

Correspondence.

THE MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

To the Editor of THE 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR:—Current rumours for some time past, claiming to be upheld by convincing evidences, assert that the progress of the Modern Language Club is having a tendency to decline. That such an institution should be stoutly supported and given a flourishing existence among us, all will agree; yet if marks of failure be visible, an explanation, at least in part, can easily be tendered. Of course it is quite natural that many students should find the meetings devoted to French and German somewhat unentertaining, so that only those enthusiastically desirous of a practical acquaintance with those languages, and consequently prepared to undergo, for some little time, the ordeal of witnessing proceedings not altogether intelligible, are sufficiently interested to be always at hand. However, the present curriculum renders this duty to a certain extent imperative, and it is hardly possible that a more effectual means for requiring this proficiency can be suggested. But it is certainly a matter of much surprise that the English meetings are not more universally popular. What practice should be more highly commendable or more likely to gain the participation of all students in an arts college than the assembling to discuss the character and merits of our English authors and their works? Such is the aim of this department of the society, and surely we cannot be unreasonable in supposing that among some four hundred students there is sufficient interest in the literature of our own tongue to sustain an animated and lengthy debate on every occasion. It should be observed also that this is almost the only opportunity of discussing these topics—the Literary Society having to a great extent abandoned them,—and though under the jurisdiction and forming an essential part of the Modern Language Club, these meetings seem by no means to exclude non-members. On the contrary it has been the custom to encourage the attendance of all, and an invitation to this effect has generally been extended. Certainly nothing has been omitted on the part of the officers, but we hope the appreciation and esteem of English language and literature, with the enthusiasm to promote such esteem, would manifest itself more clearly by a greater attendance at those meetings. It is a striking fact that the lecture on English lately delivered by one of our most prominent graduates could attract so very few students, although the importance of the event was clearly evinced by the presence of several members of the faculty.

J. H. N.

"CHRISTIANS, BEWARE!"

To the Editor of THE 'Varsity:

DEAR SIR:—Again the "godless" cry against University College has been raised. It seems to be an annual custom to revive this cowardly and unprovoked calumny. The day has gone by, however, when such a falsehood is provocative of anything but a smile. "Christian" is evidently, as was his namesake of the *Pilgrim's Progress* on one occasion, in a slough of despond. He apparently is one of those Christians of which the Christianity he professes would be well rid; one of those whose Christianity is bound up in his own communion, and who can see nothing good outside his own denomination.

"Can any good come out of Nazareth?" seems to be his wail. Because there was a time when the charge might have had some foundation—when King's College was rendered non-denominational and secular (if we allow the term), "Christian" thinks that by that circumstance, God, Religion, and Christianity took their departure from University College, never to return.

Some one had better wake our Rip Van Winkle—"Christian" up, or he may be asleep when the final trump sounds to awaken the dead, and to announce to the quick that the end of all things is at hand.

Our friend chose an unfortunate name for himself when he signed his letter "Christian." For, from its whole tone, and by the lamentable exhibition it afforded of bigotry and petty spite, it gave the lie to the author's subscription of himself, and violated all those principles which Christians are supposed to hold and practise.

Was it Christianlike to make charges of so serious a kind, without finding, or attempting to find out, whether or not such charges were true? Is this the way charitable Christians would act? Was it right to misrepresent—wilfully or otherwise—the character of an institution, by pretending to quote from statutes which have no existence?

Was "Christian" ever a student at University College? Does he speak from experience or from mere hearsay? We strongly suspect the latter.

Because there is no Theological Faculty in connection with the University, is it to be supposed that the institution is godless?

The authorities of University College do not object to fair and just criticism which has for its object the remedy of real grievances, the correction of methods, plans, and subjects of study and instruction, the better government of the College, and such like practical questions. But such uncharitable, false, and contemptible attacks as those of "Christian" are not to be endured in silence and calmness.

The able and conclusive reply of President Wilson, which has already appeared in the daily papers, is the very best answer that could be given to those, who, perhaps from inadequacy of information or from bias, augmented and aggravated by such reckless and untruthful statements as those of "Christian," are hostile to University College. We trust we have heard the last of such inuendos.

University College, as the head of the educational system of Ontario, proposes to give secular instruction, nothing more. It is the duty and privilege of the Church to supply religious instruction. University College never posed as a theological seminary, or as an instructor in morals. To charge it then, with failure to do what it never proposed to do is the veriest fanaticism. But though it never was required, legally, to look after the religious and moral welfare of its students, the action of the College Council in beginning the duties of the day with devotional exercises, and the inauguration and successful working of a large and enthusiastic College Y.M.C.A., show a desire on the part of the College authorities, and the students themselves, to fulfill to the utmost the moral obligations which they feel bound to see carried out. They could not do more; they certainly have not done less.

Yours, etc., ALTIORA.

Di-'Varsities.

Freshman, translating: "'Ardua deserta,' the lonely Dale."
Mr. D.: "Well, ah,—'height'?"

A young lady who lived in Toronto,
Vowed that never be kissed she did want to;
And right there and then
He gave her twice ten,
Which showed the young fellow caught on to.

"There's no 'copy,'" yelled the foreman through the speaking tube. "Well, that makes no matter," screamed the editor.

"Why was it so easy to get out last week's 'Varsity'?" asked an innocent Freshie. "Because there was plenty of 'cop-y,'" replied the editor, as he sank back in his luxuriously-upholstered arm-chair.

In our issue of Nov. 1 we printed the following original—what-shall-we-call-it: "A gentleman came into a concert hall recently, and looked anxiously around for some time. Finally he enquired of one of the occupants of the back seats: 'Can you tell me where the reserved seats are?' 'Yes,' said the other, 'Where you see no one sitting; those are the reserved seats.' The stranger took a back seat."

Since the publication of the above we have had so many enquiries as to "Where, oh where is the point; do not withhold it from us," that we have been quite at a loss to answer all those who have appealed to us for information. We have read the thing through several times, and have had it translated into all the modern languages and "done into English" again and again with the hope of strangling the joke, and thus securing the point, but it has so far eluded our quest. Fired, therefore, by the success which has attended our conundrum-asking contemporary, *Truth*, we will offer handsome rewards for the first correct solution of the mystery surrounding our—our—joke! We will publish our prize-list in our next issue.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

FELLOWSHIP IN CHEMISTRY.
Applications will be received by the undersigned for the Fellowship in the Department of Chemistry, which will be vacant at Christmas.

WILLIAM DALE, College Registrar.

RODD WESTCOTT,

The Leading Barber of Yonge Street.
489 YONGE STREET, - - OPPOSITE THE FIRE HALL.