

# The Varsity

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**A**S undergraduates of the University of Toronto many of us, we believe, are too prone to undervalue our advantages. And the words of Lord Kelvin quoted by Mr. Ross in another column should make us pause and consider. We have not the antiquity and prestige of old world universities, neither have we the money nor the number of students of which some of the great universities of the United States can boast. But our growth and steady progress from small beginnings as indicated by the figures of Mr. Ross' article are certainly highly gratifying. The success of our graduates in all departments is also strong evidence of our well-being. Especially encouraging is the reception accorded to them by other scholastic institutions in all parts of the world. Indeed it seems sometimes as if strangers estimated our worth more highly than we ourselves. Humility is a good thing, but excessive modesty is not helpful to us. We are young and also poor, but increasing years will cure the latter trouble we hope no less than the former. Let us hold up our heads and step forward vigorously. To be confident of success is half to win the victory. It is no mean honor to be, as Lord Kelvin says, the greatest University in the British colonies.

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A suggestion has been made lately which seems to have considerable value in it, and which THE VARSITY passes on to its readers to ponder over at their leisure. It is proposed that each class upon passing out of the University should leave behind it some memorial to commemorate the pleasant four years spent in these halls. The form that this would take would be determined by the class. It might be a handsome oil painting, a bust, statue, or portrait of one of the distinguished sons of the University, or anything else that might be thought suitable. The difficulty of financing such a simple project should not be

great. If each class upon entering would but put this object before it, and begin at once to make provision, the matter would be an easy one. An assessment upon each member of twenty-five cents per year for this purpose would realize at least \$150.00 by the end of the course. And this would suffice for a very handsome gift.

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We are all proud of the beauty of our College buildings—praised so lavishly by all who see them. From the architectural standpoint nothing more perhaps could be desired, but inside the buildings, much could still be done doubtless, to add to their beauty. And the method suggested seems an eminently proper and feasible one. It would strengthen the interest and love for Alma Mater which all her graduates and undergraduates should have—for each would have an added personal interest in the building itself.

The results to the University of such a practice would not be apparent at once. But if it were followed by each class for ten or twenty years, it would so transform these old halls that their present frequenters would scarcely know them. No doubt a spirit of emulation would soon display itself, and from a rather modest beginning, coming classes would attain to something quite magnificent. If '98 should wish to begin the good work, we see no valid objection. Perhaps for this year, the graduating class might look for some aid from the lower years in making a start. Is the object worthy of an attempt?

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The success attendant upon the McGill debate is an argument in favor of the proposal to organize an intercollegiate debating league in the city. In all departments of athletics, these intercollegiate contests give a zest and stimulus that never could be gained in any other way. And there is no reason why the system should not be extended to include debating contests. There is abundance of talent in all these colleges waiting to be drawn out in some such way. By all means let us have a series of debates next winter similar to the series of matches in foot-ball or hockey. If some public spirited admirer of the new departure would put up a prize for competition, the scheme would be complete. But prize or no prize, the league should be formed. It would result only in good to all concerned.

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Ill-luck seems to be pursuing us this year with painful pertinacity. First, the Senior Rugby Team went down before its opponents last fall, and last week we were worsted by Osgoode in hockey and by McGill in debate. Varsity has no reason to be ashamed, however, and defeat this year will but add to the glorious uncertainty and zest of future struggles. We must just take the matter philosophically, like Peterkin's grandfather, for "you know such things must be in every famous victory." THE VARSITY extends its congratulations to McGill and Osgoode upon their success.