

cert will occur on the 14th of this month, when Miss Henrietta Beebe, of New York, and Mr. J. M. Sherlock, of Kingston, will be the soloists. The vocal selections will consist of English ballads, and a rich treat may be expected.

A SUGGESTION was made at the last meeting of the Modern Language Club which we would very much like to see carried into effect. It was proposed that English, French or German plays be produced by members of the Modern Language Club and under their management, in Convocation Hall. We believe this to be an excellent idea, and one that will, if properly carried out, be a source of much profit and pleasure alike to the performers and the large audiences which such performances would undoubtedly draw. The production of the *Antigone* of Sophocles three years ago was a red-letter day in the history of University College. It was a unique event, and one worthy of abundant emulation. To Professors Hutton, Wright, and Pike are due, in a large measure, the credit of the initiation and successful presentation of the Greek play in 1882. We understand that the several lecturers in the Modern Language department have interested themselves in this matter, and this will go far to secure its success. The cultivation of histrionic talents should not be looked upon as a *diletante* and next to useless acquirement. It affords infinite opportunities for the study and portrayal of character and for the display of individual powers of no insignificant order. For the inauguration of an Amateur Dramatic Club in connection with University College there is abundant precedent. Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and Yale have such societies. They are encouraged and supported. Why should not a similar movement be successful in Toronto University? We would, however, impress upon those who contemplate the formation of an Amateur Dramatic Club the advisability of giving the most important place to the production of English plays of the higher class. This is almost absolutely necessary in order to secure for the movement that measure of popularity which in its younger days at least is essential to its very existence. The successful production of plays in other languages is an intellectual feat which may challenge the admiration of an audience, but their appreciation of the beauties of the play and of the dramatic powers of the actors will be limited and curtailed by their inability to understand foreign languages. One great reason we would urge in favour of confining efforts in this direction largely to the production of English plays is the taste which it would revive in good healthy plays, in which the literature of the English drama so pre-eminently abounds; plays which are free from the sensational and unnaturally-colored and highly-spiced situations which seem to be the staple of the modern school of playwrights. The comedies of the late T. W. Robertson, author of "School," "Caste," and other society plays, and the light comedies of Buckstone and Matthews are excellent examples of the kind of plays which, unfortunately, are so rarely heard nowadays, but which, to our way of thinking, are the most enjoyable and the most profitable for study. We sincerely hope that this scheme will not be allowed to drop, but that it will be taken up seriously and discussed enthusiastically.

GREAT credit is due to Dr. Wilson for his energetic efforts towards increasing the revenue of University College. The kindly spirit of helpfulness towards needy students, which prompts his solicitation of scholarship endowments from private persons, is worthy of all commendation. But at the same time, and with all deference and respect to Dr. Wilson, we must express our regret that he has seen fit to turn the stream of private benefaction in the direction of scholarships. The friends of the College will gladly welcome any amelioration of its impoverished condition. But whatever funds are received for that purpose might be expended much more advantageously in many other ways. The Modern Language course throughout, and especially the English sub-department, should be

put on a better financial footing. A lectureship in Political Economy is urgently needed. The Library fund should be largely augmented. Until these and many similar needs are supplied we cannot afford to offer pecuniary remuneration to students for their attendance at University College. Let us again point out that a much better plan of attracting students than this system of bonuses is to make the college course itself more interesting and more intellectually profitable. George Munro's magnificent endowment of chairs in Dalhousie College and the similar action of Senator McMaster, in McMaster Hall, are examples which we earnestly commend to Dr. Wilson and those gentlemen whom he may find able and willing to become our benefactors. It does not affect our position to say that the benefactions that are being received by University College are not severally large enough to apply to such a purpose. It would be an easy matter to consolidate the funds received from these sources, and the aggregate result would be sufficient to endow a chair. Or it might be used to secure a short annual course of lectures from some outside Canadian or American scholar, such a course as, for example, Goldwin Smith delivers, in Cornell, or as Edward Freeman, Edmund Gosse and Sir William Thompson delivered recently in Johns Hopkins. Or it might become the nucleus of a loan fund for the use of students. This excellent plan is followed in some American theological colleges with the most beneficial results. But if we must have scholarships at all, they should not be allotted by the usual competitive examinations. Nor should they be available to students whose private means are amply sufficient to provide for their education. Let them rather be granted as a recognition of singular merit in original research or individual investigation, and when such a grant would be necessary to secure the continuance of similar intellectual activity. If our country is ever going to take an advanced position in the intellectual world it is only by original work. The present scholarship system places a premium on superficial knowledge and mere memory work, and these are the death of intellect.

Literature.

THE LAMENT OF ANDROMACHE.

The following is an attempt to render into iambic hexameters the last lines of the Twenty-second Book of the *Iliad*, according to the dictum of Matthew Arnold that Homer can only be adequately rendered into English by the use of the hexameter. Objection may be taken to the Alexandrine; but the emotion is pathetic throughout, and requires a slower movement than the usual narrative.

"Ah! Hector! wretched me! in truth we both were born
To the same destiny; thou Priam's son in Troy,
And I in Thebes, by Placus' groves, Eëtion's child.
Ill-fated day on which I was begot; yea, thrice
Ill-fated he who nourished me, a little one.
For now thou leavest me in heavy, hopeless grief,
A widow in our lonely halls, and far away
Beyond the boundaries of day, thou wandering goest
To shades of hell. And, Hector, see thine only son
As yet an infant! how canst thou advantage him
Since thou art dead? Or how his childish prattle soothe
Thy care? For even if indeed he shall escape
The lamentable war of the Greeks, still shall the toil
And sorrow of despair be his sad lot in time
To come; for others shall deprive him of his fields,
Taking away the landmarks, Hector, of thy home.
Alas! this orphan-making day hath brought great grief
To him, rendering him destitute of wonted friends.
Even now his little heart is sad with its young grief;
His cheeks are wet with bitter tears. The boy henceforth