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CONTENTS:

	PAGE.
EDITORIALS	17-19
PARTY	19, 26, 29
CONTRIBUTIONS	20-23
McGILL NEWS	23-25
SOCIETIES	25-29
SPORTING	26-28
PERSONALS	26
BETWEEN THE LECTURES	28
COLLEGE WORLD	29
CORRESPONDENCE	29-30
ADVERTISEMENTS	16, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34

Editorials.

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE FELLOWS.

The time will soon have arrived when the graduates of McGill will be called upon to again elect Representative Fellows. We understand that a movement is on foot having for its object a change in the method of electing these men. The change, so far as it has been made public, would have the effect of allowing graduates to vote and elect the representative for their own Faculty alone, *e.g.*, graduates in medicine could vote for the Representative Fellow in medicine, but not in law, and *vice versa*. It is claimed by those who advocate this change that, as those elections are now

conducted, the graduates of a faculty who are numerically weak, *e.g.*, those in science have practically no voice in the selection of the man who shall represent them, being outnumbered by the graduates in law, medicine and arts. At first sight there may appear to be some reason in this complaint and an actual evil in connection with the mode of election now in vogue. But we are of opinion that when seriously considered it will be found that the change proposed would not only not be an advantageous one, but one positively injurious: not advantageous because it would be selecting a man on the opinion of a fewer number, who might possibly look more towards furthering the interests of their own faculty than those of the University at large: injurious because it would have the appearance of countenancing the fact of divided and antagonistic interests where really none such exist.

These are the days of "Home Rule" cries. In all friendliness we urge upon the friends of the Faculty of Science at McGill, who we believe are chiefly agitating this change, to look well to it that their demands are not extravagant. Before any such proposed change is entitled to serious consideration, its promoters are in duty bound to shew wherein injustice has been done by the present state of affairs. It will not do merely to state, the graduates in medicine elect the science representative, for this in itself is not necessarily an evil. This might very properly be the charge of those who look rather to their own passing success than to the general interest, but we doubt very much if it can be called the complaint of a faculty, for, as intimated above, there is no reason to believe, in fact we do not believe that any one Faculty has special and individual interests separate and distinct from the general interests of the whole institution: nor that there is any rivalry among the different faculties in the sense of the one hampering the other with a view to its own aggrandisement.

The true statement of the case is this,—that Faculty which is numerically the strongest should have a proportionate controlling influence in regulating University matters, in so far as they can be regulated by these representatives. The reason that it should have this controlling influence must be evident to all. The University exists for the people of this country, and these people seek a training within its walls in that Faculty which they esteem most highly because of the