

The Varsity

Published weekly by the students of the University of Toronto. Annual subscription, One Dollar, payable strictly in advance. For advertising rates apply to the Business Manager. Address all communications for publication to the Editor-in-Chief, University College.

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TORONTO, February 12th, 1901.

EDITORIAL.

The long expected session of Parliament has arrived and to-day the members settle down to business. There are many important questions to be settled this spring and among them is the one in which we are all specially interested. Our expectations have been raised to such a pitch that it is with no little apprehension that we wait to see how large the grant will be. The attention of every loyal adherent of our Alma Mater will find its Mecca for some time in the proceedings of the Provincial Parliament, some of the members of which, it is to be hoped, have been conclusively shown by the local Alumni the urgent needs of the University. Now that the matter has been brought before the public, it ought to be settled before public opinion again relapses into a state of apathy. No grant would be a greater disappointment than we could bear, and the question seems to resolve itself into what the magnitude of the amount will be.

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We publish in this number an article that is greatly needed. Clearly and briefly Prof. Wrong has given to us the system by which our University is regulated, and it should be very carefully read. We have reached a time when everyone who has the least interest in the University should acquire all the information possible about it, so as to be able to intelligently and convincingly speak in its behalf. The constitutional relation of the Government and affiliated Colleges to the University is explicitly shown. Too many of the undergraduates have very vague and hazy ideas about this, and so cannot speak with the required confidence, and we feel assured that many difficulties will disappear after a close perusal of this article. Our thanks are due to the writer who, amidst the press of work, at this time of the year, consented to deal with this important matter.

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We would call attention to the article by President Loudon in Saturday's *Globe*. A thorough and exhaustive account of the needs of the University is given in a manner

which cannot fail to impress itself on all those interested in higher education. We would urge all the undergraduates to read all such authoritative articles on the University question, as the time is coming when we will all require this information at our finger's ends. Too much cannot be said on the question by men who know whereof they speak, and we appeal to undergraduates especially to make it a special part of their education to understand thoroughly the problem uppermost in our minds. It is noticeable that almost every article emphasizes the importance of the Alumni in advancing the interests of the University—which is obvious. The action of the town council of Rat Portage as recorded in the School of Practical Science notes is a step in the right direction, and illustrates what the attitude of the local districts should be. Such a course should be commended and its importance magnified with becoming modesty.

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Another thoughtful communication, by W. H. Fraser, deserves careful consideration. Comparisons have often very great value if circumstances are inquired into, and the unique relations between the University of Illinois and the University of Toronto are noted. It is another argument in favor of the question now uppermost in our minds, and we cannot get too many forces to converge in it. We certainly would desire the abolition of tuition fees, but that would be too great a step to be effectual.

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A happy suggestion was made last week by one of the officials of the University in regard to the flags used to signify our sorrow over the death of our beloved sovereign. It was to put away the flag and keep it as a sacred remembrance of the occurrence which none of us will ever forget and which so many of us do not yet fully realize. The School of Science has already set an example, and we would only do our duty in taking a similar course. Many will be found to assist in replacing the flag when the reason is explained to them.

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Once again has McGill been victorious on the rostrum over her old rival. We had hoped that her long series of victories was to be broken this year and that '01 would have the honor of doing it. But defeats should be but stepping stones by which to rise to ultimate success, and we will look forward to '02 to make it their special aim to check McGill in her triumphal progress. It is gratifying to note how well the Varsity representatives upheld the honor of their Alma Mater, winning 140 points as against their victor's 170 out of a possible 200.

Recent educational statistics show that there are 472 colleges in the United States. Of these more than 350 have an enrollment of less than 160. The estimated value of College property, including grounds, buildings and apparatus, is \$159,000,000. Harvard is the most wealthy institution in the country, its property being valued at \$10,000,000.