

THE VARSITY

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Toronto, November 3, 1904.

"There have been times in the history of this University when doubtful wisdom has been shown in the awarding of honorary degrees. That is far from the truth in this case, however, and the University in honoring Mr. Morley with the degree of Doctor of Civil Laws has honored herself." In these words did Mr. Goldwin Smith propose for the degree of LL.D., honoris causa, the name of Mr. John Morley, the eminent English scholar, publicist and historian, at the special convocation on Monday. For the second time within the past few weeks we have had the opportunity of seeing and hearing one of our distinguished kinsmen from over the sea. In the persons of Professor Bryce and Mr. Morley we have highly developed types of the class of men who form the governing class in Great Britain.

To us in Canada, whose highest culture even, is in many respects imperfect and crude, the message of one coming from a country which has evolved so high a form of culture as England, and which has felt the throb of a great national life, is of considerable importance. The slur is sometimes cast upon this young nation that it breeds politicians, not statesmen. If such an imputation be just—and we must admit that to a great extent it is—the reason is to be found not in an immorality that saps the life of our social structure, but rather in the fact that our nation, being very young, has not been able to develop the culture which is necessary for the higher life of a nation.

Mr. Morley is a type of the men who form the governing class in England. He is a man of independent fortune and is thus, through the leisure afforded him, able to devote considerable time to the study of politics and historical questions. Like Mr. Balfour, who, were he not a public man, would be a physicist of no mean rank, and Mr. Gladstone, who, had he not been a statesman, would have attained eminence as a classical scholar, Mr. Morley, when free from his duties as a member of the British House of Commons, has been able to throw the light of a trained intellect upon certain phases of political history. With what success his *Life of Gladstone* and his monographs upon Voltaire and Cobden are evidence.

That Mr. Morley's finer nature has not been blunted by twenty-one years of active public life was evidenced in his speech on the acceptance of the degree, when he referred to the period spent along with Mr. Goldwin Smith as a student at

Oxford. In simple but eloquent language he paid tribute to the ancient seat of learning where men are taught that character is more important than learning and knowledge is not always power. When Mr. Morley says that of Mr. Ballour's Cabinet all but one are holders of the M. A. degree from one or other of the British universities, we can form some conception of the forces which guide the British ship of state. The influence of such men, trained to know that a question has more than one side, but ready, when once decided upon the stand to be taken, to press their convictions with force and sincerity, must be incalculable. They are an influence of which we have too little in Canadian public life. The condition of politics in Canada is to many high-minded and cultivated men so intolerable that they resolutely shun all contact with it.

This is a matter in which every undergraduate should feel a vital interest. If the destinies of this growing country are to be directed by a parliament of lodge orators and demagogues its development will be seriously retarded or arrested. If the Parliament of Canada is to be dominated by the forces of integrity, progressiveness and fairness, the country will ere long feel the thrill of a new national existence.

Professor James Bryce, in his recent address to the Political Science Club, earnestly exhorted university men to enter public life. It would assuredly be something memorable in the history of Canada if the undergraduates of this university could be brought to feel keenly their responsibility for the welfare of their country. It would not, of course, be desirable that all should seek to have a direct voice in the affairs of government. But indirectly, whether by the press, or on the platform, or in the pulpit, every man might use his influence to raise the standard of our national life.



The disgraceful conduct of many of the students at the Hallowe'en celebration at the Princess Theatre cannot be too much deplored. Although, with one exception, the city papers have treated the matter lightly, yet the whole affair was thoroughly disgraceful, and is most severely criticised by every student whose stand on any question means anything. Varsity can only say at present that the blame lies at the door of individual students, and that by the student body as a whole the unfortunate affair is greatly regretted. The matter will be treated at greater length editorially in our next issue.



In our last issue mention was made of a distinguished graduate of the University of Toronto, Dr. J. T. Shotwell, as one of the Editors of "The Historians' History of the World." Word has since been received from one of our graduates at Columbia University, that Dr. Shotwell has been appointed assistant Editor of the new edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* about to be issued. It is understood that even a much more responsible and honorable position was offered Dr. Shotwell, but that he declined to accept it. The appointment of one of our graduates to such a position is not only one of the greatest tributes to the individual himself, but reflects most creditably on the University of which he is an alumnus.