

COLLEGE TOPICS

Devoted to the interests of the Students in the Universities and Colleges of Toronto.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, MARCH 1ST, 1898.

No. 15

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NO ELECTION SCRAP THIS YEAR.

Varsity Lit to Dispense with the Time-Honored Institution.

NOMINATION BOARD CHOSEN.

Reasons For Abolishing the One Great Feature of the Annual Literary Elections.

The largest crowd of the season turned out to the Varsity Lit Friday evening. There were two matters of importance on the programme, each of which supplied considerable excitement. The one which attracted most attention, however was the discussion on the election "scrap" which has been for a number of years the most "unique" feature of the Lit. For some time past there has been considerable opposition against this feature of the elections and a large number of oppositionists assembled Friday evening to prevail upon the Society to dispense with it this year. They succeeded in gaining their point. D. E. Kilgour championed their cause and he did it well. After showing the uselessness and the wickedness of the scrap, he gave a vivid word picture of the fray for the benefit of the freshmen and sophomores who had been fortunate enough to escape witnessing the terrible contest. He appealed to them to do all in their power to suppress this growth of barbarism. W. A. Groves seconded the motion and in doing so read several extracts from the constitution showing the objects of the society. After weeks of study of the constitution he failed to find that a "scrap" was one of the objects of the Literary Society. He advocated that voting at the elections should be free and secret. Messrs. Munroe, McFarlane and Martin also denounced it as a menace to the society. At this juncture President Young asked to have the motion read. It was as follows: That the society give the president power to close the poll should any obstruction be offered to the voters. The president thought that it would be quite impossible for one to tell just when the poll should be closed and when it should not under the circumstances which were likely to prevail. He suggested that some other arrangement should be made. Mr. Groves then arose and suggested that a corps of policemen be present. Upon mention of this, Don Ross arose and stated that he thought this quite impossible. At the last scrap he remembered hearing an officer remark that he would not enter the fray for a hundred dollars.

This news, together with the fact that the society is not very wealthy at present, seemed to convince everyone that Mr. Groves' plan was not practicable.

Hugh Monroe suggested that the elections be held quietly and peaceably in Students' Union. He felt assured that if the students would determine to have a quiet election there would be no difficulty in doing so. Mr. Shotwell also favored a quiet election. "Billy" Ross then arose and gave several excellent reasons why the regular scrap should continue to exist. He considered that some of those present look too seriously on this time-honored institution. He compared it to a game of Rugby where men grapple with each other and strive hard to conquer their opponents. He could not see how the scrap had any more of a demoralizing effect than a game of Rugby. Moreover the scrap afforded a night's fun, which surpassed all other events in the college year.

"Billy" Alexander, however, felt that the scrap certainly did have a demoralizing effect. He did not believe that the scrap could be compared with Rugby at all. Alex. McDougall also objected to it. H. H. Narraway made an eloquent appeal to the society to crush out the existing evil. "Charlie" Carson followed, and in a quiet manner showed the good features of the contest. He half suspected that the oppositionists were afraid to fight.

Billy Martin thought that the term "time-honored" applied to the scrap was quite inappropriate. It had only been in existence since 1880 while the society itself was many years older. He referred the society to the Osgoode election as a model of how the Lit elections should be run. Mr. Mitchell, '00, had never seen a scrap and thought he would enjoy one this year. "Nick" Hinch, in a characteristic speech, spoke in favor of carrying the elections on in the usual style. Messrs. Black, Kerr, and

Cooper also spoke in favor of it. Mr. McKay in a vigorous speech denounced the scrap as something entirely foreign to the business of the society.

At the close of the discussion it was decided that the motion should read that the election be held in Students' Union. Upon a vote being taken the motion was carried by quite a large majority. At this point G. W. Hastings, who had voted for the motion, arose and stated that at the next meeting he would move that the motion be reconsidered.

The next matter on the programme was the election of the nominating board for *The Varsity*. There were eight candidates in the field and a close vote was expected. The returns, however, showed that one side of the house had got their men in by quite a majority. The count was as follows: J. W. Hobbs, 78; C. M. Carson, 77; E. Beatty, 77; R. M. J. Perkins, 74; W. Martin, 47; H. Munroe, 46; J. T. Shotwell, 45; and L. Allen 37.

