

and J. J. McCarthy, while opposite them sat Messrs. W. Morrison (leader of the opposition) D. B. Gillies, H. G. O'Leary, J. G. Workman, A. Thompson, and J. A. Younie. Mr. McGure acted as speaker. Mr. O'Dell performed the duties of clerk, while Mr. Meek was quite at home as sergeant-at-arms. The speeches were witty throughout, while no end of amusement was caused by many poignant interruptions and apt retorts.

After "Government Orders" and "Private Bills" had been disposed of the House adjourned.

#### THE UNIVERSITY SERMON.

THE University Sermon Series opened under most auspicious circumstances on Sunday last, and the large congregation must have been very gratifying to those who have undertaken the matter. The capacity of Wycliffe Convocation Hall was taxed to its utmost, and dignity and grace were added by the presence of a large number of the faculty in their academic vestments. The success with which the series has begun more than justifies the expectation that there is a place for a distinctly students' service in connection with the religious life of the University. The preacher selected to open the series was Rev. John DeSoyres, of St. John's, N.B. He is a man of imposing appearance and earnest bearing, with a sympathetic voice and a great command of choice language. As a preface to his address he made a reminiscent return to his own student days at Cambridge, in which the University chapel and services made an indelible impression on his mind. It would be impossible to give any account of the sermon without doing it injustice. Suffice it to say that the theme was the life and example of Jesus Christ as presented by Paul in the epistle to the Philippians. The discourse was very brief and was divided under the three heads of charity, humility and obedience. In view of the distinctive character of the congregation it was expected that the address would be more directly adapted to the student needs and attitude of mind. It is to be hoped that the whole series will receive the support of the students, which it deserves.

#### Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

At a largely attended meeting of the Association on Thursday last, it was decided to concur in the recommendation of the executive that the General Secretary for next year be employed jointly with the medical Y.M.C.A. The new man will give ten months to the work, instead of seven, as at present, and will receive a substantial increase over the present salary. Messrs. Dix, Paulin, Miller, Gibson and Walker, were appointed to act with three medical representatives as the committee to nominate the new general secretary.

The nominations for next year's officers resulted as follows:

President—D. C. McGregor (by acclamation).

1st Vice—W. H. Tackaberry, E. A. McIntyre, J. B. Paulin.

2nd Vice—W. R. Carson, J. J. Traill.

Treasurer—D. A. MacKay, A. G. Portch, J. G. Miller.

Assistant Treasurer—R. Doncason, W. H. Henderson, R. Shearer.

Rec. Secretary—J. A. Gardiner, J. E. Gibson, W. E. Chapple, A. E. Picker, H. C. Graham.

The elections will be held to-morrow, Thursday afternoon, at five o'clock.

The Members' Reception last Wednesday passed off very successfully indeed. During the evening Misses Robertson and Strong and Messrs. Megan and Francis contributed to a very enjoyable programme; while Professor Hume spoke briefly on behalf of the faculty.

The Provincial Y.M.C.A. Convention meets in Peterborough from February 5 to 8. Messrs. Cochrane, McGregor and the new general secretary will probably represent the University College Association.

#### THE INSPECTOR'S VISIT.

TWICE a year the schoolmaster and his pupils drew the long breath of satisfaction. This expression of relief followed the visit of the Public School Inspector to the little brick mansion under the hill where knowledge was eagerly sought by the few and forced upon the many. He might be seen coming up the road if the teacher had the time to keep a lookout, but he usually had his grey mare tied to the water pipe at the end of the school before anyone thought of him. If it were summer time he was heard as he examined the pump and the pupils stiffened in their seats under the terrible warning given them while the old man drank. If it were winter the sight of his great beaver cap caught some wandering eye as he passed a window and the inattentive one with frightened face would gasp:

"Oh! Here comes Munroe!" but, winter or summer, his knock would often be the first intimation of his arrival, and then what consternation! How skilfully concealed!

How glad the teacher was to greet him, and how suavely he offered to send a boy to his boarding place with Mr. Munroe's horse, and how shrewdly he selected his dullest boy for the duty. How well he knew that the arrival of the well-known grey with the spring halt would put the farmer's wife on her mettle, and with what confidence he looked forward to the dinner that would greet his guest at noon. The inspector knew also what to expect, and so only once in the three years did he visit Number Seven in the afternoon.

The beaver cap and the frieze boxcoat and the old Scotch plaid all having been hung upon the teacher's hook, while his own less important overcoat and hat found refuge on a nearby nail, the great man would remove his overshoes and sink into the proffered chair beside the stone and say:

"Well, teacher, what are you doing to-day?"

No matter what it was he would hear how it was done, and always take part in the work himself. The teacher had discovered his weaknesses in the County Model School, and so would tempt him to take a class in literature. Then would follow a lesson worthy of Socrates himself, and "he who died at Aden" was made immortal to those who heard him. Again he would insist upon grammar, and once more the teacher had studied human nature to profit. More than once he had heard the Inspector say:

"Get the idea of the sentence properly fixed, teacher, and grammar is easy," and so a lesson in grammar at such a time invariably meant a development of the correct idea of a sentence. Everyone agreed that Strang's definition was utterly wrong. How could a thought be a sentence? How much less could a sentence be a "thought expressed in words?" Absurd! But then how easy to say instead "the expression of a thought in words." This was easy, indeed, but see the trap into which the clever youth had led himself?

"Very well, teacher, very well, but what do they mean by expression?" What by "expression of a thought?" How gallantly the class responded to the challenge, and how nonchalantly the schoolmaster asked if a thought might be expressed otherwise than by words, but how exultingly the Inspector demanded that all who could do so should stand down by the stove, and how the teacher fingered his watch chain as they all rushed to the stove, and the little girl called upon to express her thought beckoned to the old man himself when she meant it for Belle Jackson behind him. A moment of calm and everyone expected a storm, but instead a hearty laugh set all fears aside, and ten minutes before the hour the school was dismissed for all day and the teacher invited to visit the next section in the afternoon.

Then it was that the teacher drew the deep breath of relief, and as he answered the questions about square feet of black-board and ventilation, he observed his pupils, even the heavy, listless ones, sighing in the satisfaction of a doubtful problem successfully solved.

M. H. V. C.