

THE VARSITY.

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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITORS, 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.

A BEQUEST TO CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES.

A testamentary disposition of the fortune of an old Canadian Scot has just been made, in which The University of Toronto has some prospective interest; and we are glad to be able to announce it to the readers of THE VARSITY.

Robert Bruce, market gardener, a hard-working, industrious old Scotsman, who carried on his garden operations on the St. Foy Road at Quebec, died a few weeks since at the age of ninety, leaving a fortune of \$120,000. His three daughters, all above middle age, have no children; only one of them, indeed, is married. To them he leaves the interest of his money during their lives; but on their death, without issue, the fund is to be vested in a trust consisting of the Principals, or Presidents, ex officio, of Morin College, Quebec; Dalhousie College, Halifax; Bishop's College, Lennoxville; McGill University, Montreal; Queen's University, Kingston; Toronto University, and Manitoba College, Manitoba, to establish bursaries and scholarships, of the annual value respectively of \$25 and \$100 each, to be called "The Robert Bruce Bursaries and Scholarships." The holders must be matriculated students of one or other of the Universities named, actually pursuing a regular course of study in Arts or Science. The scholarships are to be divided into two classes, one for candidates at matriculation, and the other for third year's men. Some discretion is left to the trustees as to the arrangement of the details.

The fruits of this bequest will not be realized by the Universities for some time to come; but it is pleasant to see that wealthy men in Canada are beginning to follow the example of those in the United States, and, recognizing the needs of our Universities and Colleges.

THE SONG BOOK.

In the late history of our university there have been some epoch-marking periods representative of worthy ambition and meritorious achievement. Among the most prominent of these may be mentioned the year 1880, when THE VARSITY was established; 1882, when *Antigone* was produced; 1885, when the *Varsity Book of Prose and Poetry* was published; and the present year of grace, 1887, notable for the appearance of two year books—*L'asti* and *University Year Book*, and last but by no means least, the *University of Toronto Song Book*.

These enterprises, set on foot, carried out, and supported, it is true, by but a comparative few of the whole body of students, have shown that even in what some are prone to call "these degenerate days" there is a spark of *esprit* left, and that we have amongst us some genuine college spirit, some real and disinterested ambition.

We have received from the publishers, Messrs. I. Suckling & Sons, of this city, the prospectus and advance sheets of the new Song Book. This being an undertaking of more than usual magnitude and importance we shall devote a little space to an account of its origin, development, and successful completion.

In January last a meeting was held under the auspices of the Glee Club. It was then and there decided that it was expedient to publish a song book; a committee was appointed to take the

thing in hand and carry out the wishes of the meeting in the matter. An active canvass was at once commenced and a large number of subscribers' names obtained, the proposal meeting with very general acceptance.

Work on the proposed book was left somewhat in abeyance until after the "sturm and drang" of examinations was overpast. Immediately afterwards, that is, after the examinations in May, the committee got down to work, and collected material in abundance, pressing everyone into the service who had musical or literary ability, or who showed an interest in the undertaking. The committee toiled long and patiently during the spring and summer, and passed under review over three thousand songs, collected from every imaginable source. The result of the joint labours of the committee and the publisher is now about to be given to the world in the shape of a handsomely bound volume of 173 pages of music, containing 143 songs and choruses.

The object which the compilers of the Song Book had in view, and which we congratulate them upon having most successfully accomplished, was to furnish students and the public generally with a book which would meet the special requirements of the former, and at the same time be an acceptable addition to the repertoire of the drawing-room or the camp-fire. With a view of bringing all songs within the compass of ordinary male voices, each song was carefully examined, and where necessary, transposed into a lower key. This is of itself a most important matter, and will be, we are convinced, a great factor in the success of the book. In the next place every song was critically gone over by the Musical Editor, Mr. Theodore Martens, whose work throughout has been most satisfactory to the committee. He has arranged several songs as quartettes for male voices and has reharmonized a majority of the choruses. Original compositions and new settings of old favourites have been furnished by Mr. Arthur E. Fisher and Mr. J. D. Kerrison, of this city. The former has set Mr. W. W. Campbell's poem, "Old Voices," originally published in THE VARSITY, to music, and Mr. Kerrison is represented by the original quartette, "Stars of the Summer Night," never before published. There are also other musical compositions by Mr. F. H. Torrington and others, which have never appeared in any collection of songs before.

Original versions of many old favourites have been contributed by members of the committee and their friends—notably "Litoria," "Vive la Compagnie," "Sailing, Sailing, Sailing," etc. New songs have been written by President Wilson, Dr. Ellis, Rev. Professor Campbell, F. E. Seymour, W. W. Campbell, and many others. Translations of French and German national, folk, and student songs are appended to the originals. These are among the most important special features of the book, though, if space permitted, we might mention many more. The publisher has also secured the right to re-print several standard compositions, which will add materially to the success of the book in the drawing-rooms of this city and province.

It only remains to be said that the publisher has done his part of the contract in the most satisfactory manner, and has produced a book which, for good printing, paper, designing and binding, is unique, and artistically a most emphatic success. As the prospectus says: "The whole work has been done on Canadian soil, by Canadian heads and hands, being probably the first instance of an enterprise of such importance being undertaken and carried out wholly within our own borders."

We have only the most unqualified praise to give to the Song Book, and earnestly hope that it will receive that meed of success which its intrinsic and artistic merits so richly deserve.

TO THOSE IN ARREARS.

We understand that some dissatisfaction exists amongst our city subscribers owing to the fact that THE VARSITY Publishing Company has employed a canvasser to collect subscriptions from those in arrears. We have just a few facts and figures to present to those of our subscribers who feel aggrieved at our action. We are sure that after reading our explanation they will acquiesce in the wisdom of the course which the Company has been compelled to adopt, and