

The undergraduate of the University of Toronto or the newly fledged graduate no doubt feels the same loyalty for his *Alma Mater*. She has done a great deal for him and he owes her a debt of gratitude which can hardly be measured in dollars and cents. Moreover he remembers with pride her position in the nation and among other universities, her noble building, her professors and their contributions to universal knowledge, her sturdy champions in scholarship and athletics, her history and traditions and her many great sons. He loves her associations and in him loyalty is fresh and strong.

But what about the graduate of long standing? It is a matter of common observation that, unless some link is provided, the mass of college graduates drift away from their *Alma Mater*, they fail to keep up their interest in college, in the work of education and in learning in general. Michigan graduates are linked to their *Alma Mater* by an Alumni Association. Toronto graduates are not linked at all. We may as well admit that, in this respect, Toronto is behind her contemporary.

That such an association would be a pleasant thing to graduates there can be no doubt. Chauncey M. Depew, than whom there is no busier man of affairs in America, again says at Cornell: "The most exquisite of pleasures is contact with the perennial youth of our *Alma Mater*. Parties dissolve, friends grow cold, loved ones depart and age becomes a solitude, but a day with the college revives the enthusiasms and ambitions of the past and puts us in touch with the hopes and aspirations of the present."

No one can read the reports of the semi-centennial celebration of Michigan or of the sesquicentennial celebration of Princeton without being struck by the enthusiasm and heartiness of sentiment expressed on those occasions.

Such an organization could do a hundred and one things which graduates individually could not do. It could, for instance, institute and push a movement for University representation, if such were thought advisable.

As to the right way of bringing it about, the writer does not pretend to say. This however may be said, that while such a step would have the hearty approval of the authorities, yet as it is voluntary on the part of the alumni they ought to initiate it and not the authorities. It would seem further that it is a matter in which all undergraduates ought to be interested whether they are included or not. They will be some day. Again, as the Editor of *Varsity* has pointed out, it is undoubtedly the place of the graduating class to take the initiative, as it most nearly affects them just as they are about to leave these halls, perhaps forever. It is said the Century class intends taking some action this year. It is to be hoped they succeed. If not, the matter need not necessarily be dropped. It may then be all the more easily taken up by succeeding graduating classes and carried to a successful conclusion. However the main thing is merely to get it started, and that ought not to be so very difficult.

Many questions would have to be settled, such as for example the admission or non-admission of undergraduates. The danger of their admission would consist in the likelihood of their acquiring an undue preponderance in the Association.

On the whole the matter is an important one and worthy of further consideration. It seems a pity that Toronto should be outdone by her contemporaries in this respect and that her interests should suffer on that account. If the University is to be re-organized the Alumni should do their share to supplement it by an Alumni Association.

E. M. WILCOX, '01.

NOTE.—Since writing the above the writer has received communications from the secretaries of Alumni Associations

of Yale, Harvard, Michigan and McGill, with copies of their publications. They contain interesting information in detail of what the above is a rough general sketch. The writer would be happy to place them at the disposal of anyone interested in the subject.

## TENNIS AT VARSITY.

Tennis is a game with a history. For five hundred years tennis has been played; it is the oldest ball-game that now exists. But the Lawn Tennis in which Eaves and Whitman excel, though alike in principle, is altogether different in detail from the game that Shakespeare mentions in "Henry V.," the game that the students played at Hampton Court, the game over which D'Artagnan fought a duel, or even the game that was introduced into America thirty years ago, in which the player was cautioned to "hit the ball gently." Although for the last fifteen or twenty years the rules of tennis have been altered very little, there has been a great change in the way the game is played. As has been the case with almost all our sports, tennis had its period of tremendous popularity. Tennis parties took the place of the modern afternoon tea; every society lady could take a hand at the game. Times have changed. Tennis has lost much of its so-called popularity, but it was never played better than it is to-day. Let him who still thinks tennis "a lady's game" see a match between Whitman and Bond, or even between our own Anderson and Boys. No more scientific and purely athletic game is played.

Let us turn to tennis as played at the University. The Varsity Lawn Tennis Club was organized in 1894. The courts were at the corner of Avenue Road and Bloor Street (where the ladies play now) until in 1896 the club laid out the present grounds, conveniently situated next the Gymnasium. The Varsity Club has always held a prominent position in Canadian tennis. The Toronto Tennis Club, which has perhaps the best players in Canada, has always found the students dangerous rivals. Such men as Gus. Lefroy, Cris. Campbell, Cupid Love, Bert Harris and Yclept Snicher have won many matches for Varsity and beaten the best players in the country. The club has been successful in another way; there has always been a cash balance at the end of the season.

Particularly prosperous was the Tennis Club last season; it has kept pace with the increased interest in tennis throughout Ontario in the last few years. The Intermediate City League (which, by the way, is intermediate only because a few of the best players are barred) was for a second time won by the Varsity team, with an extraordinary record of winning nine matches and losing none. Nor need we be ashamed of our defeat by Barrie in the semi-finals of the Provincial League. Barrie has always been noted for its tennis players, and with a little luck we would have made the game a tie. The two tournaments held last year were very successful. Many undergraduates took advantage of the opportunity to enter the fall tournament, and even the open events were won by students.

The Varsity Tennis Club has won a reputation. A special effort must be made this year to live up to that reputation. We make a good start. The courts were sodded last fall, and the club is in a good financial position. What we need is players, not only good players; there is lots of room for beginners. The college is the place to learn tennis. Remember that it is a game you can keep up after graduation. Unlike most football players or lacrosse players, the tennis player plays till he can play no more.