

bring the greatest preachers of the continent, but right here in Toronto are men who would regard it an honor to give their best thought to the students of the University once a year. Advantage could also be taken of the visits of distinguished men from abroad—men of intellectual power and culture who would deal with religion and not theology, and whose presence could not but have an elevating and stimulating influence on the moral life of the undergraduates.

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The fact that Toronto is a State University might be urged against the proposal, but a little reflection will show the weakness of such a position. The new arrangement would be simply an extension of the principle that has always been recognized in the reading of morning prayers. We invite discussion from our readers on this subject.

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We have no doubt that most of our readers will agree with Mr. McDonald that personal communications are out of place in a college paper, and that as far as THE VARSITY is concerned they should cease at once. Last week Mr. Alexander gave us a letter which we felt was not of the most desirable kind for our columns, but which could not be refused insertion, especially as the present editor came in for a share of his attack. This week in simple fairness to all concerned we give space to a letter from Mr. Gahan and another from Mr. Carter, '99, dealing with Mr. Alexander's charges. We believe the controversy may drop here without doing injustice to anybody. THE VARSITY cannot afford any longer to have its tone as a reputable university journal lowered by continuance of this cross-firing of personalities, and we shall therefore positively refuse in future any communication of this nature.

### LET THERE BE LIGHT.

*Editor VARSITY:*

DEAR SIR,—As a constant reader of VARSITY I feel compelled to protest against the way in which your paper is used as a medium through which some students give vent to their feelings of animosity towards certain of their fellow students. It can not please many of your readers to see letters printed in VARSITY which would be more in place in the columns of some sensational evening newspaper. It seems to me that if there is any "clique" about the University, it is composed of these gentlemen who have made themselves ridiculous in their attempts to heap abuse on some of our prominent students.

While it may be edifying to these gentlemen to see their names in print, the character of their articles is such that most of VARSITY readers must find this sort of literature very objectionable. If an appeal to their common sense will not put a stop to these outbursts of personal invective surely the columns of VARSITY can be closed to such stuff.

Yours truly,

C. S. MACDONALD, '98.

Toronto, Feb. 4th, 1898.

### THE CONVERSAZIONE.

The Conversat for '98 has come and gone—in many respects the most brilliant social success of the kind ever held in these halls. Profiting by the mistakes of predecessors, the committee made many improvements. They prevented the over-crowding which caused so much

unfavorable comment last year, and thereby greatly increased the comfort of the guests last Friday night. From the hour when the first arrivals gathered in the grand old pile—so gaily lighted up and so gorgeously decked out as to be scarcely recognizable—till the last tired merrymaker turned homeward, all was brightness and gladness unalloyed.

The decorations were specially fine, and ahead of all previous occasions—the electric lights in the rotunda and Simmons' flower display showing to splendid advantage. Up to ten o'clock the guests promenaded through the halls to the sweet strains of the orchestra, or lingered around one of the special exhibits. The S. P. S. display was well patronized as well as that of the Natural Science men. In Room 16, some of the latter presented splendid limelight views of western scenes, together with some good cartoons on the professors. In the west hall the Philosophical men gave many fine colored views—one of the University in flames, exciting particular admiration. The coloring of these plates was done by Dr. Kirschmann who devoted much time and pains to the work, and cannot be complimented too highly on the result of his unselfish efforts.

After ten o'clock the centre of attraction was transferred to the east and west halls, where scores of bewitching damsels and gallant partners tripped the light fantastic till an early hour. Very often, however, retreat was sought for a quiet tête-à-tête in one of the cosy nooks apart, so thoughtfully provided by the committee. The refreshment rooms were not neglected by the guests, and the appointments there were excellent.

The Conversat has gone, but it will long live as a pleasant memory in the minds of all who had the good fortune to be present.

### BARREN LANDS OF CANADA.

President Loudon presided at the public lecture in Biological Building last Saturday and introduced the lecturer, Mr. Tyrrell, as a graduate of our own university, who by his valuable discoveries and researches has given us a vast store of information upon the barren lands of Canada. A large crowd was present and greatly appreciated the lecture, which was illustrated with excellent lime light views.

Mr. Tyrrell dwelt principally with the barren lands lying west of Hudson Bay, a tract 1,200 miles long from south-east to north-west, and twice as large as the area of Ontario. The permanent inhabitants are about 2,000 Esquimaux, who live by hunting and fishing, and 500 Indians, who move thither in the summer season. The country is not capable of supporting a large number of people, but gives great promise of becoming a great mining province if its resources are intelligently handled. The copper mine area will some day be as productive as the Michigan copper area. There are other metals also; principally iron, gold and silver. The country being easy of approach, open and level, offers no hindrances to development such as exist in some quarters.

President Loudon announced that next Saturday Mr. G. A. Reid, R.C.A., would lecture on "Mural Decoration" in the Chemical Building.

Yates, of the second year, is, we are sorry to record, confined to his room nursing a very bad knee. He was hurrying through the basement last week, and stumbled over an object which happened to be that large black dog that was seen around the school for a day or two. We hope that this injury will not be serious and that he will soon be with us again. We would advise the Faculty to place another patrolman at the basement door for one seems insufficient to look after it and keep out the canine species.