

# THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XIX.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, NOVEMBER 15, 1899.

No. 5

## GLIMPSES OF A GREAT WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

THE Pacific coast of the United States from the time of its colonization in '49 to the present day has yielded to no other section of the American Republic in its reputation for progress or in its ability to keep abreast of the times. The truth of this has been demonstrated in a variety of ways, but in none more strikingly than in its universities. If it be true that education is the real measure of advance, the State of California must always be considered as a unique example of energetic progress, for here within the limits of the one commonwealth we have two great universities of extended fame, the University of California and its collaborator and rival, the Leland Stanford Jr. University. The latter of these was founded by private beneficence in the early nineties, but though very young it is a healthy and pretty noisy infant. The State University, situated at Berkeley on the shores of the Bay of San Francisco and opposite the city of the same name, was originally known as California College when it began its career in 1868. From that time when its graduating classes numbered perhaps a dozen, to the present day, when some 2,700 students are enrolled under 250 or more professors and instructors, the University of California has steadily progressed through vicissitudes of one kind and another to the high place it now occupies among American educational institutions.

There is a tendency among easterners, to whom the situation is not clear, to confuse Stanford and the U. C., as they are familiarly known. It is the old story of a university privately endowed as compared with a State institution; the glamour that hangs round the magnificent donation that founds a university lends the institution a reflected glory which well nigh extinguishes the lustre of the college maintained by the people and for the people. Just as McGill gets into the papers, so does Stanford; Toronto and the U. C. must dispense perforce with such fame. Conditions are changing here, however, as one hopes they will at Varsity; and the liberality of Mrs. Hearst, who has donated large sums to the University of California, has done much to equalize this institution with Stanford in point of advertising.

The government of the University of California is so like our own that it calls for practically no comment. Like our own university it might easily be made the victim of changes of political feeling, but in practice, I believe, such a thing as partisan interference does not often occur. One point, however, that strikes the stranger in reference to university administration here is the unusual amount of red tape that twines itself around every process in an amazing fashion; no doubt in time this unnecessary performance will be outgrown. There is one thing on which all political parties are agreed, and that is that there shall be no fees for instruction in the State University. Ontario might well take a lesson from California in this respect, for as long as a tuition fee of practically \$40 a year is charged at Toronto it cannot be said that our higher education is freely open to the people. In this state a fixed proportion

of the taxes accrues to the University and constitutes its income, and this might just as well be done in our province as here.

Like the University of Toronto, the University of California is a central name under which are included many technical and professional colleges affiliated to the main institution, and these different schools are, as is the case at Varsity also, widely separated in point of distance. Here at Berkeley we have the Colleges of Letters of Social Sciences, of Mining, of Chemistry and of Agriculture; across the bay in the city of San Francisco, some dozen miles away, are the Medical School, the Law School, and the Colleges of Pharmacy and of Dentistry, besides the School of Art, while fifty miles to the south there is the great Lick Observatory, the pride and glory of the astronomical department. Since this is the case there exists here as there does at Toronto the great problem of welding these diverse institutions into an organic whole, of creating a common university sentiment throughout the different professional schools. Anything being accomplished in this line is due practically to Arts graduates of the U. C., who afterwards follow some professional study; this circumstance bears a marked resemblance to some of our experience at Varsity.

Although these different schools I have mentioned are all integral parts of the State University, yet, of course, the seat of the University is Berkeley, where by far the larger number of the students are at work, and where the bulk of the buildings is situated; and so, naturally, some description of Berkeley must occupy a generous portion of my letter.

The founders of the University of California, when after some changes, they finally decided upon Berkeley as its permanent abode, proved for all time that they had an eye for the picturesque. As you stand under the University flag pole, where the star-spangled banner floats every day in the breeze—something Toronto could afford to imitate—if you look to the west you find yourself facing the famous Golden Gate, flanked on either side by beautiful hills whose color changes with the time of day and the clearness of the air, facing, too, the great city of San Francisco, the occidental emporium of the Orient, veiled in the smoke of many a factory and surrounded on every hand by the shipping of a world; while if you turn to the east your gaze rests upon the wonderful Berkeley hills, ranging up to 1,800 feet in height, and, though in summer they are sere and brown, now clad under the vivifying influence of the rains with a soft coat of emerald green. This is the general outlook; the grounds and buildings themselves are hardly in agreement as yet with that majesty of Nature surrounding them. They look especially unkept to the eye accustomed to rest upon the stately beauty of University College with its trim lawns and campus, but one must always remember that at Varsity we have been a good many more years on the ground than our California brethren. There are, however, single spots of rich beauty in the grounds, such as the famous Berkeley oaks, which give visions of dreamful ease on warm, bright summer days; and Strawberry Canyon, which, while dry most of the year, is in the rainy season the bed of a rushing torrent. Nor must I forget the wonderful natural