

VARSITY

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THE VARSITY.

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Topics of the Hour.

IT seems to us that the only reason for the existence of any journal, except, perhaps, the daily papers, is for the expression of the best thought in the best possible manner. It is thus a matter of regret to see any journal that should be responsible for its constituents' sake, wilfully departing from what should be the purpose of its life. We refer more particularly to the *Dominion Churchman*, which came under our notice last year, and which has again distinguished itself by abuse of Dr. Sheraton and others, in connection with Wycliffe College. Fortunately, Dr. Sheraton's reputation needs vindication from us in no wise; we merely wish to call attention to the bad taste and worse English, of the article in question. It is strange that an editor who caters to a constituency which affects all the culture, refinement and religious æsthetics to

be had, should adopt, or, if he is ignorant, should be allowed to adopt, language which bears upon its face the impression of a low, vulgar and uneducated mind. We are sometimes assured that the organ is by no means representative. If this be true it is strange that articles such as these appear from time to time in the *Dominion Churchman*, and that there seems to be no effort after improvement.

THE friends of the Literary Society must take steps at once to arrest the decadence of this venerable College institution. This decline is largely due to the multiplication of societies exclusively devoted to the subject matter of special departments. Such societies are no doubt valuable adjuncts to the various courses of study, but never can they take the place of the Literary Society. Such extreme specialization is to be regretted that leads students to forget the advantage of intercourse with students in other departments. The Literary Society is, or ought to be, a common meeting ground for all students where each furnishes as his quota to the discussion of a given subject the cream of his own special reading. The peculiar benefit of a *University* training, which enables the student to take a warm interest in all branches of learning, can be obtained only by some such means. Then let the true friends of the Society bestir themselves to make the meetings valuable and interesting, let them encourage their friends to assist. Especially let them discountenance the efforts of those who, by amusing themselves at the expense of the speakers and others, make the proceedings a farce. Much might be done to re-awaken interest in the Society, if, during the ensuing winter, a series of lectures were held, under its auspices, in Convocation Hall.

It is interesting, in the history of the University, to recall the applications of eminent men such as Huxley and Tyndall, for vacant professorships, years ago, before their names had become famous. We lately came across a copy of the testimonials presented by John Tyndall, Ph. D., with his application for the professorship of Natural Philosophy in the University of Toronto. It is dated Oct. 6th, 1851, just thirty-four years ago. The testimonials are fourteen in number, from the foremost scientists of the day, among which are the following names:—Edmund Becquerel, E. du Bois-Reymond, Edward Sabine, R. W. Bunsen, A. Dé la Rive, H. W. Dove, J. D. Forbes, J. P. Joule, Plucher, P. Riess, (Sir) William Thomson. The list closes with the following statement: "I am permitted to state that Dr. Faraday and the Astronomer Royal are prepared to respond to any personal reference made to them respecting my qualifications for the Professorship in question." One is tempted to cavil at fate that the candidature of so eminent a man should be unsuccessful; the only consolation is that if Professor Tyndall had come to Toronto he would not have stayed here after his reputation had become established. As a graduate who spent