

lets and parliamentary debates, and a fourth, in which, by the way, Mr. Boodle takes particular pride, with magazines, most beautifully arranged in chronological order. The ornithological collection of pictures have been relegated to the ladies' sanctum, whence, we may hope, their generous donors, approving an amendment to Mr. Fraser's decree, will some day have them removed, so that they may be replaced by what alone can very soon make the institute something better than "a commencement."

LOUIS LLOYD.

SUMMERING.

HERE we summer by the river
Where the waters kiss the shore ;
Through the pines and cedar branches
Soughs the south wind "evermore"—
"For ever and for evermore,"
Hear the river's threnody,
Sweeping on through isle and rapids
Onward to the waiting sea.

After all the last year's travel,
After all the toil and strife,
In the great world's din of battle
In the cycle change of life,
Rest is welcome by the river ;
In its calm and in its roar
Still, methinks, it shouts or whispers
"Ever and for evermore."

After all life's incompleteness
There remains the shoreless sea,
Whither tread our feeble efforts,
Faiths and hopes and fears to be :
There are peaceful hills, and voices
Calling those blue waters o'er.
"Here is rest for weary heart-ache
Ever and for evermore."

Kingston.

K. L. JONES.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GOVERNING BODY OF M'GILL UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—I beg to crave a portion of the valuable space of THE WEEK for the purpose of correcting some mis-apprehension as to the character and conduct of the Governors of McGill University.

The Board of Governors is constituted under a royal charter, under the provisions of which, a fair representation of each Protestant church is secured.

All appointments are subject to confirmation by the Governor General.

Under the terms of the charter of the University the duties of the Governors are, in the first place, to administer the property, endowments, and finances of the College ; secondly, to make appointments to all offices therein ; and thirdly, to frame statutes for its government.

Purely academic functions, and all matters relating to the educational work of the University, are in the hands of a much larger body, almost all of whom are distinguished educationalists.

The evident intention was that the finances and property, together with the appointments, should be in the charge of a body of men of experience in the business affairs of life, having a knowledge of property, endowments, and investments, able to judge with regard to the capabilities of men, and experienced in the framing of laws and regulations ; providing at the same time in the administration of the teaching department for a full representation of the professional staff, and of affiliated Colleges in the various faculties connected with the University.

When the writer had the honour of being elected a Governor some years ago, there were included in the circle of that body two judges of the superior courts, two statesmen of high distinction who had served Her Majesty not only in Canada but abroad, and two eminent members of the bar of the Province of Quebec. The rest of the Governors consisted of merchants, bankers, and gentlemen occupying high official positions in the country, most of whom had been either personal benefactors (and some of them very large benefactors) to the College, or were connected with families whose benefactions had built up the property of the University.

This simple statement is sufficient to show whether the administration of the matters placed under their charge was in competent hands or not.

During the last few years death has brought about changes in the governing body, but it still contains a distinguished statesman, a judge of the superior courts, a gentleman of high eminence both at the bar and in political life, together with a number of others, who, though connected for the most part with business affairs, have shown both by their gifts and labours, the deepest interest in higher education. Two of these bear academic titles.

Such is the composition of the Board of Governors of the University at present.

A banker or a merchant is not necessarily ignorant because of his being devoted to business pursuits. Numbers of merchants and bankers of the present day are persons of literary culture and University education. The

ranks of authorship have been recruited from this class, as is well known by those whose knowledge is a little wider than that of the circles of one Canadian city. And even in the absence of these, let it be considered that men in the highest walks of mercantile and financial life are occupied with precisely the same matters in their daily calling with respect to which they have to act in the University. They are called upon to manage investments and administer finances. They are occupied in forming judgments upon the characters of men, and in administering the affairs of the country, or of corporations of which they are members. The business of framing statutes, regulations, and laws, is one of which they must have had experience.

As to its actual efficiency or otherwise, this body may challenge an appeal to history and facts. Every tree is known by its fruit. Under their administration the finances of the University have been so administered that not a bad investment has been made, nor a dollar of its endowment lost. A body of professors has been gathered together by their appointment, during the last thirty years, under whose teaching in various departments, the University has risen to a rank which need not be boasted of here. The standing of McGill University is too well known to make it necessary for anyone to speak of it.

It was by such a board of governors that the distinguished Principal was selected, and by them he has been sustained and helped forward in the mighty work he has done for superior education in Canada. Between him and the board there has always been perfect harmony. The governors have sometimes been sneered at because of this unity. But unity is strength. They are not a debating society. They have the heavy responsibility of action ; and action to be efficient and produce lasting results must be in unison.

I have sat upon numbers of boards during the last twenty-five years. Some of them were noted for wrangling, and invariably also for inefficiency ; others went on through a long period of years without a single division taking place, and in every instance there followed growth, prosperity, and usefulness.

With respect to the matter of co-education there are very great differences of opinion amongst educationalists. There is, however, another class who are sometimes entirely ignored in this discussion, but who have some claim to be considered, viz., the parents and guardians of students. I am well aware that we are not dealing with boys and girls. But young men and young women are subjects of care and parental responsibility also. The care of mothers for their daughters is a responsibility that cannot be set aside. Whatever may be the opinion of the nineteenth century on the subject, the settled opinion of a good many previous centuries, and of the law of God, makes it incumbent upon parents to think carefully of these things. I will venture to say that the opinions of mothers with regard to their daughters, and of fathers with regard to grown up sons, is as much entitled to respect when considering the question of their co-education, as is the opinion of those whose business it is to teach.

When the question was first discussed in the college there was very considerable difference of opinion on the subject. Not only was the Principal against co-education, but the whole of the governors, many of them heads of families, and a considerable number of the Professors and Fellows. And they gave reasons for their opposition.

It is not a matter of reason on the one side against prejudice on the other. It is a matter of argument and reason on both sides, with this important addition, however, that so far as the circle of McGill is concerned those who have had the most experience of the world, and whose observation embraces the widest circle of the affairs of life, were almost wholly against it.

The sneering style in which the large endowment for the higher education of women is referred to, is no doubt intended to advance the cause of which one of the professors is a leader. Whether the imputation of mercenary motives to the whole body of distinguished educationalists who constitute the corporation, is calculated to accomplish this, the impartial readers of the WEEK can best judge. They can also judge what degree of acquaintance with the facts your correspondent had in suggesting a doubt as to whether Montreal had any interest in the College. Almost the whole of its properties and endowments have been contributed by present or former residents of the city of Montreal. The benefactions during the last seven years have amounted to nearly half a million dollars.

The question upon which it is sought to found an agitation in the University is simply this. The college has accepted a large endowment for the purpose of carrying out the higher education of women in separate classes. All the professors have voluntarily undertaken to co-operate in carrying on the work, and remuneration is being accepted therefor. Statutes and regulations embodying the methods of this separate education have been passed, and large numbers of young ladies have availed themselves of the benefits of it.

But this mode of teaching has been held up to ridicule and contempt by some who have agreed to carry it on, and who are in receipt of remuneration therefor. It has been described in a letter to the public press as a farce, and the work imposed by it as an intolerable burden. Not only so, there has been good reason to believe that it has been held up to scorn and ridicule before the very ladies who have been studying under its provisions, and before other bodies of University students.

This was so obviously to impair the discipline of the College, that the Principal, acting under a high sense of duty and responsibility, unpleasant though it was, felt himself compelled to notice it. Hence all this hubbub.

The action of the Governors has been to sustain the Principal in his wise and judicious upholding of the rules and regulations of the College, and in his determination that so long as they exist, they shall not be held up to ridicule before the students.