

# THE VARSITY.

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*TORONTO, FEBRUARY 10th, 1904*

**I**DEALS are always worth while if effort is constantly made toward their realization. The ideal in college journalism is a magazine of college thought, in which undergraduate literature has the principal place. This literature is, of course, the work of amateurs, to whom, in many cases, the rewards of more ambitious effort may come in due season. In the meantime the talent of expression is being trained, and the young writer begins to feel the power of his genius. If he is a wise man he will avoid much speculation during this period, and will write only upon what he knows. His great experiences are likely to be post-graduate in time, so that he is limited as to his themes. This being so, he finds that when he has written there is no market for his compositions. The magazines do not want them, and he cannot give them to the newspapers, filled, as they are, with other things. Neither the magazine nor the newspaper will deny the merit of his work. It is simply not of general interest to the public, and is therefore valueless from their point of view. But the same composition published in a college magazine is appreciated at its true value by the only public to which, in the paucity of his experience, the young writer can appeal. No man acquires style in composition without diligent practice, and no practice is so fruitful of results as the preparing of articles for publication. When the great thoughts come and the message begins to burn for expression the unpracticed writer is at a tremendous disadvantage. Great genius may rise superior to the drudgery of apprenticeship, but as a rule the writer is the better of every opportunity given him in which to improve his workmanship.

**E**LECTIONS are coming on in the various organizations among the students, and the grounds of choice upon which the officers are to be selected are matters of moment. Too often the mere question of popularity or personal following determines the selection. Questions of fitness or questions of policy fall quite into

the background if a man is known to be a good fellow generally. The results of such a choice are not always bad by any means. Even if the popular officer has no executive ability of his own he is usually able to enlist the services of his more capable friends, and so the societies do not suffer as much as they might. Occasionally, though, one utterly incompetent is elected to a position of responsibility. He may have been forced into it by his friends, or he may have worked for it simply because he covets distinction. This happens most frequently in those societies in which the holding of one office forever disqualifies a member from holding another. By this rule an executive committee of inexperienced men is always at the head of the society, unless the members have acquired experience before entering college. The best good of the society should outweigh personal consideration in electing its officers when the two elements are found in opposition.

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**T**HE return of the Glee Club from the annual concert tour is an item of University interest. The principal cities and towns of Western Ontario were visited, and the people heard the praises of Alma Mater sung by a body of her students. No organization, excepting the Undergraduates' Union, is so thoroughly representative of the University. Its members are drawn from every faculty, and from the affiliated colleges as well. As a means of bringing the University prominently before the public in the provincial towns they rank second only to the lecturers in the University extension course. The finished products of the colleges are known everywhere in the professional men of the country. Every teacher, preacher, lawyer and doctor bears the mark of his college training upon him, so that by its fruits, at least, the University is known. The students who go out with the Glee Club have the duty of representing the material in various stages of its development into the final output, and the professors who give the extension lectures stand for the means by which the growth is attained. The University benefits by the tours, as the young men who go out are usually a credit to the institution. It is a pity that the elements interfered with the last trip so as to cause a cancelling of certain engagements and the loss of so much revenue.

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**C**RITICISMS of the University course of sermons made from a city pulpit sound a little strange at this late date. It was thought that the question had been settled two years ago. However, one prominent clergyman has again asserted that the authorities are doing a wrong to the churches by importing preachers to address the students. His argument is the reiteration of what no one denies, the ability of the clergy of Toronto to preach to student audiences. Were he to consider that sixty per cent. of the students in all faculties are members of Christian Churches, and that only about ten per cent. attend the special service held every two weeks, he would see that church attendance is not seriously affected even so far as the college men themselves are concerned.