

The Varsity

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR, IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BY

THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The Annual Subscription is \$2.00 a year, payable strictly in advance. Single copies 10 cents.

All literary contributions and items of College news should be addressed to THE EDITOR, University College, Toronto.

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OCTOBER 20. 1891.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



NCE more in the history of our great University has assembled, on the night of the 16th of October, that great and influential body, that learned that august body, that society of nature's own orators whose utterances lend lustre to the fame of Canada and assuredly settle the political destinies of the New World.

We refer to our Literary.

The attendance at the first meeting of this term on Friday night was very encouraging, the hall being more than filled. Shortly after eight o'clock the new President, Mr. H. E. Irwin, B.A., entered, and upon advancing to the chair was accorded a very hearty welcome. Mr. Irwin spoke a few words referring to the individual advantage to be derived from the Society, and exhorting the members to try to make it a success since they have a record to maintain.

Proceeding to business the President explained that the minute book had not yet returned to College, but he believed it was on the way. Hence accordingly the first order of business was suspended. The others were soon disposed of and the literary programme commenced. The Glee Club being called upon responded with becoming modesty after a few minutes. Mr. Parks, however, actively resisted any attempts to escort him to the piano. They sang that piece the chorus of which goes "Then blow ye winds," and came within a hair's breadth of getting an encore.

Mr. Graham did credit to himself and to the Society by his interpretation of "Lasca." In response to an encore he gave "The Old Man and Jim." You will be a star elocutionist, "Murphy," if you "take keer o' youself."

The debate, like all our debates, was the occasion of many arguments and of some high flights in oratory. If Cicero or Demosthenes or Burke or Bright had been there

wouldn't they have felt cheap? The debate was: Resolved, —That Independence is better as a future for Canada than Annexation. Following we give a few detached selections from each of the speeches. The affirmative was led by Mr. J. H. Lamont. He said that if we were free and independent "our flag would float on countless ships carrying our produce to all parts of the earth." The speaker said we had reached maturity and had sufficiently advanced in the field of self-government to become an independent nation. He referred to the immensity of our resources, to our railway, canal, educational and other systems which were unsurpassed, and that we were thus in a position for Independence. He maintained that Independence and Free Trade were adapted for securing the two things we wanted—population and capital. When Mr. Lamont was speaking of the numbers who were leaving Canada and was asking why it was, a *marine* voice exclaimed "Sir John," which brought down the house. The leader further said that in treaties under Annexation our interests would materially suffer, that under Independence there would be fostered a decided national sentiment, etc., etc.

Mr. Perrin, leader of the negative, said there were many objections to Independence—that we were nearly independent now, that our foreign credit would be diminished, that a standing army would become a necessity, that the public debt is already very large, that "Canada contains the elements of her own dissolution" through the rivalry of the French and English races, that we have no distinct national characteristics, that Free Trade only meant Annexation, and that we wanted the American capital to develop our mines, etc., etc.

Mr. Knox followed, supporting Mr. Lamont. He thought we didn't want to be dragged into the solution of problems arising out of the foreign element in the United States, which consisted mainly of the "riff-raff" of Europe. We didn't want to have to deal with the Negroes or the Mormons, who bid fair to engulf the Western States and set up a capital at San Francisco. Mr. Knox referred to the immorality in the United States as a reason for steering clear of Annexation. Moreover, with Independence we would get rid of the Governor-General—a needless bill of expense.

Mr. J. H. Brown, '94, followed, in a somewhat nervous condition, taking up Mr. Knox's points, one by one, and endeavoring to demolish them. He mentioned the immorality in Canadian politics. He thought, contrary to Mr. Knox, that the negroes were decreasing (relatively) instead of increasing rapidly.

Mr. Lamont, in a short reply, said that northern countries never had united successfully with southern, that our geographical position is favorable to Independence, that, as regards capital, Independence and Free Trade would be equally as good as Annexation, that we needn't fret yet about a standing army, that if we had Independence we *would have* a rallying point round which to gather.

Between Independence, Free Trade and Annexation some of us got all tangled up. The President preferred, for several reasons, not to give a decision, so none was given. A letter was read from Mr. Badgerow, father of the late Geo. A. Badgerow, expressing his feelings towards the students for their kindly expressions of sympathy. Also another letter from McGill, desiring to have an inter-collegiate debate this term; and one from Queen's, to the same effect.

Mr. Peter White was disappointed that no action was taken to transfer the athletic games to Rosedale, as he had come to the Literary for the express purpose of opposing any such measure. The Society stumbled around for a few minutes, and then passed a motion recommending the General Committee to call a mass meeting of the students in the near future to make preparations for the fall games.

Mr. N. M. Duncan was elected as a representative on THE VARSITY from the year of '95. The Society then disbanded upon singing the National Anthem.