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EVENING IN SEED-TIME.

(Translated from Victor Hugo.)

Peaceful and cool, the twilight grey
Draws a dim curtain o'er the day,
While in my cottage-porch I lurk,
And watch the last lone hour of work.

The fields around are bathed in dew,
And, with emotion filled, I view
An old man, clothed in rags, who throws
The seed amid the channel'd rows.

His shadowy form is looming now
High o'er the furrows of the plough;
Each motion of his arm betrays
A boundless faith in future days.

He stalks along the ample plain,
Comes, goes, and flings abroad the grain;
Unnoted, through the dreamy haze
With meditative soul I gaze.

At last, the vapours of the night
Dilate to heav'n the old man's height,
Till every gesture of his hand
Seems to my eyes sublimely grand!

GEO. MURRAY.

Editorials.

It is an undoubted fact that politics, as a distinct feature of college life, do not exist in Canada. A certain proportion of students may take more or less interest in the public questions of the day, debating societies may wrangle occasionally over some unusually prominent political event, but, as a body, Canadian Undergraduates exhibit a marked apathy in this matter. This is probably due to various causes; mainly our non-residential system, which induces a lack of cohesion amongst the students, to the facts that the projects over which they are most enthusiastic are naturally those of a sporting character, and that they seldom combine to promote a literary or intellectual work lying outside of the regular college course of study. In this way political, as well as social or religious agitations, as far as their influence upon the student mind is concerned, are at the mercy of circumstances which are seldom favourable to any great growth of a decided sentiment in the mass of the Undergraduates. At first sight this might seem to favour the formation of an individuality of character, but in reality there is found to be nothing more than a want of direct interest in public affairs. It may be that a great many have decided opinions upon nearly all these subjects, but if we admit that the majority of them have, the main point remains that their college life has no con-

nection with such opinions, which are formed from contact with other scenes and other people. All this goes to reduce the effect of a university life upon a man to a minimum, his capacity for study or rank of scholarship alone remaining to bear evidence of his university training. It is not difficult to show that a young man who confines his attention exclusively to study, while at college, and takes no more than a languid interest in the topics of the day, is allowing some of the best years of his existence to pass away without making up his mind upon matters which may materially affect his future welfare. Because, the student ought to be in a better position to recognize and accept the true, to reject the false, than he will be in later years when prejudices have become ingrained, and the effects of logical mental training have been weakened. This will especially be true of politics, for in no other sphere is a man more liable to play the fool. He may not be secure from committing folly in this direction because he happened to reflect upon passing events while he was at college, but there will undoubtedly be a tendency to act more independently, and to avoid blind partizanship and bigotry. The suggestion in the GAZETTE last session about university representation in Parliament, should have started an agitation which would have brought the question squarely before the public, but how was the proposition received? By the Undergraduates as a matter which looked well in print, but was wholly impracticable, and, therefore, not worth serious consideration. By the Graduates (those who saw it) as something which did not concern them, for never having been accustomed to connect their college with their politics, they had learned to think a political career began invariably after graduation. The extension of the franchise may cause a change by bringing nearer to young men the privilege of having a voice in the choice of parliamentary representatives. But unless university students make use of their knowledge of political economy by practically applying it, their after contributions to legislation are liable to be of an unpractical nature. In the universities of the mother countries we are continually reminded that their members are strongly interested in public affairs, and the contests for the election of lord rectors and similar events are frequently made to partake of a political character. The life of any very prominent literary man reveals the fact that most of his opinions were modified or confirmed by intercourse with his fellows who devoted some of their time to politics while at college. This interchange of ideas enabled him to separate the "chaff from the wheat," and to go out into the world possessed of some advantage over the average young man. Many of the English statesmen, notably Gladstone, Salisbury, and Derby, received their first training in political life in the debating societies at Oxford and Cambridge, which are simply schools of political thought. How to promote the study of politics amongst the ranks of Canadian Undergraduates is another thing. If the force of these remarks is admitted, and McGill students recognize the fact that they lack a medium for such discussion, it is not improbable that some one will suggest a means for attaining the desired end.