

The Varsity

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BY

THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

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NOVEMBER 10, 1891.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



AFTER an adjournment of two weeks the Literary Society reassembled last Friday evening in the Y.M.C.A. hall. The attendance was but fair, the vociferous applause of the afternoon having evidently proved too much for some of the veterans of the Society.

After the customary reading of the minutes, Mr. A. T. Bowles gave notice of motion that *The New Review* be placed upon the files in the reading room.

The General Committee, through the Secretary, Mr. Wheaton, then presented the following report:—

"The General Committee beg to recommend that the meeting to be held on the evening of Friday, Nov. 27, be set apart for the consideration of amendments to the Constitution.

"The Committee have to report that Mr. Henry, appointed to speak in the public debate, has resigned, and the Committee appoint in his place Mr. J. A. McMurchy. The subject proposed for the debate is, 'Resolved,—That the Cabinet system of Government, as worked out in Canada, is superior to the Presidential system of the United States.' Sir Daniel Wilson has consented to act as chairman."

On a motion of J. W. Wheaton the above report was adopted.

The programme for the evening next came under consideration. The title of the recitation by Mr. E. R. Young was "Parrhasius," a fine selection, showing to what atrocities a man may be led by "Unreined Ambition," and evidently intended as a warning to the fame-aspiring freshman. Mr. — Levy followed with an essay upon "The value of the knowledge and appreciation of Literature." Judging from the huskiness of his voice Mr. Levy could have produced a brilliant essay on "the knowledge and appreciation of Rugby." However, the repeated bursts of applause from the front benches testified as to the excellence of Mr. Levy's present effort. The subject of the evening's debate was, "Resolved,—That the Stage has ceased to be an Educator."

The leader of the affirmative, Mr. O. J. Stevenson, '93, in a clear speech tried to convince the audience that the glory of the stage has departed. The speaker argued that the introduction of newspapers and periodicals has robbed the stage of its power; that the stage presents an exaggerated picture of life, and that the plays produced in the present day are unpoetical and non-educative, intended only to amuse. Shakespeare's dramas, and especially the finest passages of them, he claimed, are so highly poetic that they require a critical study in order to be at all understood.

Mr. Perrin at this juncture, having to take the place of the president, found some difficulty in donning the needful gown, and was gently reminded that he was "not in it."

Mr. J. J. Brown, '94, then took up the cudgels on behalf of the stage. He made an able effort to show that the stage teaches a complete knowledge of human nature, taking as an illustration the character of Macbeth. He claimed that the best way to know one's neighbors (without mentioning the neighbor's daughter) was to study human nature as presented on the stage.

Mr. Silcox, '93, followed in support of the affirmative. After clearly defining what education is, he proceeded to show that human nature can be studied best in the outside world.

Mr. Wright, '94, among other things, advocated the claims of music as one of the educative influences of the stage. Mr. Stevenson replied briefly.

The president, having been absent during a part of the meeting, left the decision of the debate to the audience. The majority of those present decided in favor of the affirmative.

The men of '92 who were to have supplied music for the evening were conspicuous by their absence. Considering the display of lung power during the afternoon, perhaps, after all, it is well that this musical treat was postponed.

The programme being concluded, the Society considered various items of new business.

After having secured the suspension of the rule concerning notice of motion, Mr. J. A. McLean moved that a committee, consisting of the President of the Society, together with the presidents of the various clubs, viz., Messrs. Bunting, Goldie, McIntosh, White, and McColl, be appointed to memorialize the Senate Committee with reference to the accommodation in the new gymnasium building. The names of Messrs. Crawford and V. A. Sinclair were afterwards added and the motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. J. A. Cooper, that the Society instruct the Executive Committee to report at next regular meeting as to whether it would be better to hold a college dinner or a conversazione this college year, and as to what time it would better be held. The motion was carried.

The Society signified its intention to stick up for its rights as regards reading-room accommodation by supporting a motion brought in by Mr. J. A. Cooper with the object of ascertaining the intentions of the President in this respect.

Preparations were then made for the election of First Year representatives on the General Committee. Mr. McDougall, however, threw a bomb into the camp by drawing the Society's attention to Article II., Sec. 6, of the