

CONVOCATION.

The annual Convocation of University College loses none of its popularity. This year the number of invited guests who sought admission to the hall seemed greater than ever, and many were obliged to remain outside. The students were much quieter than usual, and there was very little unseemly behavior. It was, indeed, rather a pity to hear so little chorus singing between the speeches. Convocation Day is one of the few students' days, and no one is desirous of interfering with their characteristic proceedings, so long as they conduct them with due decorum.

The first item on the programme was the presentation to the President of students who had attained special academical distinction. As the names have appeared in the daily press, we omit them here. Since the abolition of medals and scholarships by the Senate, the Council have been endeavoring to substitute similar awards in the College, by means of private benefactions. These medals and scholarships were presented for the first time this year. It is significant of the difficulty of obtaining first-class honours in the graduating year, under the new standard, that, in each department, there was only one candidate entitled to receive the medal. The absence of Miss Balmer, who graduated first in Modern Languages, and of Mr. G. Chambers, who stood first in the final examination in the Chemistry department, was commented upon. No medals were announced as won in these departments. W. H. C. Kerr, Esq., M.A., who has endowed a medal in Classics, delivered a lengthy speech on the occasion of the first presentation of it, in which he eulogized the former Professor of Classics, Dr. McCaul.

The chief interest of Convocation, however, centred in the addresses of the Revs. Drs. Potts and Nelles, the former the General Educational Secretary to the Methodist Conference, the latter President of Victoria College, Cobourg. Dr. Potts delivered a short address, in which he expressed his great pleasure at being present in his official capacity to express in public, on this, the first opportunity, the satisfaction of the Methodist Church that Victoria was about to join the federation of Colleges affiliated to the University of Toronto, and to make its home in Queen's Park. He stated his belief that the educative power of Victoria College would be greatly increased through this affiliation, and took it as an omen of the increased efficiency of the Methodist Church to supply the educational requirements of its own people.

Dr. Nelles followed in a highly eulogistic and eloquent strain. He referred to the great pleasure it gave him to stand upon the same platform with the honoured President of University College, as a fellow worker and ally in the cause of university education. He congratulated the Methodist Church and Victoria College that it was in the near future to work side by side with University College in the common cause of higher education. Dr. Nelles spoke very hopefully of the future of his own college. He modestly referred to its achievements in the past, and predicted much greater results in the future. The doctor then spoke at length upon the attitude of the Provincial Government towards the Provincial University, and urged very strongly the necessity of immediate expenditure. The professoriate staff he described as altogether inadequate to the requirements of the large and ever increasing numbers of students attending the University. A hall of sufficient size to answer all purposes was a crying necessity, and he hoped the Government would give the matter immediate attention. During Dr. Nelles' speech several rather unseemly remarks were made by a few recalcitrants at the back of the hall. Visitors, at least, should be safe from interruption and annoyance. It was not in the best possible taste for a humorously disposed individual to call out *A-men* in ultra-clerical style at the end of one of the doctor's periods.

Dr. Wilson then delivered his annual address, which has been very fully reported in the daily papers, and needs no recapitulation here. The President spoke with that unpretending eloquence which always characterizes his addresses, and he was listened to with careful attention, even by the gentlemen in the rear. He courteously welcomed Victoria College, and took the opportunity of disclaiming the inuendo that it would be practically reduced to the level of a theological college. For his own part he was glad that Victoria had come into federation as an Arts college, and hoped that with greatly increased appliances, it would do still better work than it had done in the past. Before closing, Dr. Wilson publicly thanked the friends of University College who had generously contributed medals, scholarships and prizes to supply the loss occasioned by the expropriation of scholarship funds.

THE VARSITY also may be allowed to welcome the new affiliated college, and to extend to it hearty congratulation upon its present removal to the centre of learning and refinement in this country. We have every confidence in the future of the University to which we owe our existence. We believe it is destined to rank among the first educational forces in the world. As the tide of civilisation moves with slow but certain step from the old world to the new; and as even now this continent stands in the full light of the wisdom of the past, and gathers power for the wisdom of its own hereafter, our University, even now in the forefront, has a future before it which is not to be bounded, but by the fancy of prophetic vision. To this University does Victoria come; of it may she prove herself a worthy member.

COMMUNICATIONS.

HAZING.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—I think it right that the facts set forth in the letters from the College Council read at the first meeting of the Literary Society, should be presented prominently to the notice of all students. As no doubt there are many who did not hear the letter read, it may be well to recount here the position of the Council in the matter. It will be remembered that we were refused last year the use of Convocation Hall for public meetings, and as a consequence it followed that strained relations subsisted between the Society and the Council until the close of the year.

In the letter I have spoken of above, the College Council has condescended to explain, and it at once becomes apparent that like most other misunderstandings, this had at bottom nothing but what will commend itself to the good sense of all. The Council has decided to allow the Society the use of Convocation Hall as of old, wishing the students, at the same time, to bear in mind the following statement of fact. The insurance companies which have risks on the buildings have notified the Council that should a fire occur while students are in the vaults or otherwise about the buildings at illegal hours, the risks will be invalid.

This speaks for itself; and it is to be hoped that it will merit the attention it deserves.

STUDENT.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—Steps were taken in the Literary and Scientific Society during the past year looking to a course of lectures to be delivered under the auspices of that Society. A committee was appointed and reported that the season was then so late that it was practically impossible that year to secure desirable lectures. Still later again the Political and Science Club were in treaty with Henry George. The Literary Society took action in the report presented and appointed a committee to sit during the summer and make what preliminary arrangements were necessary. By this the matter would be in a sufficient state of forwardness at the opening of the active work of the Society, to ensure a good course of lectures during the winter.

The students of every American College worthy of the name manage to secure for their course a very respectable lecture talent. There is an institution calling itself the Redpath Lyceum Bureau, Boston, U. S. A., through whose agency, even at this late day, it might be possible to complete a course. The Society could readily provide a series even from among Canadian men of letters and science. The matter should not be allowed to drop, an enterprising effort on the part of the Society would place the success of the movement beyond doubt.

The neverfailing objection to any new departure, Will it interfere with the conversazione? will be sure to be urged. But our body of students ought to be able to support more than one College event during the year.

VERITAS.

THE TUG OF WAR.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—In the language of Bret Harte's Truthful James, I would rise to exclaim sadly,

"What is this that I see,
My eyes do I doubt?
Which it's puzzling to me,
Or is visions about?
Is our civilization a failure,
Or is the Caucasian played out?"

For I can hardly believe the evidence of my senses—*did* four freshmen, unhazed at that, draw after them ignominiously, with a degrading rope, four seniors,—four seniors,—four fourth year men, and among them the *Mufti* of residence? Four seniors drawn *multa reluctantes*, like Virgil's bull!

I tossed on my bed in sleepless unrest, multitudinous thoughts surging through my brain all Thursday night. *O trumpety, O Moses!* I exclaimed. Have the seniors lost all the Roman vigour of their predecessors? Are they not the heirs of glorious traditions? Are the times wofully changed, that they cannot hold their own against the invading hordes of the unhazed? "Let them not lay that flattering function to their sole," as a great author has said.

And this is why I rise to remark, tearfully, as before,

"What is this that I see,
My eyes do I doubt?
Which it's puzzling to me,
Or is visions about?
Is our civilization a failure,
Or is the Caucasian played out?"

TUGSONOFOGUN.