LECTURE

ON HAWTHORNE

J. F. Waters, M.A., Discusses the Great American Author.

A WRITER WHO HAD NO AMERICAN PROTOTYPE—NOT A NOVELIST.

John Francis Waters, M.A., of Ottawa, delivered the first of the series of Trinity Lenten lectures on Saturday afternoon before a cultured and interested audience.

The lecturer, who had selected Nathaniel Hawthorne as his subject, was introduced by Provost Welch, who expressed his pleasure that to Trinity University should belong the honor of being the first to bring a gentleman with such a favorable platform reputation before a Toronto audience.

In the critical analysis of his subject, as well as in his rendering of selections from Hawthorne's writings, Mr. Waters showed himself a careful and sympathetic student of this mystic American author. Hawthorne, he said, had no American prototype although he was closely akin to Edgar Allan Poe. Among British authors he was allied to Coleridge, and his school. Hawthorne could not be ranked among American novelists. He could hardly be termed a novelist in any form; even the "Scarlet Letter" could not be considered a novel so much as a psychological romance. The lecturer compared Shakespeare's use of the supernatural with that of Hawthorne. The former introduced it boldly and openly; the latter made it evident to consciousness rather than to sight.

His personality was most attractive; his beauty being not of mind alone, but of face and form also; there was a sort of witchery about him. His life was happy, his marriage was an ideal one, he had a deeply religious sense; yet with all this he was a strange man—a magnificent dreamer whose power of mystic introspection and profound analysis rendered him utterly solitary.

His literary style was like that of Addison and Steele in simplicity and exquisitely finished. His power of using English was unexcelled. He was a poet as much as Longfellow; his books were perfect works of art. In closing a fine critical analysis the lecturer said that it was not possible to define Hawthorne's charm, since it lay, not so much in what he said as in what he suggested; he was valuable as a teacher, delightful as an author, and an exponent of the genius of downright hard work and the doing of one's best.

The reverend gentleman gave an admirable analysis of the psychology of "The Scarlet Letter," and illustrated his points of criticism with well rendered selections from the author's books.

These lectures are under the auspices of St. Hilda's College. The second of the series will be delivered Saturday afternoon by Surgeon-Major Keefer on "Some Eastern Types."

THE HALLOWE'EN DEMONSTRATION.

The committee in charge of the arrangements for the Hallowe'en demonstration for next term have been busy the past week making preliminary arrangements for the celebration. Mr. H. N. Shaw, principal of the Conservatory Dramatic, will have the management of the play, and under his direction the production is sure to be a great success. The selecting of the players will be made in the course of a few days and it is expected that rehearsals will be held before the first of April.

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REPORT OF THE EDITOR OF "TORONTONENSIS."

To the President and Members of the Executive Committees of the Senior Class:

The Editorial Board of the '98 Year Book begs leave to submit a copy of the publication. The work of editing the book has proved very heavy, and I desire, as Editor, to thank heartily the members of the Boards and all others who assisted in the work. It has been the endeavor of the editors to prepare a handsome and a valuable memorial of student life here, and of the University itself.

Owing to the haste with which the book was prepared for the press, there have been many serious omissions—departments which regularly form part of every Year Book not appearing in *Torontonensis*. At the last moment, it became necessary either to reduce the size of the book, by 24 pages, or to defer its publication till after the Christmas vacation. Accordingly the greater part of the literary matter was sacrificed, but, as the literary department forms no essential part of a Year Book, being inserted to relieve the monotony of statistics which almost entirely go to make up the other Year Books, this omission is of minor importance.

The Board regrets much more several inaccuracies which occur, all of them unfortunate, but a few of them particularly so. Certain departments near the end of the book, [such as Social Events Student Publications and Just for Fun], were unavoidably abbreviated, and the interest of the book thus diminished.

There are other faults, both of omission and commission which would be wanting if your Board had had more time and had received more generous assistance. It is a matter of much regret with your Board that the sensitiveness of any one has been wounded by anything which appeared in the pages of *Torontonensis*, and that any of the remarks in the book have been interpreted in any spirit other than the one intended.

In conclusion, the Board has endeavored to perform its duties thoroughly and generously, and, as editor, I desire to state positively, conscientiously, and finally, that not a single word was inserted in *Torontonensis* in any spirit of unkindness, not to say maliciousness or vindictiveness.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,
BURESS GAHAN.

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