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ODE.

FROM THE FRENCH OF PIERRE DE RONSARD.

Come, my sweet one, come and see
If the blooming rose,
That this morning, royally,
Did its charms disclose,—
Yet with glorious glow doth shine:
With sweet radiance, like to thine.

Ah, my sweet one, sad the sight;
Fallen 'neath the tree,
Charmless now and black with blight,
All its beauty see!
Cruel fate, that such a flower,
Young at morn, at even's hour,
Thus should blighted be!

Then, my sweet one, while youth's light
Beameth in thine eye,—
Pass the hours in swift delight,—
Seize them, seize them, as they fly!
For thy charms, with age's night,
Soon shall faded lie.

Feb. 4th, 1888.—

Eoin.

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE PROFESSIONS.

II. MEDICINE.

It will not be forgotten by those who read in THE VARSITY Prof. Ramsay Wright's *introductory* lecture at the opening of the resuscitated University Medical Faculty in October last, that it was therein pointed out how the earliest of mediæval universities originated with a School of Medicine at Salerno; and when we remember the prominent position, as illustrated in Browning's "Paracelsus," which studies in Medicine occupied in those olden times, we think of Longfellow's lines in "Palingenesis"—

There was an old belief, that in the embers
Of all things their primordial form exists,
And cunning alchemists
Could re-create the rose with all its members
From its own ashes—

and dream that mayhap "Merlin may have come again" and that some modern alchemist (can it have been the Minister of Education?), with alembic and incantation, has recalled the *passed* to life, and the rich *globuled* blood is now coursing freely through once desiccated tissues. The medical profession, as might be expected from the magnitude of the task laid upon it ever since "man's first disobedience," must ever maintain a strong hold upon those who are either legislators or educators; but it is somewhat remarkable that in all newly settled states or provinces the intense interest which attaches to the question of the *rationes vitæ* has caused to be delayed, till a later day, the evolution of systems of education, whether of the

simpler character or belonging to the higher university training in Arts or time-honoured trinity of Divinity, Medicine and Law. The history of the growth of teaching facilities in these branches in Ontario is of much interest, since in many respects it exemplifies a growth under natural conditions untrammelled by out-grown systems, founded on unsound bases and perpetuated by historic associations or vested interests. The facts connected with the founding of the University have been so frequently placed before the readers of THE VARSITY that their repetition is as unnecessary as it would be unprofitable; but it seems somewhat strange that the Faculty of Medicine, still being developed in our University's prototype, the University of London, was here strangled in its infancy ere life had hardly begun; and that, too, in a period in the history of the Province when there had grown up a positive need for educated medical men who would take the place of that older set who, trained in the famous schools of Europe, had followed the streams of emigrants, who so rapidly had settled the better portions of Ontario. When it is remembered that less than twenty years have passed since there was practically free-trade in Medicine in Ontario, we are not surprised that there still exist in Ontario practitioners to whom the following mildly sarcastic remark by Oliver Wendell Holmes may fairly be applied. Referring, in a later preface, to strictures on some of his criticisms in "Currents and Counter Currents," he says: "The only important inference the writer has been able to draw from the greater number of refutations of his opinions which have been kindly sent him, is that the preliminary education of the Medical Profession is not always what it should be." That the schools which have grown up in the Province during the years that have passed have been leavened with men who, taught in European Universities, have done much for Medicine, is amply attested by the present *status* of many physicians in Ontario; but that such have been in no small degree wanting in that practical instruction in the exact sciences which forms the basis of correct medical knowledge and practice is equally evident. That this practical instruction has till recently been too largely wanting in all the teaching of the University does not in any way lessen the force of the fact as applied to its effect upon medical education. The questions political, economic, educational and even religious, which have affected the character both of the subjects taught and the manner of teaching in our University appear, to one viewing the daily widening range of Natural Science which tells us, as has been tersely expressed, that "We are poised between the material infinities, the infinitely great and the infinitely little," to have had some strangely noxious influence upon the fostering care which naturally, we would think, should be bestowed upon every science which bears directly upon the material progress and development of the country; and it behooves all lovers of their country and their *alma mater* to see that those adumbrations of old-world methods, which made a Dr. Butler rebuke the "poco curante," Darwin, "for wasting time on such subjects," become invisible through the brilliancy of the light which developing scientific study is casting upon the very origin and nature of things. There can be no objections raised against *chairs* of Social Science being established; but it is of notable importance that those who urge such teaching realize the primary importance which the rounded sum of progress in Natural Science lays claim to in every system of Economics. Let it be in the progress of agricul-