

With respect to his successor, the governors are exemplifying the old adage of "hastening slowly," and wisely so. The right man will not readily be found. Sir William takes with him the respect and admiration of every student and graduate, and all will unite in the hope that he may be long spared to give the University the benefit of his wise counsels and occupy the distinguished position in the world of science which he has already for so long adorned.

#### THEATRE NIGHT.

It has been thought advisable by the management of the FORTNIGHTLY to have in its first number an article on what would appear to an outsider to be a somewhat frivolous subject, namely, the University theatre night. We say to an outsider, for no one who has any intimate knowledge of student life in McGill can avoid seeing that this question has grown into one of the most troublesome and threatening issues in that, for us, important field of college politics.

It is indeed strange that the first question to come up at the beginning of each year, the question to cause the insertion of the thin edge of the wedge of discussion among students of the different faculties in McGill, the first question which lays bare the weakness of the McGill student, a lack of true pride in the old college as a University, should be what was first instituted as a pleasure night by the students themselves.

The great evil of this dispute is that it comes at the very beginning of each college year, and the first University question which comes up for discussion is entered into with a bias and even bitterness which but too truly portends, as it in part causes the almost inherent antagonism between students in the different Faculties, which reveals itself when other University matters come up later in the year.

As editors of a University paper, it is not for us to become champions of one side of the dispute or the other; but the very fact that the MCGILL FORTNIGHTLY is of and for the undergraduates in McGill, forces us to notice and do all that is in our power to put an end to this most unseemly discussion.

Let us look back into the past to the origin of theatre night. It was first started when Old McGill was largely composed of the Faculty of Medicine, a Faculty which gave to her in the past the grand name which the sister faculties are aiding and making more powerful in the present. Let us look back to this time, and we see taking its place among the great events of student life the "Meds' theatre night," in which the other Faculties in McGill were invited to join. Great nights those were, more noisy though not so welcome to the theatre proprietors as the present ones; but the striking feature about them was that they were distinctly and clearly Medical: they did not, and did not pretend to represent the students of that University upon whose ground and under whose auspices the earlier part of sports day had been spent.

This state of affairs continued until the last generation of graduates entered college as freshmen; but in that interval, Sports' Night became gradually a more im-

portant event than formerly, and why? Because the Medical Faculty was growing in importance, and as truly and undeniably the other faculties were fast increasing in number, until the invitation sent by the students in Medicine was accepted by students whose numbers, nearly if not wholly, equalled that of their hosts, and the success of theatre night became undeniably augmented by the presence of the students of the sister faculties. Thus in the interval between the first Meds' night and the fall of '88, Sports' Night became in reality a night celebrated and participated in by the students of the whole University, while it still bore the name of one of the parts of that University.

The natural result of this was that the other students asked to be given a share in the management of the evening, and to be allowed to contribute towards its expenses.

This demand was in part complied with in the fall of 1890, when the other faculties were represented on the committee through the "late lamented" musical association. In the following year the Faculty of Arts, in response to the Medicals' usual invitation, accepted it after what was, if rumor be true, a somewhat heated discussion; but to that acceptance was added a notice, that the students of the Faculty hoped to see and take part in a University night in the following year.

Then came last year's exhibitions, when the public in Montreal, or those of them interested enough to notice it, saw McGill students virtually divided into rival factions, holding what were undeniably more or less rival nights. Each night was in its way a great success; but at what cost, at the cost of mutual good-fellowship among the students of Old McGill, at the complete sacrifice of the one means by which the students in a college can aid in elevating the name and increasing the fame of that college, and that is by showing everywhere and on every occasion an admiration, love, and respect for their Alma Mater as a whole, broad enough to include the whole institution, although love may be specially attached to one of its branches.

We have tried to give a general sketch of the history of this question; and if any step in the development has been left out, it is from ignorance and not from a bias in one direction or another,—of that the readers of this paper may rest well assured.

Now comes the question, what is to be done about it? The question seems capable of solution in one of four ways: First, let matters go on as they are at present, until all harmony between the students of the faculties is destroyed, and rival theatre nights, started last year, partly in good nature, will end in bitterness that will vent itself to begin with on one of the few existing university student institutions, the McG. U. A. A., and before long destroy McGill's chance of holding even a respectable position in the world of athletics. This may seem a somewhat pessimistic view to take, but it is the view which is forced on one who has watched student politics for a college generation, and which must appear in no way exaggerated to anyone who understands how little it takes to raise a tempest in the college tea-pot and how hard it is to quell it.