

The Varsity

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TORONTO, FEBRUARY 16, 1912

THE PLACE OF THE UNIVERSITY MAN

This is the time when those who are to graduate with the close of the academic year are suffering a mild form of torture. For three and a half years they have pursued their courses not fully realizing the significance of the day on which they are to receive the sheepskin, and now the perplexity of deciding upon a life work is gnawing at their hearts. The world looks big, busy, heartless, cold. The engineer is not sure of his position, the medico sees before him years of hard practice in hospitals, the budding lawyer has doubtless already perceived the difficulty of locating in a promising firm, the school teacher is uncertain of being placed as he desires. While there is practically no danger whatever of being left without a post every new graduate shivers as he prepares to take the plunge. Some, the extremists, are perhaps inclined to tax themselves for having come to university at all. They see the smallness of salaries, the lack of experience in themselves, the disadvantage to which they must be put in comparison with men who have toiled upward in any particular business during the time which they themselves have spent in acquiring tastes, making friends and constructing castles in the air.

And now, they believe, these tastes will be spoiled, the friends lost, the ideals shattered, in the struggle which they must make to secure a home of their own.

Sheer optimism is a baneful thing. It is the robust deceiver and the greatest betrayer in all the world. Disappointed, it means lives. It is in reality what our graduate has in his early college training, and may lose absolutely in his graduating year.

And therein we have the tragedy. The college man who does not maintain his ideal, who forgets the "taste" he has acquired will probably be not one whit better, in forty years time, than the man who has never had the opportunity to study, to reflect, and to mix with bright young minds.

And it is the maintenance, not in the highest offices of the land, but in the ordinary, everyday, citizen's life that the real effects of a college man's training will appear.

True power in the individual, rests in his appreciation of his surroundings and the personal influence for good which he can exert. From a college training taste is the main thing to be derived, taste in friends, taste in books, taste in the arrangement of the details of one's life to one's environment. The truly cultured man, is the one whose sympathies are broad: the man who will see and admire the homely virtues in the common man and deprecate the sham, pretence and pomp of him on whom were worldly power rests.

The college man, under ordinary circumstances, should have gained the ability to see more clearly than other people the inter-relation of all the factors of everyday life.

His will be that indefinable pleasure of realizing how events and movements which appear of mighty importance are only small parts of the great age tendencies, and he, with his zeal for human affairs, will glory in watching his enthusiasm and personality work into the various good influences at hand. He will realize the futility of playing a great part as against his own part.

Naturalness, sympathy, humanity, these are the qualities which will make the college man a force, these are the ones.

The performance of a little work well, the maintenance of taste and faith, and above all and an ambition for service are the things which have made University graduates the force they are in the world, and, in the course of the next century, when the humanitarian movement will broaden out into a unique force in the world's history, the college man will be found to be the moving spirit. If his University career has been a success his predominance is inevitable.

ONLOOKER'S CORNER

'Curiouser and curiouser!' said Alice in Wonderland. And Chesterton wrote: 'As the maiden lady said, while watching a famous actress writing on the floor as Cleopatra—How different from the home life of our late dear Queen!' So say I, curiouser and how different! I refer to the human nature disclosed as one studies it more and more. One's surprise at the wealth of queer human nature here, is akin to the feelings of the stranger who stands on our campus and gazes around at the architecture.

After an extended study of the nature of 'Varsity types, I would say that the most congenial company is that of men who always wait till fifteen minutes past the hour, and then wish they had attended. These are the lovers of rambling conversation, who believe digression to be the soul of it; who will lose themselves in arabesques of logic; who will applaud joyously when told that their souls are not immortal. They are the most interesting of all talkers because they do not take conversation seriously. They talk for love of the thing. And they despise a man of set opinions as a weak thing that requires starch for stiffening. Their opinions vary with the weather. One day, a man will be the most savage Socialist, and would convince any stranger happening in that all students are atheists. But the next day, he will be the most reserved of Conservatives, standing pat for old institutions and for the glory of days that are dead.

These gentle-spirited youths, (who need but a hearth-fire for their full flowering) these many-sided, moody brethren are often the springs whence flow the erratic streams of social spirit here. They are called loafers: but they keep up a tradition that is ancient and honourable—of Round Tables, of Coffee Houses, of Green Rooms, of *Cenacles*, and of all those cliques where Youth has talked and dreamed.

THE ONLOOKER.

HABITUAL HIGH-BROW



"Bless me if it isn't old Highbrow" ejaculated the Fat One across the table as I entered; "want to sit in?" And he shuffled the deck once more. I negotiated with the 'bank' for a heap of thered, white, and blue; slung my coat

across the back of a chair; produced briar and weed; borrowed a wax match—and sat in.

Shuffle and deal; draw and ante and bet; bluff and call; and gather in the spoils. Talk of the burden of lectures, the amazing stupidity of the staff, the approaching day of judgment. "Ante up!" says the Fat One, "decorate!" The show? Yes, Sheas was good last week. No, I went to the School dance that night. Old Chum? No, thanks, old man, I'll use my own and then—

"Ante up!" says Nemesis (in the person of the Fat One) "decorate, you fellows!"

Three hours of it and I am through. My head is aching, for the room has been close, and my pile has dwindled fearfully. Luckily I have a car-ticket, and can beat a graceful retreat.

"Night, Highbrow" rings the cheery chorus as I depart the room. I am glad to get out into God's air once more. Surely this is not the vaunted College Life. I must seek elsewhere."

CURRENT COMMENT

In a recent issue of the Globe a cartoon appeared on the occasion of the opening of the Legislature. The roof of that architectural monstrosity in which our gifted statesmen slumber peacefully during the oratorical efforts of Allan Studholme was represented as being uplifted by the expanding volume of hot air from within. Such choice expletives as "incredible," "unjustifiable," "inconceivable," "intolerable," "absurd," "preposterous," were escaping through the aperture; and the statue of Sir John A. was reeling in dismayed astonishment at such heretical Parliamentary procedure. In the following issue appeared an editorial to the effect that Sir James Whitney was opening Parliament with an "attitude of timidity"! Yet this inconsistency is only one of many and entirely characteristic of the tactics

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adopted by party organs in their efforts to discredit the leaders of the Opposition or Government, as the case may be. And the fulsome praise and flattering, fawning terms, employed in the apotheosis of their own chiefs is almost nauseating to those not blinded by prejudice and bias.

Again, lest the News be unduly elated at the illustration from its beloved contemporary, let us draw attention to its statement that Newton Wesley Rowell's platform is but a replica of Sir James'. The News ought to know. It confesses to the soft impeachment that it is better posted than certain other journals (little slap at the Mail, which upheld the creation of a department to take the place of the Hydro-Electric Commission on the very day that Sir James announced the Government's intention of doing nothing of the sort). As we said, the News ought to know; yet this is the first intimation we have had of our dogmatic premier's conversion to single-tax principles.

THE LATEST.—"What are her days at home?"
 "Oh, a society leader has no days at home any more. Nowadays she has her telephone hours."—*Smart Set*.

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