

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION.

In the *Methodist Magazine and Review* for the present month there is an interesting article by the Deputy-Minister of Education, Mr. John Millar, B.A., on "Education for the Twentieth Century." Among other things, Mr. Millar asserts that this education will be democratic. In emphasizing this fact, he traces the growth of democracy during the last one hundred years and points out that a public school system, absolutely free to all, is, for the twentieth century, an imperative necessity, not only as a safeguard to morality and a help to that desirable industrial condition which is suggested by "a full dinner-pail," but as a means of ensuring the essential unity of all classes without which true democracy is impossible.

In this connection Mr. Millar deplors the fact that many of the High Schools of the province are, by the imposition of fees, discriminating in favor of the wealthy classes. In commenting on this state of affairs he makes the significant statement, "Selfishness is at the bottom of any policy which shuts out the children of the poor man from gaining an education. It should be recognized by all that the poor boy who rises to honorable prominence in any community more than recoups the public treasury for any outlay it has made in his behalf."

While heartily approving the foregoing statement, many thoughtful readers will regret that by omitting the University Mr. Miller has left his free school system maimed and incomplete. He overlooks the fact that, without a well endowed and thoroughly equipped university, any system of elementary and high schools, such as is outlined in his article, lacks both its foundation and its cope-stone; its foundation, in so far that all public and high school teachers receive their training directly or indirectly from the university; and its copestone, in the sense that the university is needed to carry on to completion that work of instruction which the primary and secondary schools can do little more than begin.

It is to be hoped that both Mr. Millar and the Government of which he is an official may be led to see that the many cogent reasons urged by him in favor of free high schools can be used with equal force in the advocacy of a free university and against that system of false economy which has hampered the University of Toronto in times past and which threatens to impair its future usefulness and to make the name *Provincial University* not only an anomaly, but a theme for ridicule as well.

H. T. C., '01.

UNDERGRADUATE CLUB CONCERT

The committee having in charge the formation of an Undergraduate Union in the University of Toronto, are arranging to hold a very attractive concert in Massey Music Hall. They have engaged Katherine Fisk, the greatest of American contraltos, who is a beautiful woman and a most delightful singer. Mrs. Fisk was advertised to appear here last December, but owing to the indisposition of other artists the date was cancelled by the local management much to the disappointment of many who were looking forward to hear this great singer, who has achieved such triumphs in England and Europe as well as the United States. The University Glee Club and the University Mandolin Club will take part in the program, and as a special incentive to the students, Mr. Owen A. Smiley, the well known humorist, will give several of his refined and humorous sketches, including an original one written for the occasion. It had been intended to hold the concert on Friday evening, February 1st, but owing to the death of the Queen it has been postponed till February 19th.

HARMONIC CLUB.

Of all the students' organizations, the Harmonic Club deserves the constant support of the student body as a whole. It is run by the students, for the students, and with the students. It exists simply that the taste for music which students may have when they come to Varsity may be kept alive, and that it may perhaps be awakened in those that know not their musical power.

We have no hesitation in saying that the way music is supported (?) by the students is disgraceful. At the concert last year there were less than 20 undergrads present! This year the attendance at the Glee Club rehearsals has averaged 25, although five years ago it was anywhere from 60 to 75.

Last fall the management made some radical changes. The high class music of former years was definitely given up, and a more popular variety substituted. Steps have been taken to give a farce at the regular concerts of the club, in town and out of town. And a new department, consisting of orchestral instruments, has been formed, entitled "the orchestra." In the orchestra almost any instrument is made welcome, outside of the drum and piccolo. Having found that the general run of undergraduate knows nothing about, or takes little interest in, these musical organizations, we thought it advisable to place these facts before the fellows in "VARSITY."

The Harmonic Club will take part in the Undergraduate Club concert at Massey Hall, Feb. 19; and toward the latter part of the month will hold its own annual concert. Thus an excellent chance will be given to all students to show, at least, their sympathy with the Club, by being present at one or both of these concerts. For those who have any music in them—if they can sing, play a mandolin, guitar or banjo, or a violin, cello, flute, clarinet, cornet or viola—we suggest an immediate attendance at the rehearsals of the club. Two short tours are coming off in February, on Fridays and Saturdays; one east, the other west, and all men who can possibly turn out should do so at once. The reputation of Varsity is at stake; see to it that you uphold it.

H. MAURICE DARLING, '03.

CORRESPONDENCE.

22 WILLOWBANK CRES.

GLASGOW, JAN. 13th, 1901.

DEAR VARSITY:

"Having seen in your valuable paper an account of the death of Mr. John G. Inkster, B.A., at Aberdeen University, of congestion of the lungs, I thought the best way to verify the account was to ask Mr. Inkster himself about it. He authorizes me to say that there were one or two little discrepancies in your report, viz.:

1. He never studied at Aberdeen University.
2. He never had congestion of the lungs.
3. He is not dead.

I am pleased to be able to inform his many friends that Mr. Inkster is well, is doing splendid work at New College, Edinburgh, and at the beginning of the year accepted a responsible position as Missionary Assistant to Dr. Nair, late Moderator of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland." Sincerely yours,

JOHN MAC

T. A. Russell, B.A., is expected to lecture before the Pol. Science Club, Thursday next. Definite announcement cannot be made before this number is issued, but notice will be placed upon the bulletin board. Notice will be given in next week's VARSITY of Prof. Mavor's lecture.