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THE VARSITY.

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Topics of the Hour.

The eighth Monday Popular Concert took place in the Pavilion on Monday evening last, and was very fairly attended. It was most enjoyable throughout. The selections rendered by the Quartette Club were well chosen, and embraced some novelties. The ensemble of the club was nearly perfect. They played the first two movements from the C Minor Quartette, (op. 18; No. 4) of Beethoven; the andante and variations from the D Minor Quartette, of Schubert; the Adagio from Haydn's Quartette, (op. 76; No. 1); played here not long ago by the Mendelssohn Quintette Club, and "Mignon," a gavotte, by Thomas. The playing of the Schubert and Haydn numbers was almost faultless. The solo vocalist was Miss Kate Percy Douglas, who possesses a pleasing soprano voice, of light timbre and rather limited compass. She sang "Spring Song" (Becker), "Faithfulness" (Brahms), "In Love's Bright Joy," (Liszt), and Schubert's "Serenade," (Violoncello obligato by Herr Corell). Mme. Dory Burmeister Peter-

son, a pupil of Liszt, played "Nocturne in A flat" (Chopin), "Valse Caprice," (Rubinstein), "Rhapsodie No. 12," (Liszt), and "La Chasse" (Kullak). Mme. Peterson is a very brilliant executant, and possesses great delicacy of touch combined with most artistic taste and feeling. She delighted her audience and was encored most enthusiastically.

An animated controversy has been going on for some time among the eastern American colleges. It is the old discussion, the new learning asserting its right to equal recognition with the old. The new education is represented by Harvard, the old by Yale and Princeton. On the one hand are arrayed the champions of the ancient classics and the mathematics, on the other the advocates of the modern languages and the natural sciences. It seems to us over here in Canada that the participants in these discussions generally lose sight altogether of the great fact that for the acquisition of a true liberal education it does not matter so much what one studies as *how* he studies it. A consideration of equal importance is the mental attitude of the teacher under whom the education is acquired. By liberal education we mean discipline of the will and the intellect, and the cultivation and training of the moral and the æsthetic sensibilities. This can be done as well by the new learning as the old. Liberal education takes no cognizance of the incidental advantages which may at times be attached to one of these departments or the other. Since, then, the great results of the two kinds of learning, if properly pursued, are the same, we must admit our preference to the elective system of Harvard over the compulsory system of Yale. For Harvard gives great room for the individual and independent development of the student. But Yale seeks to mould the new generation rigidly in the ideal forms of the past, the implication always being that the past is infinitely better than the present is, or than we can hope the future to be.

The committee of the George Brown memorial fund have founded a scholarship in the University of Toronto with the balance of the fund which remained after the erection of the statue in the Queen's Park. This act was in unison with the kindly feeling which Mr. Brown always held toward our University. He looked upon it as the grand cope-stone of the great free educational system of Ontario. Forty years ago he took an active part in the agitation which led to the secularization of King's College. A powerful pamphlet on the origin and history of the College which was issued anonymously from his printing house about that time, was said to be the work of his pen. And in the attacks on Toronto University which were subsequently made by the extreme Anglican party, Mr. Brown nobly upheld the honor of the provincial institution. With the more recent movement for the higher education of women he was also in entire accord, and our University was proud to enrol the names of his daughters in her first class of women graduates. His countrymen have erected a statue in his memory, but his better monument is more lasting than bronze.