

harmony with your position in regard to increased graduate representation on the Senate. Yours sincerely, F. R. BEATTIE.

The Manse, Brantford, 29th March, 1886.

[Through some unaccountable omission we did not receive the names of either the Brant County graduates or of those in Hamilton and Walkerton who signed the recent memorial. We regret the omission as much as does Dr. Beattie.—EDITOR.]

#### A PROTEST FROM OTTAWA.

*To the Editor of the VARSITY :*

SIR,—In glancing over your ever welcome journal, I see that in an issue or two you have darkly hinted at some underhand influence which induced the Ottawa graduates to reject the four proposals sent down from a meeting of Convocation. Let me once for all assure you that the Ottawa graduates are capable of forming an opinion without asking or receiving any outside advice ; and let me further assure you that the proposals were rejected after due consideration, and on what we thought just grounds.

I may say in addition, that I warned the chairman of the executive committee that it was unwise to attempt any legislation for the past session, as it would be in direct opposition to a well-defined understanding arrived at last summer, when the committee met to consider the subject of fixed meetings of the Senate. One or two proposals were omitted from our report because it would necessitate legislative action, and one of these was proposal *two* in the resolution sent down.

The Ottawa graduates would have gladly accepted proposal *one*, with probably one or two dissentients, and if the Convocation, when it met, had appointed a committee to ascertain the opinions of the graduates, before asking us to sign such a document as was presented, all would have been well. But we could not sign *three* or *four*, and the whole had therefore to be rejected. If any error was made, the fault lies in the graduates at Convocation assuming that every graduate must accept its opinions without doubt or hesitancy. I venture to say that Convocation has received a valuable lesson, and that in future it will not presume to bind some ten or twelve hundred graduates by the somewhat crude and undigested opinions of gentlemen who meet in Toronto and assume to move the universe by *resolution*.

Let me now produce some of the reasons which induced us summarily to reject *three* and *four*. *Three* reads :—"That in case of any vacancy in the Senate, such vacancy be filled by the members of Convocation at the next regular election. Now, we interpreted this clause to mean, that "any vacancy" means just what it says. So that in case any member of the Senate, not elected now by the graduates, should die, the government and the affiliated colleges, should abnegate their rights, and Convocation would be supreme in a few years over all. We felt that in a State institution such a measure was hasty and uncalled for, and hence it was rejected."

*Four* was equally objectionable. Of the 109 High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, 59 have had masters who are graduates of our *alma mater*. These gentlemen already possess a double franchise, and that ought to satisfy them, with the two special representations they now have. But here was the further danger. All teachers in these institutions, duly qualified, have votes, and can elect whom they please. Suppose they elected, as I happen to know they might, four men who were not Toronto graduates, but alumni of other Universities, perhaps bitterly opposed to our State Institutions, would Convocation tell us how their influence could be neutralized? *One* called for increased graduate representation, *four* opened the door to a danger which we felt to be so serious that we rejected the proposal unconditionally.

You would not have been troubled with this communication from me if I had not seen a manifest effort to saddle the responsibility of our action on some of the Professors of University College. I venture to say that our decision was as much a surprise to them as it was to the promoters of the agitation. We acted independently, and, with no hobby to ride, with no wish to curry favor with any-

body, we proceeded as we did, because in doing so we felt we were acting for the advantage of our *alma mater*.

Yours very truly,

SAMUEL WOODS.

Ottawa, April 5th, 1886.

#### THE ORIENTAL LANGUAGES.

*To the Editor of the VARSITY.*

SIR,—The readers of the VARSITY received last week a statement of what the editor thinks an "imprudence" in my announcement of a course in Oriental languages. The statement concludes with the expression of a judicial opinion that the sanction of the President of University College must be held to weigh nothing against the strictures of an anonymous "humorous correspondent." If I venture to take a different view of the matter, and in addition try to throw some light upon this curiously mooted question, I do so, of course, not with the view of appealing to the eccentric Philistinism of which the above is a symptom, but with the desire of reaching those who are accustomed to look to a college journal for a disinterested and competent treatment of subjects that may have interest for college circles.

The imprudence of which I am said to have been guilty is declared to consist (first) in my having completely ignored Mr. Hirschfelder, and (second) in the excessive amount of detail to be found in my announcement. As to the first accusation, it is sufficiently disproved by the fact that, as Mr. Hirschfelder still has charge of most of the regular undergraduate Hebrew, the matters embraced under his lectures upon that very important subject of the curriculum were not even alluded to in my programme. The second allegation is also unfounded : for the facts in the case have been misunderstood. You say : "Students do not need to be told by a public announcement all the languages and dialects down to every detail upon which they will be instructed. They take much of that for granted." Now this is just what the announcement in question did not do. The "dialects" of the languages in which I offered to form classes were, with one exception, not indicated at all, and that exception was necessarily made on account of the great importance of the idioms referred to for Old Testament study. I do not use the word "dialect" now in any special sense, such as, for example, the word would naturally bear if it were used to characterize the English employed by your alleged "humorous" correspondent. I use the term in the broadest sense, and repeat that the programme, with the exception just noted, specified distinct languages. The other details were the specification of text-books, which I proposed to use in connection with the several languages.

You say, in effect, Mr. Editor, that these matters of information might be "taken for granted." Now this is purely a business matter, or, in other words, a question how those who are or may become interested in these studies may best and quickest gain the necessary preliminary information. The propriety of the method that was pursued is shown by the fact that those who read the programme, not for the purpose of criticism, but with the object of getting practical information, and for whom alone the announcement could have any significance, indicated, when they applied to me for instruction, that they had learned what they wanted from the scheme thus systematically presented. Those who would probably be considered by any one but yourself to be the most competent judges of the matter agreed that the method employed was the best that could be adopted. But in this we only followed what experience has shown to be the best method in all similar cases, that is, an announcement is made of the different courses which the several instructors are prepared to lecture upon, accompanied by a carefully prepared list of text-books. In the present instance the announcement had to be posted on the bulletin board because the college calendar for the year had been already printed. Your allusion to "spread-eagleism" in this connection is plainly a cheap device to cover up your own imperfect knowledge of the matter in hand ; for it is precisely in those institutions in the