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THE UNIVERSITY GAZETTE will be published fortnightly during the College Session.

Rejected communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

Editorials.

NOTICE.

If we are to publish a weekly after 'Xmas, as is most desirable, we must get at least four hundred subscribers, for three hundred of whom we look to the students. It really rests with these whether the GAZETTE is to be continued as a fortnightly or not; for however willing the editors may be to publish a weekly, it is obvious they cannot do so unless supplied with means.

THE LAVAL TROUBLES.

STUDENTS everywhere will watch with no passing interest the course and final issue, of the trouble at present existing between the Montreal branch of Laval University and the law students, which so far has resulted in the open rebellion of the latter.

The apparent cause of the difficulty is the desire on the part of the rector, Mr. Hamel, to enforce the rule requiring the students to wear gowns at lectures but in justice to the students it must be said that the real cause is of a much more serious nature. We do not think the custom of wearing gowns can be supported by very convincing arguments; at least it is an inheritance of the past, and like so many other old customs, its age is its only title to respect. However the objections to it are hardly many enough or strong

enough to justify the students in so serious a step as rebellion against their *alma mater*. But they have other and better grounds for the action they have taken. Mr. Hamel has evidently very exalted ideas of his duties and powers as rector of the university and but little respect for the common sense and good judgment of his students. Not satisfied with providing for them able and instructive lectures on the various branches of law by capable men, and of exercising a wise and dignified supervision over their conduct when at lectures, he goes further and insists on the rigid observance of a number of rules for the regulation of their conduct in everyday life, and in these rules we find the true cause of the rupture. It is not our intention to discuss the merits of each particular regulation which he desires to enforce but merely to mention two as illustrations of the attitude assumed by him towards the students. One of these is to the effect that the students shall under no circumstances attend the theatre, and another, forbids them to identify themselves with, or attend any meetings of a political club or debating society. Without committing ourselves to an opinion as to the utility of the theatre or debating club, we consider such rules an unwarrantable interference with the freedom of the students. Of course the first duty of the student when at college is to devote his time and energy to his studies and any reasonable steps on the part of the powers of Laval to secure this end would, we are sure, meet with the approval of all right-minded students and certainly of this paper. But are the rules above referred to reasonable? Is it reasonable that young men who have come to years of discretion and entered upon the serious study of their profession, and who are supposed to possess, in some degree at least, that wisdom which comes of years, should be hampered and humiliated by rules fit only for children. The principle involved in their rules if recognized and carried out as Mr. Hamel would like it to be carried out will undoubtedly have the effect, on the one hand, of robbing the students of their independence and manliness, and on the other hand, of robbing Laval of her students. No one we are satisfied will question the right of Mr. Hamel to advise his students on these matters and to impress on their minds the necessity of applying themselves with diligence to their studies, and had he been satisfied