

COLLEGE TOPICS.

A College newspaper, published weekly during Michaelmas term, as the Organ of the Undergraduate Union, in the interests of University and College students of Toronto.

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A FALSE REPORT.

A report has been circulated among the students of University College to the effect that the Executive of the University of Toronto Union have purchased College Topics, not so much to advance the interests of the Union among the undergraduates of all the faculties, affiliated and federated colleges of the University as to be the organ of one of the political parties of University College. The Executive of the Union hasten to deny this report most emphatically, and desire to say that neither College Topics nor the Union will be used by them to further the policy of any party or faction not only in University College, but also in any other sister college. Both the Union and its official paper are intended to advance unity in feeling and action among the student body, and the Executive invites the hearty co-operation of all the actual and would-be members of the Union to assist them in attaining this end by dropping all party affiliations whenever the affairs of the Union are under consideration.

We have among our exchanges this week the first number of the Queen's University Journal. It is a splendid issue, and reflects the great credit upon the editor and business manager, and, in fact, upon the whole Alma Mater Society, which publishes it. Six thousand copies were issued for the first number, so the Journal must be well supported by both undergraduates and graduates. Our Queen's friends know how to make an attractive journal, and we wish them every success during the coming year.

Before another issue of College Topics is out Thanksgiving Day will have come and gone, some millions of turkeys will have shuffled off this mortal coil, and general happiness and rejoicing will have reigned throughout the greater part of North America. We wish our many readers a pleasant and memorable Thanksgiving, whether spent at home or abroad.

CORRIDOR ECHOES.

The Queen's Journal says that Guy Curtis is no longer at Queen's. Guy has finished his course at last, and ought by this time to have gained a thorough training.

The "Higher Criticism"—Pat Deroche speaks: "I don't claim to be an authority on scripture, nor do I wish to cast any doubt on its authenticity, but I never could fully believe that Jonah swallowed the whale."

Of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these, "I'll raise you ten!" When you've bluffed on a pair of trays.

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with sorrow that he is laid up at home with a combination of la grippe and fever. The class of '02 hope that he will soon be able to rejoin them.

It was hard luck that Varsity didn't win the Canadian championship in Association last Saturday. If they had another game to play they could do it.

There will be an auction sale of all unclaimed goods in the office at the Gymnasium on Wednesday, November 27, at 5 p.m. Collectors of curios will do well to be present, as some odds and ends from the champion Rugby players' uniforms may be secured at a low price and are valuable relics, while an assortment of all ears, fingers, etc., lost during the matches will be sold without reserve. A great chance for medical students.

They are going to have dry dinners in Manitoba now.

It matters not what year or college you belong to so far as H. W. Burgess, 278 Yonge street, is concerned. To all students alike he gives special value in everything found in a well-stocked drug store.

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Talk about Toronto students being wild! We would like to see the Greek students turned loose on the good people of the city for a night.

A certain senior at University College, with horror depicted on his countenance, read of a fire in Whitby. He was much relieved to learn that it was only the buckle factory and not the ladies' college.

Mr. Arnot Craick of '02 has received most favorable recognition from the press regarding his "History of Port Hope."

UNION NOTES.

Reception Last Night a Great Success - Chess Notes.

MEETING OF MEMBERS DEC. 2ND.

The reception to the ladies last night, given by the Union, was a great success. A former reception of the same kind, which was held on October 19, had found such favor with the students in general that the Executive had decided to give another one, and the reception of last night was even a greater success than the former one. The affair was splendidly managed, and great credit should be given the Reception Committee for the able way in which it was carried out. The guests were received in the reception room, where the orchestra, which was D'Alessandro's, played from 8 till 8:30 p.m. Dancing commenced in the dining-hall about 8:30 and lasted until 12 o'clock. The old dining-hall, decorated with the University colors—royal blue and white—presented a very gay and lively appearance. The refreshments, which were from Coles, were served in the reading room of the Union from 9 until 11 o'clock. About two hundred were present, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Amongst those present several prominent graduates and members of the faculty were noticed.

Next Monday evening, December 2, a meeting of the members of the Union will be held, for the purpose of filling the vacancies on the Union Executive. The positions to be filled are the second vice-presidency and a representative from the U. of T. Medical students. In the case of the second vice-presidency, any member, no matter from what college or university, affiliated with the University of Toronto, is eligible for the position, and all members can vote. He the representative from the Medical School, just Medical students who are members can vote. The meeting is at 5 p.m. Keep the date, December 2, open, and be sure and attend, as the offices to be filled are important ones.

The Lacrosse Club held its annual meeting in the parlors of the Union on Wednesday evening, when important business was transacted and the officers for the ensuing year elected.

The first in the series of matches for the inter-year chess championship was played on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., between teams from '02 and '03 Arts. It resulted in favor of '03 by a score of 3-2. The play was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Score. Clappison 0, File 1, Hodgson 1, Munn 0, Gould 0, Parsons 1, Grant 0, Megan 1, Stewart 1, Colquhoun 0.

