

Every candid student will, we think, upon a little reflection, concede that this is a step in advance for Toronto University and with the hearty co-operation of Senate, Professors, Lecturers and Students in this attempt to insure thoroughness in regular work, we shall expect Toronto University to set before her sister Canadian colleges even a higher standard of excellence than they have yet attained.

DURING the past few years elocution has among the collegians been steadily growing in popularity. A larger number each year are impressed with its importance, and aim to improve the advantages enjoyed in Mr. H. N. Shaw's classes. At first perhaps there was a little criticism of the new methods, and some diffidence among the students about spending the required time and money. As however successive classes of juniors and seniors have stood in college hall an argument in favor of elocution has been presented with logic unanswerable. The vast difference in all the essentials of good delivery between those who have placed themselves under Mr. Shaw's tuition, and others, has been for the peace of mind of the latter as well as the comfort of the audience only too evident. This argument alone has reached hearts steeled against conviction by gentler means. As a consequence, the increasing interest in this study.

It is a source of regret however, that even among those who build hopes of success at the bar or in the pulpit, some remain indifferent to this important department of culture. They no doubt feel they are thoroughly proficient on these points. Ten minutes of their precious time spent in any of the elocution classes would probably convince them how very easy it is to overestimate one's own powers. *Verbum sat, &c.*, but as to others we suppose that not even numerous octavos of weightiest counsel could persuade them to give over their old contention, that nature is the true model. They will cling to this dogma though the heavens fall. Their highest aim is to be natural. And in the coming years, in spite of whatever we may say, there will be other swarms spreading over the country of these unnatural disciples of nature. Of those who become speakers one will howl and rant like an Indian on the war path, or a raving maniac. Another will lean in lazy awkwardness over the

pulpit and read with insipid monotony his tedious MSS. A third will drone in wearisome sing-song his appeal to a long suffering jury. Although nature has imparted to man the faculty of reasoning, no thinking person would say that *ergo* there is no need of mathematics. Is it not quite as essential that our natural faculties for the expression of thought receive due cultivation?

G RUMBLING is a grace that never has flourished in the Sanctum. Though false customs triumph and evil precedents govern and all the clashing elements howl for reform, we merely proceed with stoical calmness and unruffled brow, to offer a quiet suggestion or point to a solution of the difficulty. There is however a limit to even our patience. We would fain be silent, and we trust that except by those who frequent the reading-room the remainder of this paragraph will be passed unread; for we feel compelled to strike a note of dissatisfaction at the condition of affairs which have during the last few weeks characterized that some time neat and and well' conducted apartment. A very pleasant and commodious room furnished with all the appliances necessary to convenience and comfort is placed by the faculty at the disposal of the students, while the literary society provides all the more important news-papers and periodicals of this continent and England. Surely such a boon ought to be appreciated and its privileges enjoyed rather than abused. Yet a species of vandalism has appeared more in keeping with the barbarism of the Soudan than with the refinement and culture which college men are supposed to possess. In fact the evil has proceeded to that stage when even the law abiding are forced as a means of protection to adopt the methods of which only a few were originally guilty. You may look along the list of papers and behold them mutilated with knife or scissors and despoiled of the very contents perhaps which would make them of value to the purchaser. The illustrated papers become tattered and soiled and usually disappear long before the time of their distribution has arrived. The exchanges unless guarded with jealous vigilance are at once monopolized by parties unknown. If this nuisance continues, the society should keep the room under lock and key with admission only during certain hours when the student having its care could be present.