

instructors of sufficiently broad mental grasp, and this might be removed, if recourse were had to the German Universities.

In looking through the poems of Dr. Holmes, one is apt to be struck by the fact that no inconsiderable number of them date from the years when their author, not yet a famous graduate of Harvard, had his place in the drum-corps of literature,—that band of college journalists, with their inexperience, their illusions, their light-hearted boyish bravery, their insufferable self-opinion, and their abundance of harmless noise, who march on the fringe of the great army, yet with a proud sense that they, too, are in the ranks. In their undergraduate days the editorial dignity sat lightly on Thackeray, Palgrave, Praed, Canning and Hookham Frere, to name a few out of many distinguished Englishmen; and in America, the broad home of THE VARSITY'S innumerable exchanges, Oliver Wendell Holmes is very far from being the only name, set now in a high place, which once appeared in small caps. at the foot of poems in the narrow columns of college papers with hideous Latin names. These old papers, creased and yellow with age, are carefully treasured by men to whom the sight of a proof-sheet has ages since become a weariness, but who can never lose all the freshness of that fluster of elation with which they first "saw themselves in print." There is nothing, then, in the way of an anthology of college poems being prepared. The work of selection, of course, would have, of necessity, to be made with the greatest discrimination and judgment, and in all likelihood the book would be rather small; but it would be very acceptable, and of lasting interest.

In another column will be found a communication from Mr. Houston, in reference to a proposal for the erection of an organ in the new Convocation Hall. The idea is a good one; and, in the event of the erection of the new hall, we doubt not that it would receive the hearty support of all interested in the University. In a city like our own, where we are wont to boast of our refined taste in matters of æsthetic culture, it is surprising that up to this time no public hall, worthy of the size of the city, has been erected in which an organ could be kept permanently. The wants of the community are too many for such a hall to be built out of the public funds; and, as private enterprise has hitherto looked askance at such a project, we have had to go without. If, however, a powerful organ could be placed in the new Convocation Hall, the want would be supplied, and additional advantages for the attainment of a liberal education presented to the students of the University. We hope to see both the Hall and the organ an accomplished fact.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.  
No notice will be taken of unsigned contributions.

#### A STREET WANTED.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—I wish to endorse *Nax's* letter in your last issue. I live west of St. George Street, and in my daily journeyings towards University College, I have been compelled of late by stress of weather to go several blocks out of my course. It is true that I may proceed, when certain fields are passable, in an almost direct line; but all the unoccupied ground between Bloor Street and College Avenue is changing hands and being rapidly built upon; and, at any rate, the climbing of high picket fences, with books under each arm and a book between your teeth, tends to damage materially that dignified mien which every undergraduate should wear like a gown.

T. I. M.

#### A STUDENT ORCHESTRA.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—Seeing by the programme of a Literary Society meeting, that we are to be favored by an instrumental duet, has revived an old thought in my mind, and which is: "Why cannot we have an orchestra among our students?" It certainly cannot be for want of material, for there are among our numbers, pianists, flautists, violinists and bass-players whom I know personally, and undoubtedly there are many others who possess musical skill and training.

Perhaps, in the short time we have at our disposal at college, we could not hope to rival those well-trained orchestras in the city, but at least, we might be able to have some selections, given at our public debates, worthy of our Literary Society, and which might be

fully as acceptable as some more classical selections by an outside orchestra. Let us hear from some of our musicians on this matter.  
E. A. H.

University College, Toronto, Nov. 9th, 1886.

#### A UNIVERSITY ORGAN.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—The removal of the old King's College building on the east side of the Queen's Park recalls to mind the fact that the land immediately around it, amounting to about two acres, was not included in the area transferred to the city for park purposes. For this piece of land and the building on it, the University trust will soon receive from the Government a sum which, with some addition to it, will suffice for a new Convocation Hall. My present object is to suggest that when the Hall is erected the architect be instructed to provide accommodation for an organ. Such an instrument would be a valuable addition to its equipment, and if the place were set apart I have no doubt that in a very short time the funds necessary for the purchase of a good organ could be procured. There is no reason why the raising of the money should not be proceeded with at once, if assurance were given by the Board of Trustees that accommodation will be provided. As some organization is necessary to the prosecution of the work, I would suggest that the Literary and Scientific Society take the matter in hand during the current session. I feel confident that in such an undertaking they may count on the hearty support of the College and University authorities, and also of the graduates and outside friends of the institution.

Toronto, Nov. 15th, '86.

WM. HOUSTON.

#### THE ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS:—Your editorial in last week's issue of THE VARSITY on "The Oriental Department" is so fair and candid that any criticism of it may appear ungracious. Allow me, however, to point out a couple of inaccuracies in your article.

You say: "University College is called upon to do work that lies within the province of the Theological Colleges." I do not pause to point out the inconsistency of this assertion with your admission in the same article that Orientals have a right to be placed "upon a par with the Classics or Modern Languages." A perusal of Dr. McCurdy's letters to the *Mail* on the study of Oriental Literature will show that there is some ground, at least, for the assertion that Oriental Languages have an equal right with the Greek and Latin Classics, to a place on the curriculum of a secular college. The truth of the above quotation from your editorial is not self-evident. And you give no reasons for the assertion. I am of the opinion that it might easily be refuted from the *Mail* correspondence referred to and from the preceding part of your own editorial.

Then you say that "the study of Political Economy will attract and benefit a hundred students where Oriental Languages will gain one." If this assertion means that a hundred students will attend lectures on Political Economy for every one who attends lectures in Orientals, it is wildly improbable. There are forty or fifty of the undergraduates of Toronto University taking Orientals. If the class of Political Economy were established and the whole four hundred undergraduates were to attend lectures in that subject, you would not get your proportion of one hundred to one.

I am at one with THE VARSITY in wishing to see a lectureship in Political Economy established in University College. I differ from you, sirs, in not holding, as you seem to hold, that it is more important that this lectureship should be established than that the Department of Oriental Languages should be put in an efficient condition. Among many reasons I might assign for thus differing from you, I mention the following:

(1) It is much easier for the student to gain a knowledge of Political Economy from books without a teacher than it is for him to become an Orientalist without such aid as only a competent teacher can give. I say this after some little study in both departments.

(2) I think that the authorities have some ground for their hesitation to establish a lectureship in Political Economy, in the fact that it would be extremely difficult to find a lecturer in this subject who does not hold very pronounced views on questions that are far from being settled. And these questions are of such a character and our opinions on them are related to our social and political life in such a way as to make it almost impossible for a lecturer taking a certain view of them to be a safe guide to those who wish to investigate impartially the whole field covered by the science. I do not say that this is a sufficient reason for refusing to put Political Science on a footing of equality with the other Departments. But it does seem to me that there are difficulties connected with the establishment of a lectureship in Political Economy which are not found in other departments. In view of these difficulties the University authorities certainly have some reason for moving slowly in this matter. But the fact that delay here is necessary, is no reason for delaying the thorough equipment of departments in connection with which there are no peculiar difficulties and whose importance is admitted. Of such departments that of Orientals is admittedly one.

J. McD. DUNCAN.