This match was the first in a series of games between the four years in Arts. Each year will play the other years twice, and the champion team will be the one winning the greatest number of games. The "Beginners' Tournament" in the Chess Club will commence soon. Any player who has never competed in a match game is eligible for this tournament. A handsome prize is offered, and a small en-

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france fee of ten (10) cents will be charged. Entries should be given to the secretary of the club, Mr. Colquhoun, at once, as this tournament is to be run off immediately. The opens and handicap tournaments will be run off immediately after the Christmas holidays.

A COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of College Topics: Sir: It is not my desire to prolong unduly a discussion in which it is possible only with the greatest difficulty to avoid public airing of mean and petty matters. Nevertheless the fact that your editorial of the 12th inst. with regard to the purchase of College Topics by the University of Toronto Union is likely to leave a bad and false impression on the minds of readers in other colleges as to the state of feeling towards the Union in University College, prompts me to ask again the privilege of using your columns for a reply.

Let me make clear, first of all, that I do not think the General Committee of the Union acted unwisely in acquiring your journal. Without doubt, it was in many, though not in all, respects a better vehicle for advertising the Union than the Varsity would have been. Moreover, I have by no means overlooked the fact that the interests of the Union, not of the Literary Society or of any other body, should be the General Committee's chief care. I urge merely that the decision of the committee to enter the field of college journalism was not unlikely to affect the Varsity adversely, and that the committee owed to the latter at least a consultation with, say, its editor and business manager. Such a step would have committed the Union to absolutely nothing, and would probably have resulted in good. You give two reasons that influenced the executive of the Union against taking the step I advocate, and these I shall consider presently. But first let me answer your contention that College Topics will not encroach on the Varsity's territory more than heretofore.

The Varsity has always endeavored to maintain a certain literary standard, and it has tried to be, to the extent of about one-half of each issue, what you have termed "our weekly magazine." It was never much on account of the pure literature—the poems and the stories—that appeared in its columns that the Varsity was valued by its readers, but, in the main, because of its longer articles on topics of interest to students, but not concerned strictly with undergraduate life. Such articles treated, for instance, of the history of the University, of the biographies of its prominent men, of other affairs. College Topics, on the other hand, has in the past been given up to the news of the hour. Moreover, its news was principally local. Readers in any one college would turn to one corner of the paper; readers in another college to another corner. Even the editorials were not, as a rule, general, but were confined to the discussion of University College matters. And, notwithstanding, you say the bounds of the ground occupied by the two journals will now suffer no serious change.

College Topics has already widened its field, though the Union is not yet in full possession of it. So far, so good. But will the General Committee guarantee that in the future, as in the present, "the literary side of undergraduate life which the Varsity has always expressed will be untouched by College Topics"? Considering what the character of the literary articles in the Varsity has always been—that is, of those articles that were not mere reports of football matches, debates, meetings, and so forth—I must say that, as a member of the Union, I hope its Executive will give no such assurance. The feeling of intercollegiate fellowship, the spirit of loyalty to the University as a whole, that have brought about the formation of what seem likely to be two thriving societies in the Alumni Association and the Union, will, if they continue to have any vitality, create a growing demand for knowledge concerning men and things around the University of a kind that College Topics has never attempted to supply. If the Union is alive to its opportunities, its organ will some day make the attempt, and I may be allowed to cherish the hope—and even the expectation—that the Union will be alive to its opportunities, whatever the attitude of its directors may be just now. If the General Committee did not anticipate two months ago what a wide field the new organ was likely to occupy, that was only the greater reason for turning to men actually and practically engaged in the publication of a journal with different aims from those of the one about to be bought.

And now, let us look at the motives you say decided the committee of the Union against a conference with members of the Literary Society Executive or of the Varsity boards. The committee "feared that the interests of University College would eclipse those of the other colleges and of the Union." Had not the committee sufficient backbone to make sure against such a contingency? Would a mere interview with two or three University College men pervert and blind its judgment to such a degree that it would fail to perceive its own interest and duty? This excuse seems like a confession of weakness.

