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LADY STUDENTS AND THE COLLEGE COUNCIL.

It is becoming more apparent every day that some provision must soon be made in this country for the higher education of women. In England and the United States this question has received considerable attention, and means have been provided in both these countries for affording to women the advantages of college training. The University of Toronto apparently admits everyone to compete at its examinations, without distinction of sex. It is in the affiliated institutions, or teaching bodies, such as University College, that the great difficulty occurs. A girl may present herself at the University examinations, she may compete for the honors and scholarships, and attain the rank she proves herself entitled to. But the strange anomaly exists, that if she is once registered as a matriculated student in one of the affiliated colleges, she must attend the course of lectures prescribed for that institution or be debarred from competing in any future University examinations. The University Act provides that students in affiliated colleges who have completed the preliminary course of instruction in their respective colleges, shall be admitted as candidates at the University examinations, and persons who are not students in such colleges may be admitted to these examinations, subject only to such conditions as the Senate may determine.

The Council of University College refuses to admit women to the benefit of its lectures. The consequence is that several ladies who have matriculated with high honors are unable to take advantage of the course of instruction afforded by the College, and have been discouraged from attempting to proceed further in their University career. It is submitted, with all deference, that it would be well for the College Council to reconsider its decision, both as to the expediency of the measure, and as to their powers of bringing it into effect. In our whole system of Public and High Schools in Ontario, girls are admitted as freely as boys to share in all the educational advantages that are afforded. Both sexes are to be found in all the classes, studying the same subjects, competing for the same prizes, instructed by the same teachers. Should any one at the present time endeavor to exclude girls from our High Schools, on any arguments of convenience, morality or expediency, he would meet with little encouragement. And if the question of co-education has been settled so successfully in our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, why should our Colleges be afraid to try the same experiment?

Moreover, it is very doubtful whether the College Council has power to exclude women who have passed the matriculation examination, from attending lectures and participating in any of the advantages provided for students of the College. In chapter 209 of the Revised Statutes, section 8, the powers of the Council are fully defined. The section is as follows:—

“The said Council may make statutes for the good government, discipline, conduct and regulation of the said College, and of the professors, teachers, students, officers and servants thereof for regulating the fees to be paid by students, or persons attending lectures or receiving instruction in the said College, and the times of regular meetings of the Council, and generally for the management of the property and business thereof, and for any purpose necessary for carrying this Act into effect according to its intent and spirit in cases for which no provision is made, so that such statutes be not inconsistent with this Act or the laws of this Province; and the Council may from time to time amend or repeal the same.”

There is nothing in the above section that could possibly be construed in such a manner as to give the Council power to exclude, by a single resolution, a whole class of persons who have never shown in any way that their presence would injure the discipline of the College, or interfere with its purposes. The words “conduct and regulation” can only refer to the internal management of the institution, and gives the Council no discretion to say who shall be students of the College, and who shall not. There is nothing in the Act which shows any intention on the part

of its framers to prefer one sex to the other. Were the Council to pass a statute excluding from lectures all persons of African blood, it would be *ultra vires* and void. And why should it have power to refuse admittance to all individuals of one sex, if it could not exclude a particular race, or indeed any large class of persons?

The question has already excited considerable discussion, and it is scarcely probable that it will be lightly dropped. If the Council should persist in retaining the present resolution, it will only remain to test the extent of their powers. If some fair matriculant wishes to win fame for herself and privilege for her sisters, let her apply to a court of law for a *mandamus* to compel the authorities of University College to admit her to attendance at lectures. The merits of the question can then be discussed and settled in a valid manner, and if it should be decided against the fair aspirants, they could still have recourse to Parliament for legislation upon their grievances.

The cause of co-education in University College, as a means towards establishing a similar college for women, is now a victorious cause so far as the intentions of the undergraduates and of a not inconsiderable number of graduates are concerned. A sign of the spirit of justice pervading the former was given at the meeting of the Debating Society three Fridays since, when a happy allusion to the admission of women to attendance on lectures drew forth undissenting and prolonged applause. A still more unequivocal evidence of unanimity of opinion was offered by the proceedings on the night of the tenth of November. The speeches made on this occasion will be for some time remembered as most creditable specimens of undergraduate oratory. A certain significance attaches to the ably-expressed objections against an article in the *Bystander*, and to the general sentiment of opposition to the rigid conservatism which unhappily reigns in that quarter where a spirit of compromise would be regarded as a dignified concession to public opinion. The significance arises from the independent reflexion valuably evidenced at the meeting—a reflexion which chooses to be affected by the tendencies of the day rather than by the utterances and halting attitude of a gentleman who is more or less sincerely said to be ‘educating’ Canadians.

The *College Argus* gives a list of books recently added to the library of Wesleyan University. Among the number is ALEXANDER'S *Essay on Mill and Carlyle*. It is to be hoped that readers of the *Argus* will also be readers of this work. The great majority of Americans are ungratefully ignorant of the man who, throughout the Rebellion, was the firm and fast friend of the Union. BRETE HARTE puts into the mouth of SCHROEDER, “Der Rebooplicans don't got no memories;” and the non-recognition of MILL'S powerfully-expressed sympathy with their cause may well induce belief that the statement is not altogether an exaggeration. One of the most salient marks of culture is sensibility to the noble rectitude of purpose and high moral character, such as these great Englishmen possessed. From this point of view, the young men at American Universities have shown themselves unsusceptible and unrefined. Among fifty who have read any work by EMERSON, it is doubtful if five could be found to say positively that MILL wrote on other subjects besides Logic and Political Economy. The Eastern and Western University press is at loggerheads on this very question of culture—the former making an exclusive pretention, and the latter indulging freely in the obvious retort. On neither side is there the slightest ground for dispute. With exceptions that may be counted on the fingers of one hand the University papers are the fit organs of young men who are directly uninfluenced by any of the master-minds of this century. Professor JEVONS mentions that for the last twenty years the world of journalism has been thoroughly imbued with the views of MILL. But, as far as University journalism is concerned, there is not the faintest indication of his ascendancy.