

# THE VARSITY.

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*TORONTO, FEBRUARY 17th, 1904*

**A** NONYMOUS writers are nuisances. At least such is the opinion of THE VARSITY. If the editor cannot be trusted to keep a confidence as to a contributor's identity, he should not be asked to publish correspondence signed with a pseudonym. If there are reasons for withholding a signature, no one will insist upon its appearing in print, but no magazine can assume responsibility for matter coming from no one knows where and expressing sentiments which may or may not be in accord with those of the Editorial Board. The same may be said of other contributions, such as have been sent in from time to time by a poet, who tells us that his work "though not great, is good." This verse should be given to the world, but its author prefers to remain incognito for the reason given in his last letter: "There is a fascination in mystery that draws attention." This is a very pleasing conceit, but it scarcely warrants the use of our columns to effect its purpose.

**A** POLICY is a necessity to a journal which in any degree professes to influence the thought of its readers. That this policy should be definite, sound and fairly permanent, goes without saying. THE VARSITY is liable to have a new policy twice a year. This is because it emanates from the editor-in-chief, to whose care this and certain other matters are entrusted, for a period of three months, when his successor takes office. There is no guarantee that any two men will see eye to eye on a given set of problems, and though both may be animated entirely by the best good of the University, their opinions as to that good may be quite opposed to one another. In such a case a compromise may be arrived at if consultation takes place early enough. If not, then one of the two must, in honor, avoid certain topics of discussion rather than combat a position taken by his predecessor. This is more prophetic than actual, but still it has a point. The mention of it now is with a view to causing the various electing bodies to give a little thought to the matter in selecting the members of the Editorial Board for another year. A man should really have had some experience in such work before attempting the editing of

THE VARSITY. He should have done a little work in a subordinate position before he undertakes the guidance of the committee and the framing of its policy.

**T**HE Undergraduates' Union is an organization of students. Its Executive Committee includes representatives from each of the faculties, and from each of the federated colleges. Its work is entirely among and for the students, and it receives no subsidy from the funds of the University. That it is not the factor in the undergraduate life of the University that one might expect from a study of its charter, must be admitted; that it is accomplishing so much in the face of so many disadvantages is a matter upon which to congratulate the Executive. The rooms of the Union furnish a common meeting ground for the students generally. The privileges of the members are many, and the occasional enjoyment of these is not denied to those who are not members. The fee may be the barrier to a larger membership, but the limited membership explains the increase in the fee. There is no organization more worthy of a liberal support by the students of all faculties. No other club or society is doing so much to advance the University spirit so often bewailed. The purchase of THE VARSITY is a concrete example of what it has been attempting in the last few years along these lines. It might have proved a more profitable investment if it had been more extensively used to advertise the Union. Instead of thus bringing Pegassus down to draw a plow, the editors have been left unhampered in their efforts to publish a University magazine. These efforts, as well as the success of the Union, depend entirely upon the support given to both by the student body at large.

**S**OME time ago we read of a youth who wrote an essay that came in for certain criticisms at the hands of a professor—unkind and cruel, he termed it. His freshmen year was spoiled by this reception of his literary effort, and such as he were forever discouraged from offering anything original to a college journal. Let us tell of another youth whose composition deserved and received just such caustic treatment. He wrote a wonderful tale, including a description of autumn. One sentence was particularly well pleasing to himself, but it was framed in blue by the examiner. It ran like this. "Now has summer passed away, garlanded in epitaphs." It was too bad, surely, to clip the flight of a genius thus high soaring, but it had to be done. In this case, however, the student had the gumption to settle down to work and to improve his style. He had the gift of expression, and it was not long before he could use simple English with a fair degree of accuracy. His metaphors were not hopeless jumbles of earth, air, fire and water, but pictures with some meaning in them. His speeches became more matter of fact, but he won more points in debate and his audiences waited until he had finished before leaving the hall. He won a few essay prizes in time, and now preaches very fair sermons. There is nothing dreadful about an honest criticism, unless a man is so hopelessly conceited as to imagine his work to be above criticism. So long as it be just and with-