

# TRINITY UNIVERSITY REVIEW.

VOL. III.

TRINITY UNIVERSITY, TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1890.

No. 12.

## Trinity University Review.

A Journal of Literature, University Thought,  
and Events.

Published in twelve monthly issues by Convocation and the Under-graduates in Arts and Medicine of Trinity University.

Subscription: One Dollar per annum, payable in advance. Single numbers, ten cents. Copies may be obtained from Messrs. Rowse & Hutchison, 76 King St. East, and Messrs. Vannevar & Co., 440 Yonge St. Rates for advertising can be obtained on application to the Manager. All subscriptions, remittances and business communications to be addressed to

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## Editorial Topics.

### MUSICAL DE- GREES IN ENGLAND.

WE have authority to state that the University Corporation have decided to receive no more candidates for musical degrees in England after the current year, which terminates on February 1st. This course has been decided upon not because of any doubts as to the right of the University to grant these degrees, but on account of the misunderstandings which arose among the other Universities in England with which Trinity had previously had friendly relations. As, moreover, the University of Durham has announced the intention of giving musical degrees on a similar basis to that of Trinity, the work of our own University in that respect has become unnecessary.

### PROF. CLARK'S NEW BOOK.

AMONG the more note-worthy books of the year, now so rapidly drawing to a close, is the Rev. Dr. Clark's "Life of Savonarola," the renowned Italian preacher and political reformer. Were every biographer no richly qualified for his task as is the learned author of this delightful book, the study of biography would not be the disappointing and misleading study it too often proves to be. Thoroughly conversant with the literature of Savonarola—now of no small proportions—and possessing a profound knowledge of the history of his age, and of the genius of the people, Professor Clark has written a book of surpassing interest, and one which future historians of Savonarola's life and times cannot afford to ignore. The character of the great preacher stands out vividly in Dr. Clark's brilliant picture. The intricate political system of Florence seems to lose much of its intricacy in the clear and limpid style of the author. One seems to

live in the atmosphere of the fifteenth century, and to be an actor in the stirring events so graphically described. In our January number an extended review of the book will appear. At present we can but add that the publishers, Messrs. McClurg & Co., of Chicago, have done their part of the work with taste and skill, and that in typography and binding the book is a credit to their house.

### CHRISTMAS.

ALTHOUGH the great Festival of Christmas will be over and gone ere these words are read, it is but fitting that we, too, should add our voice to the many millions whose joy and privilege it is to hail the day with glad acclaim, the day so hallowed and so gracious. Celebrated in all parts of the world, it is a Festival truly universal. Like Christianity itself, it is not national, not for this race or for that, but for all races, for all men. It is a day which Christians delight to honour, for it is a day of religious significances the most profound. Whether this significance be appreciated by all who honour the day or not, it is none the less true that the world's greatest and most general Festival is the Birthday of Jesus Christ. A beautiful thing this, that the day of greatest rejoicing in the year should be so intimately associated with our religion. And rightly too, most rightly; for all that makes life best worth living, all its brightness, its joy, its gladness find in the Founder of Christianity its source, its mainspring. If "merry old England" is not so merry a land as in days gone by, if now there is less joy in its life than formerly, may it not be traced to the fact that in the past the holidays were holy days and the holy days were holidays? Then the merry making and rejoicing were chastened and informed by the gracious memory of saintly men of old, in commemoration of whom the day was observed and honoured. The dis-association of religion from our holidays is a disastrous mistake. Besides, the real holiday is not made by Act of Parliament. It must appeal to the heart. What part does the heart play in the so called Bank holidays which have been substituted for the days having religious significance? They are nothing, save a respite in the worship of the Goddess of Getting On, the Britannia of the Market, which Ruskin finely terms the ruling goddess of our transatlantic relatives. Happily for mankind, the great Festival of Christmas, with all its hallowed and joyous associations, cannot be robbed of its true significance, or ever mean less to man than the coming of the Light of the World.

### THE DEATH OF DR. CARRY.

IT is with great sorrow that we record the death of the Rev. Dr. John Carry, of Port Perry, which happened very suddenly on Monday the 22nd inst. Dr. Carry was, without doubt, one of the most learned men of the Church in Canada. In Patristic and Anglican Theology he was, perhaps, without a peer in the Province. As a controversialist, he achieved the highest distinction, his manner in dealing with his opponents being characterized by great consideration and gentleness, conspicuously so in his later years. Closely identified with this University as an examiner and in other respects, his death will be specially mourned by Trinity. Perhaps the last words which Dr. Carry ever wrote, were on a Christmas card which Professor Clark received the 23rd. They were probably written but an hour or two before his death: ALTARI VIVAS OPORTET, SI VIS TIBI VIVERE.