

# THE 'VARSITY:

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## THE 'VARSITY.

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## Editorial Notes.

In accordance with the suggestion which was made in our columns last week, the Executive Committee of Convocation have decided upon calling a meeting of Convocation at an early date for the purpose of discussing thoroughly the several clauses of the Confederation scheme. On account of the overwhelming importance of the subject, and the differences of opinion which prevail regarding it, the discussion will undoubtedly be of a lively nature. It is to be hoped that there will be a large and representative attendance of graduates from all parts of the province. We would press upon the chairman of every County Association the necessity of calling a meeting of the graduates of his county at once, to select delegates of ability and energy to represent in Convocation those of them who will be unable to attend in person.

As numerous complaints have been made to us, we deem it our duty to call attention to the tardiness which characterizes the preparation and issue of tickets and programmes for our public debates. Frequently, at least upon the last two occasions, tickets and programmes have not been issued till the very day before, and consequently reached the invited ones too late to prevent other and previous engagements being cancelled or put off. Consequently the attendance at our meetings is largely diminished. We acquit the Treasurer of any blame in the matter. It appears to rest upon the speakers and readers, but more especially with the Glee Club. This is alike unfair to the public and the students. If the matter is not attended to, our public debates will be conducted in the presence of rows of empty benches. The invitations should be issued a week before the meeting. And there is no valid reason why they should not be ready at that time.

We have received a copy of the programme of the International Congress on Education, which will be held in the city of New Orleans, during the Exposition, from the 23rd to the 28th of February, inclusive. The Honorary President is President Arthur, and the Honorary Secretary is Dr. J. George Hodgins, Deputy Minister of Education for Ontario, who is the only other honorary executive officer—besides Lord Reay, one of the Vice-Presidents,—belonging to a foreign country. The appointment of Dr. Hodgins is a compliment as much to Canada as to himself,

and it is to be hoped that he will be able to represent Ontario at the Congress. The meetings of the Congress will be of unusual interest, as the topics set down for discussion cover a wide field, and the speakers have been selected from the *elite* of the profession in the States. The holding of such a conference at this time, and in such a place as New Orleans, cannot but be of the highest importance, and will prove of inestimable benefit to the question of education in the South.

It is not often that anything so unspeakably absurd appears in our sprightly contemporary, the *Toronto World*, as the following sentence in a recent editorial on the university question. Speaking of the reasons why Trinity College should enter the confederation, the *World* says:—

"There is no doubt, further, that such an anglican institution, presided over by Provost Body and his fellow professors, would be the leading one from the social and other standpoints of the cluster of colleges now forming round the Provincial University."

We shall be most happy to welcome the entrance of Trinity into the proposed confederation, but it may as well be understood from the outset that no such preposterous claims as these will be tolerated by the present alumni of Toronto University or the affiliated colleges. The fictitious superiority which is here alleged to belong to Trinity will not be admitted. Every institution will have to stand on its real merits, and these will require to be determined by more rigorous methods of reasoning than those which prompted the above conclusion, if, indeed, there was any reasoning in the case at all.

Vice-Chancellor Mulock, as chairman of the last public meeting of the Literary Society, earned and received in double measure the thanks of the Society for the effective manner in which he put a stop to the disgraceful conduct of certain occupants of the gallery and the lower end of the hall. There was a time, not so long ago, when no student of Toronto University would have demeaned himself so much as to act in such a way, but latterly we appear to have fallen in evil times, when four or five individuals set out to distinguish themselves and disgrace our society by imitating the petty follies of the students of European universities, being at the same time apparently incapable of imitating their virtues. This matter has gone much too far already. The Literary Society invite distinguished gentlemen to preside at their meetings, and issue special invitations to the public asking for their attendance, and it will surely be discreditable to the Society if it continue to permit any of its members or any other persons to insult the chairman and the audience after the fashion that has been too common of late. If these individualshave not common sense enough to enable them to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the good name of the Society, they at least should be expelled from the Society and refused admission to its meetings. There is an article in the constitution quite sufficient for such cases as this, and if the provocation continues it should be enforced. The member who would call for its operation would receive the hearty support of a very large majority of his fellows. At any cost our public meetings must be kept free of the annoyance and terrorism of rowdies.

In the course of his sermon last Sunday evening, Rev. Dr. Wild made an allusion to the question of the day. The rev. gentleman very properly said:—"With regard to university federation in Ontario, the Government is strong, and if it ever