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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

It is to be hoped that the meetings of ratepayers which are being called in the various wards of the city may have the effect of bringing to the front some good and reliable candidates for aldermanic honours. Thus far everything seems to be in darkness and confusion, and we have heard it predicted that the coming council will be worse than its predecessors. It is but an old story to repeat that various matters of great importance in connection with civic affairs demand that men of the largest business capacity and of the highest integrity should be sought out and induced to sacrifice, for the time being, their own interests for the public good. Surely the day is not past when private individuals can be found ready to earn the gratitude and admiration of their fellow-citizens at personal cost. It will be not only a lasting disgrace but a lasting injury to Toronto if another year is permitted to pass without some of the large questions which confront us—above all those, such as the great trunk sewer, the disposal of garbage, and the pestilence-breathing pits, which have so close a relation to the public health—are not intelligently and resolutely grappled with. Desirable as it is to have the best mayor available, it is, perhaps, even more desirable to have the very best aldermen that the city can produce. Up to the present moment there is very little ground to expect so happy a result. Let us hope that the ward meetings may arouse good citizens to a sense of the need and danger, and to vigorous action to supply the one and avert the other.

EVERY friend of education in Canada must admire the spirit which has prompted the Hon. Edward Blake, Chancellor of the University of Toronto, and already one of its liberal benefactors, to put the munificent sum of twenty thousand dollars at the disposal of the authorities of that institution, on condition that the annual proceeds be used for scholarships, to be awarded at junior matriculation. It will be remembered that until within a comparatively recent period the University Senate was in the habit of appropriating yearly, from its own funds, several thousand dollars for this purpose, and that, in accordance with the strongly expressed sentiments and wishes of the students themselves, and of other friends of the University, it was decided about ten years ago that this sum could be and should be appropriated to better purpose, educationally, in another way. We were of the

number of those who supported this view. But it was one thing to take from income provided from Provincial sources, and sorely needed for strengthening the teaching staff of the institution, a considerable sum for the purpose indicated. It is another and quite different matter to accept gratefully a larger sum, bestowed by private generosity for this special purpose, and use it to stimulate competition among candidates for matriculation. The strongest plea, apart from the usages of great universities almost from time immemorial, in favour of the scholarship system, is that by means of it many young men—we hope the conditions of Mr. Blake's gift include young women also—who would otherwise be seriously delayed, if not absolutely debarred by pecuniary difficulties, are thereby enabled to pursue, unbroken, a university career. It is further held that such scholarships, being awarded on the results of competition, become a potent means of discovering students of exceptional ability and promise, and thus, by encouraging native talent, and rendering valuable service to the State, as well as to the individual. We remember that at the time the former discussion was rife, exception was taken to this view by many whose opportunities for observation seemed to render their opinions valuable, and who claimed that the scholarships became quite as often the prize of students who were not exceptionally talented and who did not specially need the pecuniary assistance, but who, by reason of the very fact that their parents were men of means, had been enabled to prolong their preparatory courses far beyond the limits of time to which others were shut up by lack of means. Perhaps a still stronger objection to the old system was the premium it undoubtedly placed, as then administered, on the objectionable practice of "cramming" for examinations. It would scarcely be held, however, we think, that that is a necessary outcome of competitive examinations. While we feel bound to refer to these discussions, to show that not all the objections to scholarships are removed when they are bestowed by private munificence, we feel that it would be both ungracious and ungrateful to dwell upon those objections at the present moment. There is no one in Canada whose judgment in regard to such matters should be sounder than that of the Chancellor who bestows this noble gift, nor do we know of any one who is more at the habit of looking at such a question in all its bearings, moral as well as intellectual, or who should be better qualified to determine in what way a given sum of money could be best appropriated to promote the higher ends for which the Provincial University exists.

