

WHAT NEXT?

Another campaign has opened, and armour doffed for a period of respite and relaxation must again be donned. Weapons must be brightened and sharpened, equipments refurbished, standards unfurled and the march resumed. The Freshman has been promoted to the rank of Sophomore, the latter to that of Junior, and he in turn has become at last a Senior. Once more all is in readiness. Every mind bent on doing valiantly; every heart beating high with hope; we await the command to move forward. Then when the word is given let every man, let every student in this University step out fearlessly and keep in step. Let us keep in touch with the men on each side of us, and we will never be left behind. We must not fall asleep, for we would stumble and be trampled under foot. We must not mutiny, for we would be put in irons. We must not desert, for we would suffer ignominious death.

We have a goal to reach, a mission almost sacred to fulfil. The maintenance of the fame and honor of our University devolves largely upon us. In a great measure it rests with us to say what position she shall occupy in the ranks of the world's centres of learning. Ours is the glorious privilege proudly to bear her standard to the front of the array, amid the plaudits of her veteran sons; and ours is the awful alternative ruthlessly to drag her colors in confusion and disgrace through the mire and filth of inward dissent, wranglings, bitterness and hatred. Truly the responsibility is great; but we should not, we dare not attempt to shirk it.

Last spring we felt that we were called upon to take action against growing evils which were steadily tending to lower the high standard of efficiency raised and upheld in past years by our Alma Mater. We believed that indolence, inefficiency and double dealing existed in high places. We believed that good conscientious work could not be done while there was such open hostility between members of the Faculty and the Undergraduate body. Unanimously we believed that so long as the present incumbent of the presidential chair continued to hold office, so long would the University of Toronto be a by-word in the mouths of collegians the world over. For, not a dissenting voice was heard among twelve hundred students when this statement was formally presented before the court which tried us for sedition and rebellion: "*He has entirely failed to win and keep the respect or confidence of the Undergraduates during his incumbency of the office of President*"—a charge which we trust is, and forever will be, unique in University history. We complained that those words reflected accurately the universal belief of the student body, and that, such being the case, there never could be the harmony, the mutual confidence and trust which must necessarily exist between governor and governed in a college, if the best work and the happiest results are to be attained. Therefore, we prayed then, and ever will pray, that our President may be a man whom we can admire and love; a man to whom the hat will involuntarily be raised; a man whom we will be proud to claim our own.

Believing these things honestly, and convinced that it

was our duty to do what we could to remedy them, we petitioned for a commission of investigation and enquiry which was ultimately granted; and five eminent men of three provinces were appointed by the Ontario Government, presumably for that purpose.

On the proceedings before the Commissioners, and on the report submitted by them to the Government, we make no comment, as these matters are dealt with in another part of this paper by one whose words will be sure to command the attention of the Undergraduates which they so justly deserve. Court decided that the students had raised a false alarm; that they had no grounds whatever for their beliefs; and that if the affairs of the University were conducted in future just as they had previously been, with the addition, perhaps, of a wee bit more tact and a trifle less fickleness, she was assured of a dazzling future. So ended the introductory farce, amid very weak applause. The stage has been cleared and the play proper is about to begin.

What next? We shall never be granted another commission; so anything of that nature is clearly out of the question. Various wild suggestions have been offered, all of which, if truth were known, arise from mingled feelings of contempt, hatred and spite. Through fear that some of these suggestions might be put in practice, and that certain members of the faculty and of the governing bodies might be ridiculed by two thousand students in the presence of the elect of the city; through fear that the graduates and undergraduates would so far forget themselves as not to show the full amount of respect towards the head of the university that such a dignitary in any other college would command; and through fear that Convocation would but serve to lay bare to the public eye the sores that have long been festering—for these reasons mainly the authorities, we believe, decided to do away and dispense for this year with an institution and a day that has for years been looked forward to expectantly by every student who would enjoy the privilege of being present. But any one who entertains any such doubts as to the manner in which the students would conduct themselves at Convocation credits them with far less of common-sense than they in reality possess. We would have nothing to gain and everything to lose by indulging in any such folly. To act in a spirit of purely vindictive spite would be to incur the merited contempt of the outside world, and destroy for years to come the faith of the people of this country in our good intentions. There were serious grievances and they still exist; for nothing has been altered. We took the only possible course under the circumstances. We applied to the very highest authorities for an investigation into the grounds of our grievances and for remedies to heal. This was granted us; but no grounds were discovered and, consequently, no remedies applied. We are just where we were before the commission was granted, as far as practical results are concerned. We are powerless. Let us candidly admit that undeniable fact right at the opening of this new college year. There was but one heart in the Undergraduate body; and it was filled with love for this college and an honest desire to promote its welfare. We sacrificed sleep, work and money.