

The Varsity

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TORONTO, January 29th, 1901.

THE DEBATING UNION.

The debate on last Tuesday recalls the formation of the Inter-Collegiate Debating Union in 1899. The anticipations of the promoters have been thus far amply fulfilled, and we look forward to the time when each college will take such an interest in it that its best men will be reserved to represent it in this forensic struggle, and when the interest taken in these debates, both by the students and the public, will rival that taken in athletics. To get up properly the arguments on both sides, to investigate exhaustively and classify systematically the points therein, to go through the tedious work of looking up all references which bear on the subject—these involve an amount of work and a mental strain which cannot be readily realized by the average audience. The mental training itself is invaluable, but the task of working up for only one of these debates is considered equivalent to a two hours' a week course in a college year. The men who represent our College teams deserve at least as much recognition and encouragement as the members of the football, baseball, hockey, or other athletic teams. In some of the leading American Universities a position on a debating team in an inter-university debate is regarded as one of the highest honors at the hands of the undergraduate, and the contest is exceedingly keen. For example in the last debate between Michigan and Pennsylvania over 150 entries were made by men who wanted to be one of the three members of the Pennsylvania team. Such a state of affairs is most gratifying, and, although we have not so many to choose from, still we should like to see many more of our speakers strive for this most worthy end. The Literary Society's meetings give unlimited opportunities for each and all to develop their argumentative and oratorical powers, and the members are not slow to recognize the man who will best uphold the honor of their Alma Mater. We hope a large percentage of undergraduates will take advantage of the opportunities offered.

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Those who attended the profitable and intensely interesting address of Rev. Armstrong Black on last Sunday afternoon were the unwilling spectators of a most dis-

graceful exhibition on the University grounds. Some two or three score of boys of ages varying from ten to twenty years took advantage of the absence of the proper authorities and held high carnival with sleighs, etc., around the ravine east of the university. The danger to pedestrians would be a sufficient excuse to stop these heedless youngsters, but we think a stronger plea is found in the fact that the general spirit of sanctity which is usually prevalent within the closed gates of the University grounds on Sunday, is almost obliterated by these thoughtless Sabbath desecrators. There was righteous indignation freely expressed last Sunday, and it is to be especially regretted since there were many outsiders present to hear our distinguished divine. The blue coated law protectors would be only too willing to put an immediate and summary stop to such an unseemly practice if they were permitted, and if there are no efficient authorities to take their place, the sooner they are appointed the better. The University grounds should not be a *rendez-vous* for those who are of the age when paternal restraint should be most rigorous, especially on the Lord's Day. We trust that an immediate stop will be put to such affairs, and that the barriers at the entrance of the grounds will afford more than a nominal protection on Sundays against the trespassing of pleasure-seekers.

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THE QUEEN.

It is not our purpose to attempt to add anything to the abundance of literature concerning our late lamented and revered sovereign, but it is only proper to make note of the event which has plunged peoples of every color, race and creed into profound sorrow. A typical sovereign, a true mother and a sincere adherent to the cause of universal peace—time will not efface from the memory of her subjects the remembrance of one whose qualities made her respected the world over and whose death creates a void which cannot be readily filled. The news came so suddenly that our loss cannot be comprehended in a day. We are so accustomed to receive the most startling reports with complacency that the terrible reality of this fateful event may dawn upon us slowly, and many of us in singing "God save the King" will, for some time, have in our thoughts, "God save the Queen." We can add little to the admirable sketch given by Prof. Hutton in this number.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

We print to-day an interesting letter from our favorite athlete, J. W. Gray, who was compelled to go south to recuperate.

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Readers will note change in regard to the lecture by Prof. MacCallum from Room 3 to the lecture room of the Biological Department.

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It is deeply regretted that VARSITY had been issued last week before the sad news was received here, and consequently the number did not have its proper appearance.