

# The Varsity

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THERE are few things more difficult for any man than the problem of how to apportion properly his time—the problem of how much time he may safely devote to those duties and interests which lie outside of his ordinary business. And, in the case of the student, this difficulty is considerably increased. Under the stress of our curriculum, a vast amount of work has to be done in the course of the year; if it is not done steadily and regularly, the congested mass of work which confronts us before the examination is enough to appal any man. And yet we are free to neglect it if we will. We are under no taskmasters who force us to toil unceasingly, but woe to the man who disregards the evil day approaching until it is too late to prepare for the ordeal.

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This condition of affairs tends to two extreme mistakes, into one or other of which we, as students, are only too apt to fall. Some men may waste their time and energies throughout the year on things quite outside their academic studies, and thus miss the real object they came here to attain. We think this class in our University is very small. There are but few men who have not the necessary strength of purpose to take proper advantage of their opportunities.

But there is another class of students, who err just as seriously in the opposite direction. The work before them looms up in all its huge proportions. They contemplate it steadfastly, and become impressed with the necessity for energetic and persevering effort. This blinds them to other phases of their college life—no less real and important, and no less claiming a portion of their interest. Unto such as these are the words of this editorial homily specially directed.

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We feel prompted to say something in this vein, as most of our readers will surmise, by the announcement of the Annual Conversazione for next week. This is the one

great social event of our college year. It is the one occasion upon which we can entertain our friends outside the University who do so much to render our stay in Toronto a pleasant one. It is the one social function in which all join, and in the success of which all are interested. For these reasons, and others that might be given, we bespeak for this year's conversazione the hearty support of every undergraduate. Let us lay aside our text-books for this one evening—we can safely accept the freedom which our College Council is so willing to grant—and putting all the thoughts of the terrors of May out of our minds for a few hours, let us unite to make this conversazione for 1898 one long to be remembered in the history of the University.

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And just here we might refer to a point raised by Mr. Inkster's letter in our last issue. It is entirely true, as he points out, that our social gatherings are far too frequent. Says Mr. Inkster: "There are a number of petty affairs taking up a great deal of the students' time and money, unworthy even of mention, that should be wiped out of existence," and we heartily agree with him. If we could have two or three recognized social functions each year, of a general character, and calculated to foster a college, rather than a class, spirit, it would be a vast improvement. Mr. Inkster favors replacing the present Literary Society by two new societies—one of a business character that would control all student affairs, and another of purely literary character that would unite all the present departmental societies into one.

Whether the remedy proposed by Mr. Inkster would have the desired effect or not may be open to question. It would be an experiment with new and untried machinery, but with no definite assurance of better results than at present. We have but little faith in the value of mere machinery. If a healthier college spirit were infused into what we possess already, we would be nearer the end aimed at, than by merely making for ourselves a new system that would involve radical, and perhaps injurious, changes in the present organization of student societies, and would be in any case merely an experiment. It is a scheme worthy of our serious consideration; but, in a matter of such far-reaching importance, we cannot proceed too slowly.

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To-morrow night the Literary Society will hold its second Public Meeting for this year on the occasion of the Inter-collegiate Debate with McGill. And we hope it will not be considered unbecoming or presumptuous on our part if THE VARSITY offers a word of counsel to the undergraduate portion of the audience. In all student gatherings there is bound to be and ought to be a certain display of student enthusiasm. But in our public gatherings of late years we believe this has often been carried to a ridiculous excess. Very often the uproar has prevented speakers from continuing for quite an interval. And, at the last Public Debate, the Glee Club had to stop in the middle of a selection till they could get a better hearing. This ten-