

# THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thoughts and Events.

VOL. XX.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, FEBRUARY 26, 1901.

No. 19.

## TO A WILD VIOLET.

Violet on the river's bank,  
Whence got you eyes of such deep hue,  
So true and tender? Or where drank  
Yon wispy wand'ers of the blue

This light-clear tear, a-tremble now  
With maiden fear for all things' wo  
About you? Pray, who taught you how  
To blend in such a touching show

Your bright and somber? At this sight,  
Tho' sure I know not why it be,  
My prison'd soul finds sudden might,  
From low desire breaks strangely free:

Stilled no more, inspiring life,  
On wingéd feet, all tho't above,  
She leaps straight forth, with passion rife,  
And laps the universe in love!

'Tis but a moment, and again  
I feel sin's hateful clog, but long  
Sweet mem'ry does a glow retain  
That lightens gloom and makes me strong.

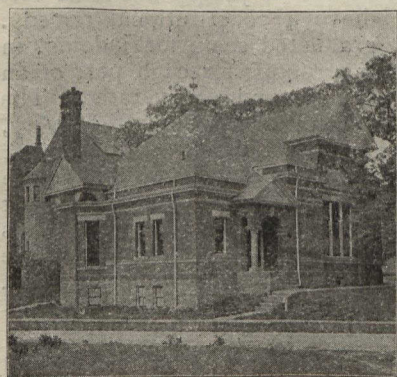
O meek, inanimate wild flow'r,  
What is it then, 'tween you and me,  
That shadows forth with blessed pow'r  
Thus an All-Father's sympathy?

—VAGABOND.

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE Y.M.C.A.

HISTORICAL SKETCH BY D. J. DAVIDSON, '01.

In 1871, some of the undergraduates of University College became impressed with the need, that was very



Y.M.C.A.

apparent to them, of some sort of religious union among the men for the development of Christian character and for the sake of any influence that such a union might exert in general on the student body. The name of Mr. F. H. Wallace is on record as the first to suggest to some of his friends that they should hold a prayer meeting in the College buildings. A petition was presented to the president of the College asking for this privilege, and for the provision of a room suitable for the purpose. The petition was granted and a number of the men met regularly at three o'clock every Saturday afternoon.

But this union, notwithstanding its many benefits,

did not appear sufficiently staunch in organization to ensure its own perpetuity. A constitution was therefore drafted preparatory to the establishment of a Young Men's Christian Association. On a second petition, signed by about a hundred undergraduates, the Council sanctioned the movement, and a number of the professors promised their support to the scheme. With this power in their hands the students, at their regular prayer meeting on March 29th, 1873, formed themselves into an association, with Mr. I. C. Yule as the first president. These early meetings were held in the West Wing Reading Room of the old College building. In the spring of 1882 the Association began to hold their meetings in Moss Hall. Throughout this period the most marked development was in missionary spirit and contribution. City mission work was largely undertaken.

On November 12, 1884, on motion of Messrs. Garside and Haviland the Association decided to take steps for the erection of an Association building. A committee, with A. J. McLeod, president, as convener, was appointed to canvass for funds necessary for the undertaking. At the same time a petition was sent to the Senate of the College asking for a site for the building. The Association's record for these months may be summed up in the expression, "faith and works," and at the last meeting in the spring term of 1885 the question of proceeding with the building during the vacation was left entirely to the building committee referred to above. In August of the same year the building was commenced, and was ready for occupation on March 1st, 1886, at a cost of \$6,712.82, which was fully met, through the faithful efforts of the committee, by the Senate, Faculty, graduates, undergraduates and outside friends of the institution.

On April 7, 1886, the Association decided to engage a general secretary to give at least two hours a day to its work. Mr. A. J. McLeod, B.A., was nominated by J. G. Hume as the first general secretary, and was to receive two hundred dollars for his services for the academic year. Mr. McLeod's faithful work as chairman of the building committee had justly won for him a high place in the affection and trust of his fellows, and he was elected by acclamation. [Mr. McLeod died at Regina, N.W.T., Nov. 20, 1900. His picture now hangs on the north wall of the large room in the building—the generous gift of Mrs. G. C. Robb.]

Perhaps the most noticeable changes in the working of the Association have been in regard to general secretary policy. On April 5, 1888, it was decided to employ a man for four hours a day at four hundred dollars per year. In April, 1889, this was changed to full time at five hundred dollars. In March, 1892, owing to financial depression the general secretary's salary was reduced to three hundred dollars, for which he was to give half his time. In March, 1893, it was decided to pay him four hundred dollars for full time, with the privilege of devoting a small part of his time to the service of the Provincial Committee. In March, 1895, a man was again appointed for