

VARSAITY

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THE VARSITY.

THE VARSITY is published in the University of Toronto every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.
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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.
Contributions when not accepted will be returned if accompanied with a stamp for that purpose.

Topics of the Hour.

TO-DAY is Professor Young's 67th birthday. We are sure that every graduate and undergraduate will join with us in wishing most heartily the honored Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy "Very Many Happy Returns of the Day." Although the snows of three-score years rest upon his brow, Time has not dimmed his eye nor abated his natural force, but has only deepened the sincere regard and unbounded respect of all who know him.

WE are glad to be able to announce that we have arranged with a number of vigorous writers for a series of articles on political and social reform. The questions taken up will be discussed by

these writers from a purely independent and national standpoint. Mr. H. L. Dunn contributes the first article of the series to the present issue. His position relative to politics is somewhat defined by the fact that he was the mover of the resolution in the Young Men's Liberal Club the other night condemning the attempt of the managers of the Reform Party in Toronto to introduce into municipal affairs the party and spoils system with all its attendant evils.

WORTHY of note by all who have earnestly at heart the interests of the Provincial University is that peculiarly advantageous form of endowment adopted by the legislatures of several states, by which each makes its own university in very truth a State university. The magnificent endowments consisting in their congressional land-grants being dwindled in some wise—"frittered away, scarce leaving dollars, where there should have been hundreds"—the University of Michigan receives from the state the proceeds of an annual tax of one-twentieth of a mill; the University of Wisconsin, one-tenth of a mill. Of our own original endowment in land, now scattered and wasted somewhat, may we not say that it is as it is through a culpable breach of trust? and if the Universities of Wisconsin and Michigan are granted State aid greater than the revenue arising from their endowment funds; if the State Universities of Iowa and Colorado, not to mention others, receive such magnificent endowments as not to be in need of further aid at all—surely the legislature of the first Province in the Dominion should do something now towards placing the University of Toronto on a similar firm basis.

THE appointment of a committee to make arrangements with professors and others for a course of lectures to the undergraduates is a move in the right direction, and proves that the Literary Society is alive to the importance of an undertaking of this kind. The benefit of really good lectures on subjects of general culture cannot be over-estimated. All the best universities in the States are adopting this way of enabling their students to hear the foremost scholars, orators and *litterateurs* of the day. Ann Arbor presents the following names as lecturers for the current year: R. Burdette, Kate Feld, Albion Tourgee, Will Carleton, T. De Witt Talmage, Canon Farrar and Justin McCarthy. We may not, it is true, be able to obtain so large a number of eminent persons, but we are not altogether devoid of able lecturers. Professor Goldwin Smith's name has been mentioned already, and it is understood that Dr. Wilson is willing to deliver a lecture if asked. Professor Hutton lectured last year to the Chautauqua Society in this city, and Mr. Dale only a week ago delivered a lecture to the same society on the "Influence of Rome on the Modern World." We hope the committee will be successful in obtaining the best men to be had, and we look to the undergraduates to make the lectures a success.