

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XII.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DECEMBER 14, 1892.

No. 10.

Editorial Comments.



It was with deep regret that the students of the University of Toronto learned of the death of Miss Olive E. Loudon, the eldest daughter of President Loudon. Miss Loudon died at Aikin, South Carolina, whither she had gone for the benefit of her health. Our esteemed

President may be assured that the students feel the deepest sympathy with him in this the second severe trial which he has been called upon to pass through in so short a period.

Saturday has always appeared to us to be especially the student's day—the day when he can lay aside the irksome succession of work, and, uninterrupted by the annoyance of inconvenient lectures, can in his reading and his recreation follow the bent of his own sweet will and feel himself really a student. Under the present tendency to multiply indefinitely regulations and restrictions, when each student must take his allotted seat in lectures if present and if absent have a "bad mark" put opposite his name which will militate against him at the next exam., our Saturday leisure seems to be the only remaining potent force in preventing us from becoming machine-made automatons.

It is of incalculable value to us to frequently rise, even for a short space of time, out of the ordinary rut, lest it wear so deep that we become enveloped therein and lost to every outside influence and to every outside field of usefulness. In this connection we heartily appreciated the series of Saturday lectures delivered last year by different members of the Faculty of the University and the College. These lectures though indirectly bearing on curriculum work had a higher aim in view than the next examination. Their purpose was to cultivate thought and to raise the standard of intellectual culture. But in doing so they also gave tangible evidence that such culture was only to be attained by persevering study. It afforded true enjoyment to the machine-worked student of the past week, when devoid of the carking encumbrance of note-book and pencil, and free from the tantalization of conjecturing what probable bearing each sentence would have on his next exam., he could sit at his ease in a seat of his own choice, with his feet propped against the seat in front, and drink in the lofty inspirations of poetry or history, of science or art, of modern research or of classic lore. And even the dullest of us caught what our French friends call an *entrevu* of the beauties of the courses we were not permitted to look upon at greater length. Truly such Saturdays were halcyon days for the genuine student.

But why have they ceased to be? Why are we now denied the pleasure and profit that accrued therefrom? Is it because such lectures would overtax our really hard-working faculty? It is not because they were not

desired and appreciated by the students. It cannot be because they were not patronized by the general public. Or is it because we are disinclined towards letting our lights shine before the outside world, or because we grudge the trouble? The very fact that such a series of lectures afforded an opportunity for the outside public to mingle with us on our own peculiar ground was one of their strongest recommendations. Many a time have strangers been heard to express their approbation of a scheme whereby they were enabled to get some idea of the work that was being done inside the institution which they were called upon to support. Viewed from every standpoint the system seems to be highly commendable, and we venture to express the hope that, if at all practicable, it will again be put into operation.

It is with pleasure that THE VARSITY calls attention to a thoughtful article entitled "Would it Mean an American Empire?" by Mr. C. A. Stuart, B.A., of the Class of '91. The article deals with questions of great practical importance, viz., the future political conditions of this continent. Mr. Stuart brings to bear on the treatment of these questions the results of his classical and modern studies. He makes it quite clear that in all matters of historical importance the lessons taught by the histories of Greece and Rome are fully as useful in solving or helping to solve modern problems as the most advanced theories of what an impatient critic has called exotic pedantry. It is gratifying to think that all our graduates do not throw aside their studies as soon as they leave our halls, and we may express the hope (which this article excites) that Mr. Stuart will pursue those historical studies for which his college training has so admirably fitted him.

A few days since we noticed on the janitor's table a petition that caused our pulse to beat decidedly faster. The purport of the petition was a request to the University authorities for the provision of some means to protect the belongings of the students while they are attending lectures, and the long list of names appearing on the paper affords rather striking testimony as to the number of articles lost, strayed, or stolen. On inquiry we find that hats, rubbers, books, gloves, umbrellas are the commonest cause of mourning, but that in addition to these more costly things have disappeared, such as watches and other valuables, and that in some instances money both in large and small amounts has been transferred from the pocket of its rightful owner to the pocket of some one evidently not disdaining even this the lowest form of trash. These things have been left in the cloak-room when their rightful lord went to his lectures but have been missing on his return; and even the most charitable of us can come to no less unkind and unpleasant conclusion than that they have been deliberately stolen.