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THE CAUSE OF CO-EDUCATION.

The question of co-education of the sexes is to come before the Ontario Government for consideration, and it will then be learned whether or not that august body known as the College Council has it in its power to exclude ladies from lectures at University College or not. MR. GIBSON, on the ninth of last month, moved for a return showing "what applications have been made by females for admission to any of the lectures of University College for the season 1881-2, and the results of such applications, together with all correspondence connected therewith." This motion was carried; and to set forth to the Legislature the injustice of debarring women as has hitherto been done from lectures, the following petition has been circulated through the Province for signature. All those interested in the question should aid in having the petition as numerously signed as possible.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the Province of Ontario in Parliament assembled:

The humble Petition of members of the Toronto Women's Literary Club and others,

SHREWETH:—

That women are excluded from the lectures of University College, Toronto, by the will of its Council;

That the University of Toronto has placed the honors and degrees in its bestowal equally at the command of women as of men;

That for want of the educational advantages of University College, women cannot avail themselves of the degrees and honors placed at their command by the University of Toronto;

That the exclusion of women from University College is unlawful and unjust, and has no basis in the Charter of the College;

That the Senate of University College refuse admission to women on the ground of "due order and discipline," as expressed in the Charter and Constitution of the College;

That the expression "due order and discipline," as used in the Charter and constitution of University College, has no reference to the class, race, or sex of its students, but applies solely and entirely to the management of the College;

That the absence from the Charter of any expression relating to women as students is no proof of their intentional exclusion by the founders of the College, since the Constitution and Charter of any Corporation are only formed with reference to the immediate circumstances of the time, and have no compulsory power over future demands on the usefulness of such Corporation, unless such authority in the future is expressly stipulated for;

That co-education in Colleges is no experiment, since it has been in operation in England and the United States for many years, and is now working satisfactorily in Queen's College, Kingston;

That there is no argument against co-education inherent in a College course any more than there is in those of Normal Schools, Art Schools, and numerous other places where both sexes mingle on an equal footing;

That it can be shown by respectable testimony that where co-education exists the Colleges are in a higher state of discipline than they were before the admission of women; and also that the admission of women has not injured discipline in any case.

That several young women who have passed Toronto University examinations of the first and second years are unable to complete their studies for want of the assistance of the lectures of University College, from which they are at present excluded.

That in consequence of such exclusion these young women are compelled to relinquish those University honors and degrees they desire to obtain.

That they do this reluctantly and under a sense of hardship inflicted on account of sex.

That your petitioners, forming a respectable and important proportion of the educated men and women of the Province of Ontario, do sympathize with the young women at present suffering from their exclusion from University College.

And we regard the exclusion of women as students from University College as an insult to the sex and a wrong to the individual and to society.

We therefore pray your Honorable House to interfere in this behalf, and secure to an important division of the population their educational rights in University College.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

Five young ladies have at present passed as far as the second and third year examination, but are unable to proceed further without the assistance of lectures. The Council of University College, while anxious to advance the higher education of women, maintains that it should be accomplished away from that of the other sex, and suggest the erection of a separate building. It is not likely the Government will make a grant for such a purpose when it can be accomplished without cost, and when the money is so much needed in other educational quarters. Where, then, is the money to come from? Our already overtaxed Treasury could not erect such a building, and if one existed, our overworked professors could find no time to devote to its students. The Council would grant women access to the Library, to the apparatus, to all means within their control, but at the same time under peculiar monastic restrictions and unfair control. Young women claim, and we think justly enough, equal and the same privileges with young men. The only objection to co-education then, since this is the only possible present means for the higher education of women, is the want of discipline likely to be engendered by the mixing of the sexes. This objection, while unfair to the fair sex, implies a want of control on the part of the men, and a lack of disciplinary ability in the lecturers.

So many good reasons have been hitherto given in the 'Varsity for the co-education of sexes, and any objections to it so well answered, that it is needless to go over the ground again now. But we would urge upon the students the necessity of obtaining signatures to the petition in circulation, as a means of bringing pressure to bear upon any future motion in the Legislature that would secure to young women the same chances as they themselves are possessed of, and of repudiating the idea that the presence of the fair sex at lectures would exert any other than a beneficial influence over them.

A CHAIR OF PHYSIOLOGY.

On the occasion of the last annual dinner of the Toronto School of Medicine Dr. Richardson, a prominent Senator of the University, clearly pointed out, in an after-dinner speech, the necessity for the establishment of a chair of Physiology. No further notice was then taken of the subject, but we are glad to see that it has again come forward, and this time more prominently. In the recent report of the Senate Committee on Finance it is stated that the available resources are altogether inadequate to properly equip the staff of the College, and that, owing to the extension of the curriculum, many new classes have been rendered necessary and the labor of the instructors largely increased, more especially in connexion with the practical courses in science; and in another paragraph Physiology is mentioned as one of the subjects on which there should be a separate lecturer or professor.