

## THE HISTORICAL CLUB.

Founded in 1897 by Dr. Colby, the Historical Club is one of the oldest and most prosperous societies of the University. Its aims have constantly been not only to study phases of history which an ordinary history course cannot touch upon, but to develop in its members some knowledge of contemporary history, and to arouse and invite original opinions in the way of discussion upon the subjects treated. Hence the meetings are of great value, for every member must contribute during the year one thesis of a sustained character, and has the privilege of hearing and taking part in the discussion of any or all of the papers.

During the last session attention was directed to the study of the East—its peoples and politics. This year a series of essays has been outlined, to cover the history of America from the Incas and Mound-builders to the Revolution, the Civil War, the U.E. Loyalists, and Lord Durham's "Report."

The officers for the present year are:—President, Mr. G. C. Couture; Vice-President, Mr. Edgar Parkins; Secretary, Mr. Walter S. Johnson; Treasurer, Mr. Talbot Papineau; Committee, Dr. Colby, G. R. Lomer, and G. Campbell.

October 9th.—The first regular meeting this year was held on October 9th. A paper on the "Incas of Peru," prepared by Mr. J. De Witt, B.A., and read by Mr. Clement Munn, B.A., was thoroughly appreciated. Mr. De Witt traced in an interesting manner the life, customs and religious rites of this ancient civilization.

Mr. W. S. Johnson then read a paper on "The Mound-builders," in which he discussed the possible origin of these people, outlining the various theories of the peopling of America, and drawing attention to the skill of the Mound-builders as strategists as evidenced by their fortifications. He pointed out that there may have been a prevalent religion, that they were agricultural people, and referred to their skill as makers of pottery. Interesting photographs, illustrating the essay, were passed round. After considerable discussion of the paper, the meeting adjourned.

October 23rd.—A meeting of the Historical Club was held on October 23rd. President Couture presided. The first paper, delivered by Mr. Mackenzie, dealt with the Risings of 1809-10 in South America.