

The Varsity

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TORONTO, November 8th, 1899.

SOME FURTHER CRITICISM.

It is particularly unfortunate, just at the present time, that public attention should be directed by the press to the misconduct of a few students, who are doubtless far from being representative of the body to which they belong, and that most unfavorable comments and unjust statements should be made concerning the student body of Toronto as a whole. However, since the matter has arisen it is possible that the experience may prove useful in preventing a similar occurrence another year, and, perhaps, may serve to give us a keener sense of our responsibilities under such circumstances than seems to have been held this year.

We are pleased indeed that the men of Toronto University cannot justly be charged with the gross misconduct witnessed by many on Hallowe'en. We cannot at all agree with the critic who now laments that he did not act in accordance with past experience and warn his readers what to expect. This, we think, is unjust to *all* the Toronto students; and whatever may have been the conduct of some of them recently, it is not in our recollection that the students have done anything heinous in past years to deserve such criticism. Everyone who is not in the last stages of senility makes certain concessions to the students, occasionally at least, and the students' appreciation has usually been shown by action which, upon the whole, is creditable as revealing something of that very necessary union of high animal vigor with intellectual force. A few will always be found who are lacking in that excellent quality, common sense, but these need never be feared if the body as a whole acts as it should.

But, if the weight of blame rests on the Osgoode men, who, it seems, have yet to clear themselves, the students at Varsity, in spite of publicly announced resolutions, cannot claim entire exemption from fault. Of course, under the circumstances, it would be very difficult to avoid it, and the fault, we believe, lies rather in what they did *not* do than in what they did. Again, we cannot agree

with the critic who says, "When Bottom, with the head of an ass, came on the stage, he was *appropriately* greeted by some of the students with cries of 'Osgoode.'" If the general feeling had reached that height, and the Osgoode men showed no inclination to oust the disturbers among them, then there was but one effectual means of saving the good name of Varsity men, and that was to leave the hall in a body. This would be a vigorous form of protest, and one to be used always as a last resort; but surely there is a limit to the sympathy which we should show even toward our sister colleges, especially when the reputation both of the students and of our own University is to a considerable degree at stake with the public.

Furthermore, our Literary Society and hence our students, tacitly assumed a certain amount of responsibility by the appointment of representatives to co-operate with the Hallowe'en Club. If enough is thought of certain men to give them positions in the student body, the first duty of that body is to support its representatives to the last degree, provided, of course, that the representatives act from a proper recognition of the responsibility they have assumed. Indeed, what should such an appointment mean but a general recognition of ability on the part of certain men to carry the responsibility with success? VARSITY knows nothing of the efforts put forth on this special occasion by those representing our College and so can say nothing of the loyalty with which they were supported. Probably only some anticipation of the whole trouble could have made such concerted action possible as would have entirely exonerated Varsity men, and the whole affair, so far as we are concerned, is much more unfortunate than censurable.

In conclusion we should like to draw attention to the increased necessity that there is now for arrangements which will provide against the possibilities of occurrences similar to this, and for the careful selection of men to represent our interests. Far too often an appointment is the outcome of a bit of humor or of a desire to get through business routine expeditiously. Every appointment made in this manner must of necessity militate against our best interests, since the probability of fitness for the position is reduced to a minimum. We are speaking quite generally and with no desire to make invidious distinctions, but we hope that the blame which we must now shoulder to some degree at least, will act as a stimulus to the provision of every care for our general good name, without depriving us of that genial sympathy with sister institutions which is so helpful in furthering all student interests in general.

The Joint Programmes

We cannot speak too highly of the originality and taste displayed in the production of the joint programmes of the various societies and the Monday lectures. The programmes seem to have met with a deserved acceptance and Dr. Wickett and Messrs. Millman and Kay are to be congratulated on the success of their work. It is to be hoped that the appreciation of the students will take the practical form of attendance at many of the meetings and lectures.