

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY JOURNAL.

VOL. XX.

MARCH 25TH, 1893.

No. 19.

Queen's University Journal,

Published weekly by the Alma Mater Society
of Queen's University during the
academic year.

A. E. ROSS, B.A., - Editor-in-Chief.
J. W. MUIRHEAD, B.A., - Managing Editor.
FRANK HUGO, B.A., - Business Manager.

The annual subscription is \$1.00, payable
before the end of January.

All literary contributions should be ad-
dressed to the Editor, Drawer 1104, Kingston,
Ont.

All communications of a business nature
should be addressed to the Business Manager.

NOW that the athletic season is over we
can indulge in a few reflections in con-
nection with some of the features that are com-
ing more and more to characterize all
such contests as are intercollegiate in their
scope. There is no doubt but that the
career of intercollegiate contests of various
sorts is one of comparatively recent origin
in our country, and as yet it has hardly
assumed the importance and dimensions
that it has in the old country, or among
a few of the larger colleges in the U. S.
The tendency of this class of rivalry has its
good and its bad elements. As a stimulus to
college effort and college spirit, as a means of
developing a healthy love of sport and solid
devotion to the interests of the particular
college whose cause is espoused, no doubt in-
tercollegiate competition has no equal. So
far as it serves to keep an institution before
the eyes of the public and it is a custom
which few college authorities are willing to
discourage. This is an advertising age, and
as a first-class college advertiser, intercolleg-
iate competition on campus, on water, and in
hall, well nigh bears away the palm.

But while the custom has its good results,
we are prone to think that it has its bad. The
spirit of rivalry never engenders the best feel-
ings and never issues in the noblest deeds.

It ever has its roots in a selfish ambition
which is satisfied with nothing except per-
sonal gain at another's loss. The moral
influence of such contests upon the growing
characters in colleges and schools is by no
means the best, and the 'gambling craze,'
which is the bane of all healthful sport, does
not scruple to invade the precincts which
should be sacred to the noble, the beautiful
and the good. The effects upon the men who
engage in such contests to excess cannot but
be evident, and it is well for us in Canada that
the custom has gone no further than recent
seasons disclose.

There is another custom, which, as yet, has
not taken root in our Canadian colleges, but
which will, no doubt, come in the course of
time. That is the maintenance of students'
clubs which wander over the country during
winter months and give concerts and musical
entertainments in larger towns and cities. On
a limited scale these clubs exist in some of our
universities, but as yet they are not common.
No doubt they are the means of many a rare
treat to an admiring public, but whether they
are elevating to the students themselves is
another question. The aim of every college
should be to inculcate and nourish a self-
reliant, modest and sober manhood, and any
influence which tends to defeat this end de-
serves nothing but discouragement.

* * *

Much to the JOURNAL'S sorrow the students
have not been treated to anything this session
in the line of a public meeting of the Alma
Mater with its accompanying debate and
programme. Some time since we regaled our-
selves with the fond hope that, mayhap, time
would develop something tangible from the
misty hints once made as to such a meeting
under the auspices of the Levana Society.
But now that the session is so near over we
have given up hope in this quarter also. We
have sadly missed the old glee club days when
concerts galore were planned and promised,
and when now and again those promises were