

will doubtless take effect this session. We have not an opportunity of entering into a discussion of its provisions at the present time, but reserve to ourselves the right to do so on some future occasion.

ANOTHER YEAR'S WORK.

The present number is the last regular issue of THE VARSITY for the current academic year. It is our purpose, however, to issue a special literary number on Commencement Day. As the present occasion is, in all probability, the last time we shall be permitted to speak editorially, we desire to make a short reference to the work which we have endeavoured to do during the past year. Concerning the character of the work we, of course, are debarred from speaking; but to the work itself we may refer without prejudice. And, in the first place, a word or two to our friends and critics. While we are glad to include many critics among our friends—and they are true friends who criticize honestly and candidly—we also have critics who are not friends. This is not, perhaps, a very exceptional state of things, and we have no particular fault to find, or complaint to make, in regard to the treatment which THE VARSITY has received during the past year. But this much we may be allowed to say: That the opinions of THE VARSITY are to be found in its editorial columns; that criticism of the views enunciated therein is always welcomed by the editors; but that THE VARSITY can only in all fairness be held accountable for opinions which have been expressed in its editorials. THE VARSITY has dealt with a very large variety of topics during the academic year now drawing to a close, and has endeavoured to do its duty fairly and impartially in reference to all questions of debate. THE VARSITY has always had decided opinions of its own, but has been ready at all times to listen to the other side of the story.

In reference to questions affecting University College, THE VARSITY has uniformly maintained that its position as a Provincial Institution entitled it to consideration from the Government, and that in reality it took rank as a preferred creditor of the Government. With regard to the School of Science, THE VARSITY has been constant in its advocacy of the claims of this excellent institution for a largely increased grant from the Provincial Treasury, and that until it has been put upon a proper footing, the claims of other cities and universities for the establishment of Science Schools should not be considered. We have pursued this course consistently, but in no spirit of jealousy or exclusiveness. We believe that it is a course which both common sense and utility point out as the only one proper under the circumstances. Also with reference to the proposed Baptist University, our opposition to that scheme has been based upon considerations which, in the present state of the University question, appeared conclusive and irresistible. We stated that we did not oppose the creation of another teaching faculty—though we did not see any real necessity for it—but that we did oppose the granting of degree-conferring powers to another corporation, especially when the Confederation of Toronto and Victoria was about to reduce the number of corporations having that privilege. We see no reason to alter our opinion with reference to this subject. We have also endeavoured to investigate the curriculum of our University, the constitution of the Senate, the condition of the secondary schools and their relation to the University, the condition of Science Schools abroad, the question of scholarships, of honorary degrees, and the proposal to create a medical faculty in the University. We have, to the best of our ability, considered these questions in the broadest and most liberal spirit; we have criticized freely and minutely, and have suggested changes and amendments, which, in our opinion, are calculated to improve the working of our educational system—in so far as it especially concerns the University—due regard being had to present capabilities and future requirements.

In reference to matters which more intimately concern the student body, we have advocated the formation of an Athletic Association, and have shown the great necessity that exists for providing regular and systematic instruction in general physical culture; we hope that these two important measures may be carried out next year. In conclusion, the Editors of THE

VARSAITY beg to return their most cordial thanks to those who have so largely contributed to whatever success THE VARSITY may have attained this year, as a literary journal. The Editors have endeavoured faithfully to fulfil the duties of their office, and to maintain THE VARSITY as an organ worthy of the support and countenance of all University men, whether graduates or students—and of those interested in literary pursuits. If we have succeeded in doing this, we owe it very largely to those who, by their sympathy and encouragement, and by their practical support of our literary department, have lightened the somewhat arduous, and not always pleasant, duties attaching to the conduct of this paper.

There have been signs of renewed vitality in the Canadian Institute during its present session, and the President and officers are to be congratulated upon several improvements effected in the organization and working of their Society. For instance two new sections have been brought into existence, namely, the Philological and the Photographic. We hope the Institute will see its way to establish a Social and Economic Science section next season, and thus bring together those interested in this department of knowledge, which is growing in popularity, and which will doubtless receive more attention now that the new University Bill provides for instruction in Political Economy, Jurisprudence, and Constitutional Law. In looking over the list of those who have read papers before the Institute during the past season, we find that the great majority are graduates of the Provincial University. The President of the Institute has been indefatigable in his efforts to popularize its meetings, and we trust that his efforts will induce many graduates to become members of the Institute, and take part in its proceedings in future.

MODERN LANGUAGE MEMORIAL.

At a recent meeting of the Modern Language Club of University College it was resolved to memorialize the Senate of the University of Toronto to the following effect:

Whereas, in the opinion of this Club, insufficient justice is being done to students in Modern Languages in the University of Toronto, by burdening them with subjects which, though useful in themselves, not only bear no direct relation to, but also seriously hinder success in the study of Modern Languages proper; and

Whereas, in part owing to recent heavy additions to the Modern Language course, there prevails at present a manifestly unequal distribution of work in the different years; and furthermore,

Whereas, from these and other causes, the work exacted from students in the Modern Language course, as at present constituted, is too varied and too great to admit of satisfactory accomplishment,

Therefore be it resolved,—

(1) That the work in the first and second years could be more nearly proportioned by making Ancient History a study of the first year, and Mediæval History a study of the second year.

(2) That while Pass History is a valuable adjunct to this, as it would be to other courses, yet Honor History and Anthropology and Ethnology ought not justly to constitute a necessary part of a regular Honor course in Modern Languages.

(3) That the number of compulsory pass subjects in the second year of Modern Languages be reduced, so as to make the work more nearly equal to that required in other courses.

(4) That students who have been successful in obtaining honours in their first three years, be allowed to proceed to their degree in Arts, either

1st. By the general course in Modern Languages as now prescribed, with the exception of the emendations proposed above; or

2nd. By pursuing one of the following special groups:—

(a) The Romance Group, including Late Latin, French, Italian, Spanish, &c.

(b) The Teutonic Group, including German (Old, Middle and Modern), Anglo-Saxon, and, if it be thought necessary, one of the Scandinavian Languages.

(c) A Special Group, including English and Anglo-Saxon, together with Ethnology.

(5) Finally, that greater importance should attach to Modern Languages as a means for mental discipline, and that the prejudices should be removed that are done them, notably in the small number of marks, in comparison with other courses, that is assigned them in awarding Proficiency Scholarships at Matriculation and other examinations, thereby discouraging the masters of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes from giving these subjects their due attention.

Signed on behalf of the Modern Language Club.

A. H. YOUNG, President,

FRANKLIN MCLEAY, Corresponding Secretary.

Toronto, March 8th, 1887.