THE VARSITY.

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

Vol. XVII.

University of Toronto, February 17, 1898.

No. 16.

RENOUNCED.

Oh, once more to be free!
Out of the bondage of Time!
Let go every hawser, and flee
To the homeless deep, where the long waves sweep,
Travelling every clime.
Where the breath of Ocean, fresh and keen,
Sings in the tackle all day long,—
For drear the city of Time has been
With its glitter and streets a throng,
No longer its slaves are we,
Let others serve or not;—
Weigh anchor, our home is the infinite sea,
And the infinite heaven of Thought.

TAMES T. SHOTWELL.

SOME ASPECTS OF COLLEGE LIFE AT YALE.

The student who has spent four years at University College, Toronto, and has had aroused within him towards it a deep and fond attachment, which the richness of its architectural beauty and its quiet peaceful surroundings cannot fail to have produced, must feel towards it ever afterwards that strange indescribable feeling which a man has always towards the girl whom he first loves; a feeling which once experienced and lost never returns again.

The student who comes from Toronto with such a

feeling towards the college he has left is not likely to find Yale University capable of giving him much relief, for Yale has not the rich classic beauty nor the quiet seclusion from the public street and the noisy life of business which its wide expanse of lawns and its situation give to

Toronto University.

The college buildings are situated in the central and business part of the city of New Haven, the campus occupying the entire block between Elm and Chapel streets on the north and south, and College and High streets on the east and west. The front of the quadrangle faces College street and the buildings on all four sides of it are close to the walks. Opposite the front of the college and occupying a space about as large as the quadrangle is the "Town Green." This is a small public park in the centre of which stand three of the oldest churches of the city founded by the Pilgrim Fathers in the early days of settlement. Round about and through this Green stand many of those great majestic elms which give to New Haven its characteristic name "The Elm City," and which, having been planted more than one hundred years ago, have become solemn and venerable looking with age. It is this Green alone which gives any appearance of seclusion to the college. Upon three of the streets passing the college street car lines run, and amid the rattle of the trolley and the rumbling of dray wheels the students must form their philosophical theories, and as they translate the Odes of Horace are likely to hear accompanying them the more modern Roman with his street piano.

Nothing would be more disappointing to the Toronto student, with his inordinate and apparently ever increasing desire for exercising in a certain way his social nature,

than the condition of social life at Yale. Class receptions, such as are held in Toronto, are unknown and would be impossible; for at Yale there are no undergraduates of the fair sex to make such things interesting. The recitation halls have consequently no other associations for the students than those of study. No memories of moments when hearts throbbed unusually, or pulse quickened, or when emo ion was stirred to its depths, will ever come to the minds of the students as they recall in after years these halls, excepting such as some passage from Homer or Shakespeare may have caused. The Sons of Eli have strange ideas about lady students. They think of them as haggard creatures made pale and thin by study and weight of years. The following poem is a fair expression of a Yale man's view of the "Co ed."

As moaning winds upon the shore Look back to the forevermore, So Miss "Co-ed.," long, lank, serene, Looks back to the long-since-hath-been. If all God's creatures could be fed, The first I'd feed would be "Co-ed."

At Yale, perhaps, more than at any other university in America, fraternities are the dominating power in undergraduate life, and nowhere are the evils which are usually connected with such institutions absent to such a marked degree as at Yale. Just as every boy who is born in this country can look forward to becoming its president if he prove himself worthy, so every undergraduate in Yale who can show marked ability of any kind may look forward to having it recognized by being chosen a member of one of the fraternities. The possession of wealth counts for little in any of the societies; high social standing goes far with some, but for all the chief qualifications necessary for membership are marks of high intellectual ability. In the senior year there are three fraternities. The one conferring highest dignity upon the members is the Skull and Bones, so called as some think because the bones of Elihu Yale, the founder of the college, are concealed there. To this fraternity are chosen each year in May the fifteen men of the incoming senior class who have attained highest scholarship or social prominence. Second in importance is the Scroll and Key, to which also fifteen men are chosen from the same class, but in this case social standing and possession of wealth go far in determining upon whom the choice will fall. The third society is the Wolf's Head, which usually takes the best fifteen men from those of the class who are left after the other two societies have made their selection. These honors are eagerly sought for by all the students, and for many form a great stimulus to work. As may be imagined the day when these men are chosen is one of the most interesting of the college year. It is called "Tapping Day" because of the manner in which the men are informed of their selection. It comes in the latter part of May. Crowds gather in the campus early in the afternoon. All the boys, and many of their friends who come to see the proceedings, are there. No one vet knows who the fortunate ones are and every person is in eager expectation. By and bye a member from each of the fraternities pushes his way as best he can in silence through the crowd until he finds one of "his men."