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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE UNIVERSITY DINNER.

Are we to have a University dinner this year? It looks like it. Steps have already been taken with that end in view, and, so far, all the signs and tokens presage prosperity and success to the undertaking. Five years have passed away since the various Faculties of McGill, at perhaps some little sacrifice of social—or might we say *Faculty*—enjoyment, met together around the same banquet board. This co-operation together for a common object, albeit of the lighter sort, and social reunion, will not be unfruitful of good results to all concerned. No one can say that we have too much of it in McGill. Indeed the estrangement of the Faculties and the too great individualizing of the work have been pointed to as a distinct defect in our University life. The eminent scientist who visited McGill the other day, and addressed the students, did not forbear to touch upon this matter, and his words will be echoed by all those who look to greater unity among us. A University dinner every five or six years will not cure this anomaly, nor cause a union club to be born, but we apprehend it will not set greatly against either. On the contrary, although an event not permanently fixed as yet in our University life, still it is always a drawing in the right direc-

tion, and ought to give the unity feeling a great impetus. In this regard the year has begun most propitiously. Among the student body there has been perfect unanimity. All Faculties have met in friendly, manly contest on the campus, and on the same night marched out together through the gates of old McGill in long procession, to fill up the "gods" of the Academy of Music in one compact body.

But we need not hasten. A University dinner is no light undertaking. It involves time, thought, labor and expenditure. On many men in their final year—principally the presidents—no small portion of the work will fall, and this will mean a relinquishing of much valuable time which they ill can spare. But the students themselves by active and willing co-operation can greatly lighten the labors of the committee men. And great assistance will be rendered by professors and others whose aid is not generally counted on in getting up Faculty dinners. These difficulties will be overcome by energy, tact and hard work. If there are other valid objections to a University dinner, we do not know of them. That the Faculties will lose their individuality, that men will be forgotten in the great gathering ought to be lost sight of in view of the larger considerations, which appear, briefly, to be: First, the meeting together of all the Faculties of the University for the first time in the presence of Dr. Peterson, our new Principal—the first University welcome; the sense of grandeur and unity conveyed to the participant thereby, which would not be present at any Faculty dinner; and, secondly, the opportunity afforded the students of seeing and hearing not only the heads of our own and sister Faculties, but also men well known in this country in all departments of life, scientific, political and educational; and lastly, the name of old McGill would no doubt become still better known by her being known or visited again by those who have seldom an opportunity of meeting at once professors and students of all departments.

The Graduates Society has set the ball rolling, and at the time of writing, all the Faculties have signified their intention, almost unanimously, of co-operating together in the matter. There can be no doubt that the necessary further steps will be speedily taken and the enterprise pushed forward to success.

Let us have a University Dinner.