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MARCH, 1895.

To the Editor of the O. A. C. Review

DEAR SIR,—I am sure that Mr. G. F. Marsh has touched upon a very important matter in his letter on the Ontario Experimental Union in the February number of the Review, and a subject which has already been too long neglected as far as the social aspect of the Union is concerned.

I believe I was present at the organization of the Union, or at all events during the very early stages of its career, and the impression left upon my mind was that the purposes of the Union were threefold, viz:

1. To promote intercourse between the officers and students, past and present, with the view to mutual information.

2. To discuss subjects bearing upon the wide field of agriculture with its allied sciences and arts.

3. To hear papers and addresses delivered by competent parties.

The Union, therefore, had in view objects which were, we might say, for the benefit and use of the officers and students past and present of the O. A. College, alone; therefore, let us see what the Article on membership says in the original Constitution. "All officers and students of whatever time shall be entitled to become members of the Union on paying their subscription." So that taking everything into consideration there is no doubt that the object of the Union being originally for the social, and then the experimental gratification of students past and present, that the experimental feature has collapsed and snowed under as it were the social aspect.

While no one will regret the expansion and success of this feature of the Union, yet we cannot but regret that the social portion did not keep up the same improving pace; and hence the accounting in a great measure for the slender attendance and interest taken in the Union by the older students of the College.

There is apparently something else wrong, it seems to me, in the

interior economy of the present Union, which would be the letter of some thought and improvement, viz:

1. Thoroughly discuss the approaching meeting of the Union in the publication of the Review previous to the meeting; give the programme of papers and addresses; the names of the speakers, &c., &c. so that a fair idea of the meeting may be had before hand.

2. Let the Secretary notify all ex-students whose addresses he may have, by circular, of the date and place of meeting two or three weeks before the date arranged, so that they set their houses in order (if they have any) before setting out for the meeting,—whether they are paying members or not. Some may have forgotten; others may wish to join, who have not considered it before. Set the ball rolling; it will soon gather in the leys, if the meetings are only attractive enough.

Mr. Marsh's suggestion, which is a good one, now comes in. Set aside then a portion of the time for social duties confined to past and present students and officers. Let us have a family gathering as it were before hand; where we can meet old friends and make new ones. What College with the influence and prominence of the O. A. C. has not an annual meeting and banquet to which members throng from all parts of the Dominion to attend, and with the more serious open meetings of the Union coming afterwards, would it not act as a great stimulus?

Seven or eight years ago I recommended forming a branch of the Union into a students society, and corresponded with R. F. Holterman and W. J. Stover in regard to it. The matter was discussed, I believe, at one of the meetings, but evidently dropped out of sight, as nothing was done to forward the idea.

No one feels more proud of the success of the Union in its experimental and agricultural sense than I do, and long may the meetings remain as popular as they are, to spread broadcast over the land the truths of the sciences and arts which are so essential to the success of our agriculturists. Long may they last, and brighten the homes of our neighbors, but while we are doing so let us gladden our own doors with some extra rays of sunshine.

Let us then send a rallying cry through the country for a rousing meeting next year; let us have a social reunion, where flow of soul and reason may be poured out; where we renew our acquaintances of the past and enjoy ourselves in the present, and look forward in welcome anticipation to the future. Let us have a chat of old days, and a laugh at the old jokes; let us sigh for those that are absent, and drop a tear for those that are gone—gone to that bourne from which no traveller ever returns. Let us visit the various departments of the farm by ourselves, and commune with the rising generation who have taken our places, and let us meet in solemn conclave on our own society affairs, and then on the morrow, when the great meeting takes place, strengthened by old acquaintances, and welcomed by new ones, we will be more ready to attend it, and help forward to the best of our ability the onward march of the young giant Agriculture.

Give us a welcome, and meetings such as these, and he indeed would be a misanthropist, who would want to cut short his annual visit to the O. A. C.

Yours very truly,

J. G. ROSS, '81.

MONTREAL, 15th March, 1895.