THE "National Club of Toronto" has rendered a service to all friends of Canadian nationality in publishing the papers which are given to us in the neat little volume which now lies before us, with the taking title of "Maple Leaves." The volume includes four papers, which were read before the club at the "national evenings" during last winter. These papers are prefaced with a well-written and excellent introduction, by Mr. F. Barlow Cumberland, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Club. Each of these papers has a distinct and permanent value which makes it worthy of preservation in this way. It is of course unnecessary, and it would be unreasonable, to expect that every reader should be able to agree with every opinion and sentiment put forward even by the most loyal of Canadians on questions intimately related to the present condition and the future prospects of Canada. We can all agree that it is good and desirable that at this somewhat critical period in the history of our country all such questions should be discussed by the ablest and most thoughtful men among us, and in the freest and frankest manner. That the four gentlemen whose papers are here presented are eminently entitled to be heard on the subjects with which they respectively deal will be cheerfully admitted by all. Who has a better claim to be heard on any question connected with "Canadian National Objects and Aims" than the eloquent Principal of Queen's University, who has for years found in this subject a congenial theme? On the nature and history of "Responsible Government in Canada" there is, by common consent, no higher authority than that of J. G. Bourinot, Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons. The Canadian Minister of Marine should be able, if anyone is, to give us valuable

information in regard to "The Commercial Marine of Canada." So, too, the subject of "Canadian Nationality" was sure to find in the Hon. James Young, late Treasurer of the Province of Ontario, an exceptionally well-informed and enthusiastic exponent. As we had opportunity at the time of the delivery of these lectures to comment upon their contents, it is not our purpose now again to refer particularly to the various points in respect to which we found ourselves in agreement or at issue with their respective authors. Our present desire is rather to commend the liberality and patriotism of the National Club and its managers, and to express the hope that they will continue the useful and patriotic work they have so well begun. It would be a good and auspicious thing for our young country were similar clubs to be formed in the cities, towns and villages all over the Dominion, for the sober and earnest discussion of the great questions which, as Dr. Grant intimates in the beginning of his paper, are now forcing themselves upon the attention of all thoughtful Canadians, and which must, at no distant day, either be answered in accordance with the intelligent wishes and determinations of a free and resolute people, or, if we unhappily resign ourselves to "the inglorious policy of drift," may some day be found to have answered themselves, and that, too, in a way not at all in accordance with the hopes and aspirations of those who possess even a modicum of the true national spirit which should inspire the dreams and stimulate the energies of all true Canadians.

WE have before us as we write a strongly-worded and very remarkable open letter addressed to the Hon. Oliver Mowat, the Attorney-General for Ontario, by Walter B. Geikie, M.D., Dean of Trinity Medical College, in this city. The subject matter of the letter is by no means new; we have already had occasion more than once to comment upon it in these columns. It is the alleged violation, in connection with the Provincial University, of the principle which, as Dr. Geikie correctly affirms, has for forty years past been steadily asserted and carried out, "that it is not the duty of the State to use public funds of any kind in educating students for a special profession, such as medicine or law, any more than for any other calling by which men earn their living." This is a simple principle in Provincial economics from which very few, if any, of the intelligent electors of the Province will dissent when thus broadly stated. The greater part of Dr. Geikie's letter is directed to prove the serious charge that, in virtue of the arrangement now existing between the University of Toronto and the new medical department connected with that Institution, this principle is violated in letter and in spirit, and to prove the still more serious charge that the arrangement by which this violation of compact, if such we may call it, is being effected, has been made in a clandestine manner, not only without the knowledge of the people, but even without the knowledge of the Government, as such, or of the Legislature, which voted the funds with which this violation of trust is being effected, without any intention or idea that they should be so used. This is in plain English, if we rightly apprehend the letter, Dr. Geikie's meaning. The charge is certainly a bold one. It is one which, as it seems to us, the Premier cannot permit to remain unexplained or unanswered. The specifications, as contained in the letter, are too lengthy to be given fully in these columns. Suffice it to say that they relate mainly to the newly-erected building, which is called in the financial report of the University, recently published, the "chemical building," but which Dr. Geikie assures us is, in its main purposes and uses, a medical college building, containing dissecting rooms, vat rooms planned for the study of human anatomy, and other class-rooms, chiefly for the use of students attending the medical college connected with the University. On this building, he says, was expended by far the greater part of the generous legislative gift of \$160,000, voted by the Legislature—a mode of expending it which was never authorized, or even dreamt of, by the House which voted the money, or by the country to which the money so voted belonged. This mode of expenditure, too, we are reminded, was in direct violation of the assurance which has been solemnly and repeatedly given by "the highest educational authority, speaking on behalf of the