure came up for discussion in the Legislature, it received strong support from both sides of the House. And unfortunately for Bystander's dogmatic assertions, the facts of the case really are, that the only definite opposition to the measure came from the Ministerial side, one of the two opponents being actually a member of the Government. This being the case, and I challenge him to disprove what I have said, the Bystander stands convicted either of ignorance of the facts or of dishonesty in his presentation of them. It is no less untrue that the persons through whose exertions this reform was accomplished were actuated by motives of "fatuous gallantry," as the Bystander has been pleased to assert. For the term gallantry denotes a degree of courtesy to women above what is granted to men, and perhaps above what women are in justice entitled to receive. But before there can be courtesy to either men or women, there must first be justice. And it was merely this simple justice which the reformers endeavoured to obtain for women, and which had been denied them previously. Now wherein the "fatuity" of such a desire for even-handed justice consists, it has not been permitted any one but the Bystander to discover.

The Bystander, after stating that Co-education had been introduced into University College by an order of the Government, proceeds with his usual dogmatic inconsistency to the astonishing declaration that "public opinion has never been manifested in favour of Co-education"! This evidently is also untrue, or rather it is essentially an untruth tricked out in the garb of truth. For while it is perhaps the fact that the public have not declared for Co-education absolutely, yet it is undeniably true that the voice of the people, as heard in the Legislature and in general through the press of this province, was overwhelmingly in favour of Co-education under the circumstances.

By the way, whatever does the Bystander mean by talking of a "male university" and a "male course of education"? For any purpose of argument he might as well speak of a "male dinner or breakfast-table" or a "male bill of fare." I conceive that the attribute of sex is not predicable either of intellectual cultivation or of the means of obtaining it. How diligently does this learned gentleman blind himself with words! If he would only "depolarize" his language, as "Oliver Wendell Holmes has it,—if he could for a moment drop the vocables which he handles with such dexterity, and for once come down to consider the simple ideas involved in the case, I fancy that he would feel quite ashamed of the inconsistencies and absurdities of which he has been guilty during this discussion. At least he would have reason to feel so.

Yours,

VERITAS.

A FRESHMAN IN THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR: Having attended the meetings of the Literary Society, I would like to say what, looking at it from my point of view, I think about the way in which it is carried on. Judging from what I have seen and heard so far, I have come to the unavoidable conclusion that in practice, though not in theory, the lower years have no business there for some time to come, except as listeners. Its aim does not seem to be to encourage free and

open discussion, but to give practice to those able speakers we have among us. But we mortals grow tired of the best things on earth if administered in too large doses. Even Mr. McKay's fluency may grow tiresome, Mr. Holmes' funny ways turn stale, and Mr. Hamilton's quiet and dignified manner become dull. Nothing is then left us but to wait for a couple of years until we should not feel any reticence in displaying our stunted oratory.

A week ago indeed a motion was carried recommending the committee to make every fourth meeting an open one, which means that there would be about four or five during the year. Mr. McKay says that "when we go forth in the world we shall have to stand up bravely and face an audience, and shall not be able to make a few remarks from our seats," which is all very true. But beginners must learn to walk before they run. Let them first learn to make a few intelligent remarks from their seats, and afterwards they will be better able to follow Mr. McKay's plan. It may be urged that it is our own fault if we do not settle down to work at once; but the scant courtesy accorded those of our year is not such as would encourage us to lay ourselves open to unpleasant remarks of the kind with which we are commonly greeted, though surely we might be spared them in a society whose very existence depends upon the harmony of its members.

The Society made a great mistake the other evening in not adopting Mr. Holmes' motion respecting open meetings. The only remedy the lower years have is the revival of *The Forum*, or mock parliament, which was such a grand success last year, as long as it lasted, that is, till the adoption of "Mr. Cosgrove's motion." This can work hand in hand with the Literary Society (for the meetings are held on Saturday night), and can develop the fledgling, so that by the time he arrives at the lofty estate of a third or fourth year man he may be ready for active work in the mother Society. For the development of the power of speaking in public in ordinary persons three external conditions are necessary: (1) Unembarrassing circumstances, (2) Familiarity with the subjects under discussion, and (3) a Sympathetic Audience. Those three requisites were most certainly to be found in the Mock Parliament as carried on last year, where only the two lower years took part. Men spoke from their seats, and could speak as long, or rather as short, as they liked; they had very generally an intelligent familiarity with the subject discussed—Politics; and moreover the audience sympathized with their crude attempts. Besides this, there was such extreme interest aroused in the proceedings that men came out for pleasure as much as for the practical benefit.

It is to be hoped that those interested in this matter will at once set to work. The great majority of the first year will join, and the second year, mindful of the success of last year, will turn out in large numbers. There is no reason why this Saturday evening meeting should interfere with the Literary Society, but rather prove a valiant auxiliary to it. As to money matters, the cost of keeping it up, divided among a hundred students, would be about fifty cents apiece for the season.

Hoping that you will excuse my longwindedness.

I remain yours respectfully,

A FRESHMAN SHY.

Books to me indeed are dear,—
I learning lack,—for learning long:
Can these, these shall me, lonesome, cheer,
The power of prose, the sweets of song.

Laughing lassies me delight,
Seductive smiles my soul assail,
Though fools offend,—fair flirts affright,
And oft I, wanton-wounded, wail.

Books will do their best to please;
But lassies won't, or lassies will
As cause each love-igniter sees,—
Or choice to charm, or chance to chill:

Volumes vainly lure your looks
While so sweet virgins make you yearn;—
Abandon, learning-lover, books,
And love of lovely lassies learn.

O. A. N.