

# ➤ QUEEN'S • COLLEGE • JOURNAL. ✦

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N. R. CARMICHAEL, M.A., - Editor-in-Chief.  
J. W. MUIRHEAD, B.A., - Managing Editor.  
F. HUGO, - Business Manager.

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All communications of a business nature should be addressed to the Business Manager.

The JOURNAL takes great pleasure in thanking Mr. J. B. McLaren, of Morden, Manitoba, for his gift to the Library of the first seven volumes of Queen's College JOURNAL. They are bound in four volumes, extending from 1873 to '80. The earlier volumes contain several articles of historic interest to the University, and among them is a fragment of the "Early History of Queen's College" by Principal Snodgrass. This history was unfortunately discontinued when he returned to Scotland. Again we would express our appreciation and gratitude to a former graduate for his prompt response to our recent request.

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In our last number we tried to remind the members of the Alma Mater that it was expected to be a literary and scientific society. A Literary Society especially is very much needed, as there is nothing in the University which takes its place, and we think that the Alma Mater may be made a very successful one. Many think that the field which it would necessarily occupy is too large to permit success. They think that, if a society is to do satisfactory work, it must limit itself to one branch of literature or science, *e.g.*—Classics, History, Philosophy, Biology or Astronomy. A society for the special study of one branch may doubtless be very useful and very inter-

esting to students of that subject, but it has no tendency to broaden its members; all its members may be expected to see things from the same side, and so will lose the education to be derived from contact with others who look at the same things from a different standpoint.

Again, the advantage derivable from the attempt to express one's thoughts in popular language is not to be neglected. In a special society, the majority of its active members being specialists, the papers read and the discussions upon them will be in as technical language as possible, and the proceedings will be almost unintelligible to the uninitiated. But what our special students need is to be able to express themselves, not more technically, but more popularly. It is not difficult for a person to use the technical terms of his own science so as to be understood by other students of the same, but many, even good honour men, do find great difficulty in making their ideas intelligible to others. And, as the majority of men are unlearned, if we cannot express our thoughts in popular language, how can these thoughts benefit the world?

We think then that the Alma Mater may do great good by becoming a broad literary society, in which interesting topics from literature, philosophy, history, politics, and even natural science may be discussed.

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The University Pass Course has been receiving considerable attention in Toronto. *Varsity* takes it up periodically, and the *Mail* of January 16th, devoted an editorial to the subject. Both assume that the pass course in University College is held in low esteem and try to discover the reasons. It is stated also that of those taking the pass course an alarmingly large number fail to make even the small percentage required. If we should attempt to point out the reasons for this unsatisfactory state of affairs, we should probably be accused of talking about what we did not understand, so we shall content ourselves