

THE 'VARSITY:

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CO-EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

Mr. DEROCHE, one of the graduates of the University of Toronto, in the House of Assembly, has given notice of a motion for the production of the correspondence between the Council of University College and for any female applicants for leave to attend lectures in that institution. The motion also asks for the academical standing of such applicants. Under our system of parliamentary practice, it is fortunately possible to get on a motion like this a full and untrammelled discussion of the question to which the documents asked for relate, and we hope those interested either in favor of or against co-education will avail themselves of the opportunity of speaking their minds. No harm can be done by discussing the matter, and though it may possibly not lead to very practical results just now, we feel satisfied that such a debate would greatly hasten the final solution of the problem.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

It will be found, by reference to the curriculum, that the sum annually offered in scholarships by the University of Toronto amounts to \$3,705. This is exclusive of \$100 constituting the BLAKE Scholarship in Civil Polity. A prize of this nature, given by a private individual, it does not fall within my purpose to discuss. The object of this article is to consider whether the sum above stated as devoted to scholarships from the University funds, is applied to the best advantage, whether the interests of the University would not be more advanced by applying the money to some other purpose. That there are other objects requiring and deserving financial aid will hardly be denied. The library, scientific apparatus and specimens, all have strong claims; not to mention the need of a Chair in Civil Polity, and in some of the departments at present filled by lecturers. In fact, all the wheels of the institution would run much more smoothly and easily if supplied more liberally with monetary axle grease. This being the case; if we are able to show that the scholarships do not accomplish the end for which they were intended, that their usefulness, if they ever had any, is to a large extent gone; it may surely be concluded that the money devoted to them might be better applied.

The object generally supposed to be accomplished by scholarships is twofold. Primarily, they are intended as a reward for ability and diligence. It is thought that they will act as an incentive to application. In this way more finished scholars will be turned out from the University, and the name and credit of the institution will be advanced. In the second place, being of considerable value, they are a means of financial assistance to those who need aid of this kind. By their help, men are enabled to attend the University who might otherwise be unable to obtain a college education.

In accomplishing the first of these ends, the usefulness of scholarships is very limited. The men who obtain them are generally the men whom an inclination to study, and a love of learning for its own sake, would lead to application and success; without the additional incentive of a prize. On the other hand, those men who have no inclination for study, who come to college because it is the fashionable thing to do, because their parents wish them to do so, or for the sake of having a good time; such men will be found to have little ambition for academic laurels. A proficiency in sports or athletic fame is more to their liking, and a sufficient amount of learning to save them from a pluck, or procure them a B. A. is, in their estimation, all that it is necessary

for a student to acquire. Then, of course, there are numbers of faithful students, whom a want of ability precludes from even hoping to attain to a scholarship. They soon learn to recognize this fact, and thereafter the scholarship is no incentive to them. As naturally hard workers, they will continue to study much as though none were offered. We see, then, that the circle influenced in this way, by the offer of the scholarship, is an extremely limited one. Further, we will venture to assert that, within this circle, by far the strongest motive is the honor of high position; something that might be fully as well recognized by a published class list or a formal prize, much less expensive than a hundred or a hundred and fifty dollar scholarship.

And this brings us to the second benefit alleged to be derived from scholarships, viz.: that of assistance to needy students. The object most certainly is a laudable one, but it remains for us to see to what extent it is gained. If this class of students obtains them, even generally, this is certainly a strong point in their favor; but we fear it can be shown that the reverse is the case. Poor students, as a rule, have had to teach or employ themselves in some other manner while preparing for college; in this way leaving themselves comparatively little time to study for matriculation. Not being as well up in the different subjects, at entrance, as others, they are at a disadvantage in most of the departments during the whole course. Supposing that two men are of equal ability and diligence, but that one has had superior opportunities for preparation, because better able to afford time and money in preparing, the other is certainly handicapped from the start; and the natural result is, that the scholarship goes to the man who needs it by far the less of the two. And it will be found by examination, that this has time and again actually been the case. But worse than this, it will be found that very often in those cases in which men, spurred on by financial necessity, have succeeded in the face of such difficulties in taking scholarships, it has been at the fearful cost of broken constitutions; and that which was intended as a blessing has turned out to be a curse. Thus we see that the second object supposed to be gained by the scholarships is accomplished to at least as limited an extent as the first.

We do not pretend that the inference can be drawn from the above remarks, that the scholarships are entirely useless, or that the system should be abolished *in toto*; but we do claim that too much importance appears to be attached to them, and that whatever sums may be devoted to this purpose by the liberality of private individuals, for the University funds at least, better uses could be found. An institution in the financial position of the University of Toronto cannot afford to devote \$3,705 to an object of doubtful utility, while crying wants remain unsatisfied.

R. H.

FARMERS' SONS AND THE UNIVERSITY.

By C. A. B. and others of his kind, farmers' sons are told that they have no business to compete in a college course, or to intrude themselves among those pursuing a professional life. By sober, thinking men, too, they are in decent language advised to stick to the farm. Possibly the recent winter in the 'Varsity would have us believe that he meant no more than this; but the manner in which he indulged in describing his representative "Milord Bumpkin," and the tone of the concluding paragraph of his article, betray him as either of that class that thinks all the rest of the world, soul and body, created for their sole benefit, or one who would like to be considered as being within the charmed circle.

What right has a boy, brought up on the farm, to aspire to a higher