

THE VARSITY.

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THE PROFESSORSHIP OF POLITICAL ECONOMY.

A glance at the list of the subjects upon which the new Professor of Political Economy will be called to lecture, will show that the work which will devolve upon the incumbent of the new Chair is most comprehensive and exacting. This makes it all the more necessary that the man chosen to fill it should be above the average. This, together with the fact that the new Professor will number among his classes those pursuing the course in the Faculty of Law, will make the sub-departments of Constitutional and International Law and Jurisprudence of special importance, and will require of the new Professor an intimate and accurate knowledge of every portion of his work. It cannot be said that the remuneration offered, \$2,500 a year, is calculated to attract good men to apply for the position, and, in view of the extent and importance of the duties assigned to the Professor of Political Economy it is, in reality, very paltry and inadequate. In the educational, as in every other walk of life, if we wish to get good work done, we must be prepared to pay a good price for it. It is a standing joke across the border to refer to the fact that the President of Harvard and the *chef* of the Parker House get the same salary each, viz.: \$4,000 a year. If the value of the services of each to the community at large be taken into account, then the conclusion is inevitable that the *chef* is as ridiculously over-paid as the Professor, considering the cost of living in the United States, is ridiculously under-paid. Unfortunately, in Canada we have not risen above the idea that if the cost of living be so and so, then the salary should be in exact proportion thereto, anything above that being considered fair game for the cheese-paring of the political economist from the back benches. Canadians are fond of thinking their educational system the most perfect in the world, but they are never tired—those of them on school-boards and in authority elsewhere—of reducing salaries, but at the same time requiring the best work to be done so that the largest share of the Government grant may be secured. It is time that the old, heathenish, Egyptian idea of requiring bricks without straw gave place to the new and Christian one of paying a good price for a good thing. We have digressed somewhat from our original text, but the importance of securing a really able man for the new Chair has led us to point out one fact which, in our opinion, will seriously militate against obtaining or attracting the best man, viz.: the smallness of the remuneration offered. It would be easy to secure anywhere a man competent enough to retail text books, and otherwise act as tutor in Political Economy, but the University of Toronto cannot afford to have such men rank as Professors, cannot afford to have her reputation lowered by the appointment of inferior men. The Professors of the University of Toronto are, almost without exception, men who have achieved eminence in their respective departments,—some have achieved a European reputation,—and all are men of whom any college might be proud. It is therefore obvious that the reputation of the University, the character of the existing Professoriate, and the intrinsic importance of the subjects assigned to the department of Political Economy, imperatively require that the new Professor should be a man able to take his place, as an equal, among the present Professorial staff of the University of

Toronto. This is all the more necessary when, as we believe, the public utterances and the private work of the new Professor will give a decided character to the reputation of the college for good or ill, and will influence public opinion, favourably or otherwise, more intimately than the work or utterances of any other member of the staff.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY ELECTIONS.

A great many undergraduates have been wondering upon what issue the great electoral contest for offices in the Literary Society will be waged this year. If there were to be no contest the treasury would suffer, and the occupation of some student soldiers of fortune would be gone; therefore, it is the plain duty of some one to suggest or provoke a *casus belli*. THE VARSITY, always in the van where the true interests of the student body are concerned, has a suggestion to offer which, if acted upon, will solve the present difficulty easily and without causing a renewal of hostilities such as disgraced the Society last year. The question of Commercial Union is still before the Society. Why not adjourn it indefinitely, or at least stave off a final vote upon it, until the great Election Night at the end of March? This question now divides the society and there will always be found large numbers to oppose and support it. Why not, then, form two parties, issue manifestoes and bring out "straight tickets" as heretofore, one of which shall be composed of the opponents, the other of the upholders of Commercial Union? Of course, the Presidency of the Society will go by acclamation this year, and THE VARSITY has a very shrewd suspicion that one of the most popular of the Professoriate will be the unanimous choice of the undergraduates. But for the under offices there might just as well be a good rousing contest, which, if conducted upon the lines we suggest—though the actual question at issue might be changed—would furnish all the necessary excitement without creating any bad feeling or estranging friendships. We offer the suggestion in good faith, and hope it may convince a majority of the undergraduates to adopt it at the approaching Society Elections.

MR. GOSCHEN AT ABERDEEN.

The installation address of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Goschen as Lord Rector of Aberdeen University is a remarkable address in many ways. Remarkable, when we consider the busy life of Mr. Goschen as Chancellor of the Exchequer, now hard at work upon his Budget; remarkable, when it is contrasted with many previous rectorial addresses, for its breadth, sincerity and practical nature. No more instructive, stimulating, or encouraging address could be read by students, especially those about to be graduated. The cause for which Mr. Goschen pleaded so eloquently and strongly was not that of any particular branch of learning as specially fitted to minister to culture, but for a temper, an intellectual habit, an attitude of mind which is applicable to every kind of study and to every sort of work. In other words, "the habit of intellectual interest in all that is studied, learnt, or done." By the phrase, intellectual interest, which he specially emphasized, Mr. Goschen explained that he meant, not the interest of success, or rivalry, or of profit, or of duty, but "that interest which springs from the work itself, which is born in the doing of it." The intellectual interest which the study and practice of what are usually termed the learned professions excite, is one secret of their popularity, in addition, of course, to the social position which they confer upon their members. The main contention of Mr. Goschen is admirably summed up in these words of the *Times* in its comment upon the address: "Cultivate in all things an intellectual temper, an intellectual habit, an interest which goes out to everything which you touch. Put your mind into everything which you do; find your pleasure in your work; be curious about all your affairs, be they what they may; be diligent in mind and body in your calling, taking little thought for the results, for the results will be sure to take care of themselves. This is the only infallible secret of success, but it is infallible; nothing else will certainly achieve so much, and this precept is true of business as much as of learning, of trade in all its branches as of the liberal professions."

Mr. Goschen, it will be seen, does not limit the application of his theory to the liberal professions, but maintains that it is true