Again, the committee feared "that many personal and University College

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political considerations would enter into an open discussion of the question, and subsequent events tend to show they were right in that surmise." What these considerations were you fail to point out. You should not, therefore, have mentioned them. The reference to politics is, perhaps, sufficiently clear to make some comment possible, since there are no University College politics, except in connection with the Literary Society. Did, then, the committee imagine that one of the parties in the Literary Society, or any section of a party, would have set its face against a scheme for the benefit of the Union on political grounds? I can conceive of no reason why the committee should have done so. When the affairs of the Union were discussed by the Literary Society last winter, did not prominent men in both parties speak in favor of the new club? Did not members of both parties join equally in performing the onerous and disagreeable tasks laid upon its founders? You cannot but acknowledge that they did. Was ever the slightest opposition offered to the Union for party reasons? Does either party hold aloof from the Union now? Both these questions must be answered in the negative. What the "subsequent events" may be that might confirm the committee's apprehensions I am at a loss to discover. One incident that happened early in the term occurs to my mind, however, that evinced very clearly how prone a responsible committee may be to stampede at the sight of a bugaboo that has no existence outside its own fancy. Apparently the committee looks upon every adverse criticism of its actions as evidence of some deep and horrible plot for compassing the downfall of itself and all the virtuous undergraduates about the institution. But every play has not its heavy villain, much less a gang of such rascals. The truth at the bottom of the whole matter seems to be that the committee is suffering from an acute attack of political melancholia, a disease that has been endemic in University College among all parties for a long while, and produces a distorted and suspicious imagination that often does much to realize its own chimeras. In this case, let me prescribe social intercourse and fresh air. The committee has confined itself too much to the stuffy atmosphere of its own committee-room.

And now, finally, why did I enter upon this discussion? It was simply for this reason: It is desirable, in my opinion, that some protest should be registered against the Union's unjustifiable carelessness in regard to the interests of the Literary Society, and that the latter should know whether the Union will maintain the attitude it has assumed. Each institution has its own sphere, but the two sometimes come into contact, and at present their mutual situation appears to be about the same as that between the Literary Society and the Athletic Association. In regard to the latter, you seem to take both sides of the fence. Nevertheless, your editorial of the 29th ult. voices my opinion very well as to general principles, though I do not approve of your particular application of them. And what you said then of the relations of the Athletic Association to the Literary Society might be aptly applied to the subject I am discussing now. Deference is due the Literary Society, if for no other reason than that it has grown venerable in the service of the students during half a century, and it has not yet outlived its usefulness, but fills a place that no other organization can occupy. But if the Literary Society does not care for its own interests, nobody else will. It is possible to be too good-natured, and the Literary Society has been so. It is time that it should know its own position and hold it. This will not be one of antagonism to the Union, except in so far as the latter makes it so.

A. E. HAMILTON, University College, November 25.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

The reception to Church of England undergraduates was held in the college residence on Thursday evening last. The reading room, the cosy library, the east assembly hall, and the main corridors were profusely and most tastefully decorated with flags and bunting of university and college colors. After an informal hour of introduction and general conversation, a few well-chosen words of welcome were given. Refreshments daintily served by Cole were then partaken of. The remainder of the evening was pleasantly whiled away in promenading through the extensive corridors, accompanied by the strains of Glionna's orchestra, and in visiting the men's rooms, the spaciousness and cosiness of which were a revelation to those who before had only seen the residence from the outside. Many new acquaintances were formed, old friendships were deepened, and everyone generally was convinced that this, the first or a series of receptions, was an unqualified success. The more formal function, the college at home, is to be held at the commencement of the spring term.

The debate between Knox College and Wycliffe was held on Friday night. The contest was a close one, and for that reason Wycliffe is all the more sincere in congratulating Knox on her well-earned victory. In spite of the unpropitious weather, a large gathering was present, and listened with close attention and interest to the well-prepared arguments of the debaters. The weightier character of the speeches was balanced by a vocal selection from Mr. J. F. Fox, a violin solo by Mrs. G. T. Church, a quartet by the Misses

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Next Sunday Evening

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Dinners, banquets, feasts, 12 o'clock teas, etc., are following fast upon each other in quick succession. Perhaps the most successful of all was the spread given in honor of the debaters on Friday at 10 o'clock. After-dinner speeches were given by the principal, the dean, and Rev. Mr. Drury of Oxford, who delighted the fellows with his genial and bright reminiscences of college days. The gathering proper broke up about midnight with the singing of Auld Lang Syne, God Save the King, and the college yell. However, it was well into the wee small hours of the morning before the normal quiet was restored throughout the residence.

Turkey! The bell came back. The fellows' rooms were never costlier than this year. Who set off the alarm clock in the library during the reception? Harrison, '04, presented each of the ladies from Havergal with a flower. You should have seen him blush. Our first year men, with becoming modesty, are trying to return once more to their youthful days. Three already have taken the decisive step, and, as a result, three new smiling upper lips have made their appearance. It is better to sacrifice almost anything than to have the second year men jealous over such a small matter.

AGAINST IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

The debate Friday evening between Wycliffe and Knox Colleges on the subject, "Resolved, That Imperial Federation would be in the best interests of Canada," resulted in a victory for Knox College, which supported the negative. W. T. Hallam and R. S. Wilkinson of Wycliffe College were the affirmative. A. G. Hunter and H. E. Abraham of Knox College opposed. The judges were Dean Oswald Rigby, Prof. L. E. Horning, and Prof. William J. Alexander. Rev. Prof. G. M. Wong, M.A., was chairman.

Y. M. C. A. NOTICE.

On account of Thursday being Thanksgiving the regular weekly meeting will be held on the morning of that day, instead of the evening, as usual.

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