

The Varsity

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BY

THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

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FEBRUARY 3, 1891.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



PUNCTUALITY is not one of the virtues which the students of University College reverence. It was half past eight by the clock before the Executive Committee issued from the parlor, and fifteen minutes later when the Literary Society proper filed into the hall and spread itself along the back seats. A considerable shrinkage had taken place in one week. There had been a reaction after the M.P. night, and only a drowsy skeleton drew itself together to listen to the minutes.

A notice of motion was read for Mr. Donald, that the annual grant of \$50 be given to the Glee Club.

The Secretary of Committees introduced a couple of recommendations from the Executive which he tried to bunch but couldn't (*i.e.*, the recommendations, not the committee). Recommendation No. 1 was to have a Public Debate on Feb. 15. Carried. In recommendation No. 2 the Executive wanted power to straighten out inconsistencies in the constitution. Here the Society began to object. Mr. G. H. Ferguson said that more than inconsistencies required straightening out, and pointed to a loose screw in the membership part. Mr. C. A. Stuart called attention to a similar loose screw in the franchise part. Then ensued a conversation between these two gentlemen and the President, in which Mr. A. M. Stewart assisted. The

last named introduced and finally carried a motion instructing the Executive to do something or other, and also to set apart a night for the Society to put the finishing touches on that unique work of art, its own constitution.

The Literary Programme. The first item was a strong comment on Mr. Donald's notice of motion. The President called on Mr. Donald for a song but that gentleman was not present. There was to have been an essay read. The essay was there but had forgotten to bring its author along; and no one could be found to decipher the writing. Mr. A. J. Hunter read "The Little Jackdaw of Rheims," and for a time cardinals, monks and friars, rings, mugs and pokers, red stockings and Jim Crow passed rapidly before our vision. The debate that followed was on the subject: "Resolved that the Southern States were justified in seceding from the Union." It was '91 versus '92. The members disposed themselves in various attitudes according as they knew more or less about the American history; or thought they did.

Mr. N. I. Perry, '91, opened for the affirmative. He treated the subject historically, beginning with the War of Independence, then constitutionally, after that politically—somewhere along here we learned that slavery and the tariff were involved in the subject—next prophetically, and finally morally. And from these standpoints and all others—the south was noble, honorable and glorious, the North tyrannical, unjust and infamous.

Mr. J. H. Lamont, '92, opened fire for the negative, and proceeded to demolish Mr. Perry's fortress. He talked about elections and planks in platforms. Mr. Lamont's speech—so at least the President said—was like that of Menenius "in the belly and its members," for which see Livy and Shakespeare.

Mr. S. J. Rothwell, '91, then stepped into the breach, and thought that the North had trampled on the rights of the South, and that the South was right in rising against tyranny. Mr. Evans, '92, closed for the negative, and said that the affirmative had all the time been off the point. Slavery was the only question at issue. Accordingly Mr. Evans got sentimental, but the Society had no tears. Mr. Perry closed the debate.

The President reviewed the arguments on both sides very thoroughly, and entered at some length into the subject itself. Then modestly remarking that he knew very little about it, he left the decision in the hands of the audience. Modesty did not trouble the Society. They apparently knew all about the question, and had followed the debate very closely, and so were all the more eager to vote. '91 and '94 were not so many as '92 and '93; therefore the negative had the preponderance of argument. Business was again proceeded with. Mr. A. P. Northwood is to represent the Society at Trinity Conversazione. Mr. H. C. Pope read the report from the Athletic Committee, which will be found in another column. Mr. Odell introduced a report from THE VARSITY Directorate, recommending a few changes in its constitution. This was adopted.

Four speakers for the Public Debate were chosen (McGill could not send representatives). When nearly everybody had nominated everybody else, some nominees began to retire for various reasons. Mr. Strath would be incapacitated. Mr. Perry was to be sent to Kingston for six days. The ballot resulted in the election of Messrs. J. McKellar, J. C. McLennan, F. E. Perrin and W. C. Clark. Mr. J. W. Graham will be the reader, and Mr. A. B. Leacock, the essayist of the evening.

When the end of the order of business was reached Mr. Stringer wanted to return, but the Society was suspicious and preferred to adjourn.

The O. A. C. Review is a newsy monthly published by the students of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. It is edited with considerable ability, and is doubtless a very interesting paper to the students at that college and to all interested in agriculture.