

ALMA MATER.

SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 17th.

THE meeting of this evening was of an unusually interesting character, both as regards business and debate. The parliamentary form of debate was adopted for the evening and Geo. F. Henderson, B. A., as Attorney General, brought in a bill to abolish exemptions. He was supported by Messrs. Wright, Ryan and McLachlan as ministers of Crown Lands, Education and Agriculture respectively. The opposition was led by W. J. Kidd, with the President as his right hand supporter. These gentlemen did their utmost to prevent the passage of the bill and as a last resource moved a vote of want of confidence in the Attorney General. The government supporters, however, proved loyal to their leader and the attempt failed, whereupon the meeting broke up in disorder.

We were very much pleased to note an increased attendance of students at this meeting. As we have frequently stated, a man should never consider time spent in this society as time lost. May the numbers present at its meetings yet increase.

SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 24th.

There was a very large attendance of students this evening, attracted doubtless by the prospect of hearing a lively debate on the federation question. Owing to circumstances, however, it was found necessary to postpone this debate for a few days, and the executive committee was instructed to arrange for a public entertainment, the debate to form the chief item on the programme. Notwithstanding this disappointment, the meeting proved very interesting, as several matters of importance were brought forward. Mr. Farrell's motion to engage Col. Bain to deliver a lecture under the auspices of the society did not meet with the approval of those present, and was lost. It was decided to continue the parliamentary debate upon the exemption question at the next regular meeting, and Attorney-General Henderson was requested to be prepared with his Cabinet and Bill upon that occasion. Mr. C. J. Cameron introduced a matter of great practical importance to the society. Points of order are frequently brought up which the chairman finds it difficult to decide according to the constitution, and Mr. Cameron suggested that a debating manual be taken as a standard to be referred to in such cases. After considerable discussion as to the extent to which this manual should be used, an amendment to Mr. Cameron's motion, proposed by Mr. G. F. Henderson, was adopted. It read as follows:—"Resolved, that Todd's Manual of Parliamentary Practice be hereafter used by this Society, as an authority upon cases to which our constitution, as it at present stands, does not apply." This is a step in the right direction. We trust that the Alma Mater Society will continue to improve.

ENTERTAINMENT AND DEBATE.

A GOOD and select audience was present in Convocation Hall last evening, the occasion being the third of the series of public debates given under the auspices of the Alma Mater Society. The programme was opened by the Glee Club, which sang a couple of choruses in splendid style. "Sweet spirit hear my prayer," with solo by Mr. Mundell, was particularly well rendered and was received by the audience with hearty applause. Mr. T. E. McEwen next recited Hoods's "Bridge of Sighs," with excellent taste and effect. He is a good elocutionist. Professor Goodwin sang a German song, evidently sentimental, in such a way as to deserve

and receive an enthusiastic *encore*, to which he responded. We trust that we will frequently have the pleasure of hearing Prof. Goodwin at the students' entertainments. Miss Yates' rendition of a description of a street scene in which the principal actors were "a white bootblack and a black bootblack," took the audience by storm. It was amusing indeed. "London Bridge" was sung in an exceedingly tasteful manner by Mr. Harry Wilson, who is acquiring much prominence as a vocalist in university circles. He certainly lost none of his reputation by his performance last evening. The first part of the programme was closed by the Glee Club with three choruses. The solos being taken by Messrs. Clark, Wilson and Mundell.

The debate upon the federation question was then entered upon, the Principal being called into the chair. It proved very interesting, the different aspects of the scheme being brought forward by the speakers in a highly able manner. R. W. Shannon, M.A., Dr. Herald, and H. M. Mowat, B.A., championed the scheme, their defence of it being such as to draw hearty manifestations from the audience. The negative side of the question was led by Jno. McIntyre, M.A., with Dr. W. H. Henderson and Mr. Rattray as his supporters. These gentlemen played a winning game throughout, and easily succeeded in persuading the audience that the scheme would not prove to be for the best intents of higher education in Ontario. The vote taken at the close of the debate was almost unanimously opposed to the scheme.

The officers of the Alma Mater wish us to thank the gentleman who took part in the debate for their kindness in coming forward in such a hearty manner.

+DE NOBIS VOABILIBUS.+

LADIES don't like to play billiards in a crowd for when the balls kiss they like the coast to be quite clear for the natural sequence of events.

The Glee Club spent a most enjoyable evening recently at the residence of Alderman Harty. Were many such invitations received we fear the number of applicants for membership in the club would increase alarmingly.

While taking a stroll through the corridors, a few days since, our local man happened to pick up a Cicero which was lying on a bench. On the fly leaf was the name of the owner, "Wm. F-n-r, '88, and beneath the name was this legend:—

"'Tis sweet to love, but oh how blisser,
To love a girl that'll let you kiss her!"

Whether the sentiment is original or not our authority does not state, but surely this young man is progressing too well. Willie, Willie, 'ware concursus!

One of our students who was in the Manitoba mission field last summer has been bewailing the effect of civilization upon the once glorious North West. The other evening the young man waxed particularly eloquent upon the subject, ever lapsing into poetry. Here is a specimen verse:—

"Behind the red squaw's cayuse plug,
The hand car roads and raves,
And pie-plant pies are now produced
Above the Indian graves.
I hear the oaths of pioneer,
The caucus yet to be,
The first low hum where soon will come
The fuzzy bumble bee."