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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE DEBATE between representatives of Toronto University and McGill, of which our readers will find a full account in another column, came bravely off the other evening, in the Molson Hall. We should have been glad if our men could have won distinction *and* the debate; but if they were not to win, we know of none by whom it would be pleasanter to be worsted than their skilful and courteous opponents. We heartily congratulate these latter gentlemen upon their well-earned success. It was no mere "walk over" for them, and McGill may be honestly congratulated also, for making a good second. The only party who came out of the encounter absolutely without laurels was the unfortunate Senate. Even the learned judge, in summing up the arguments, was obliged to be a little hard upon this august body; and it is to be hoped that it (the body) may take warning in time, and do the needful, before the decision reached the other evening can be carried into effect.

We do not, however, wish to be thought to make light in any way of these inter-collegiate meetings. On the contrary, we esteem them among the most important events of the college year; and very glad we were, that the large audience both of students and of their friends showed that we are not alone in this opinion. Though we do not think that Canadian Universities have, as yet, given that excessive prominence to athletics which has already grown into an admitted and serious evil in many institutions of learning, it is none the less worth while to remind the public (members of the Universities, of course, need no reminder) that the students have other recreations than foot-ball, cricket and hockey; and that prominent among these other recreations are the literary and debating societies. All men are not born orators—we are inclined to think that the true orator, like the true poet, *nascitur non fit*—but all men can, and as many as possible should, at least learn to express whatever they may have to say, grammatically and intelligibly. We know of no better aid in acquiring this power than such friendly contests as the one that has given rise to these reflections. They develop not only a mastery of language, but, what is better still, a habit of accurate thinking; and both are acquisitions than which nothing can be more valuable to a man, in whatever position he may in after life be placed.

Inter-collegiate debates, moreover, are not apt to be attended with the most serious danger to which the less important contests between members of the same society are exposed:—the danger of arguing upon subjects which one has not taken time or pains to thoroughly study. This, which can be productive only of wordiness, is, as we have said, a danger from which inter-collegiate debates are exempt; since the importance of the occasion is sure to stimulate, if nothing more, careful preparation, before speaking.

We should be heartily glad if the members of our Literary Society could arrange for additional debates with representatives of other Universities.

RUMOURS HAVE LATELY BEEN circulating,—have, in fact, reached the secluded spot where we keep our "board," that, in conformity with the other equipments