

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XI.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, MARCH 15, 1892.

No. 20.

Editorial Comments.



IN the issue of VARSITY of Nov. 17, 1891, we discussed the position occupied by the Fellowships in our University system. We wish to return to the subject in the hope that the attention of the authorities may be drawn to certain ill results of the present arrangement, and to certain points in which the spirit, which prompted the institutions of Fellowships, has been forgotten.

In an official declaration the position of the Fellow is thus defined: "Each Fellow is required to assist in the teaching and practical work of the department; to pursue some special line of study therein; and to devote his entire time during the Terms to the work of the department under the direction of the Professor or Lecturer. The Fellows are selected with a special view to their aptitude for teaching, along with their acquirements in the work of the department to which each Fellowship is attached. Every Fellow on accepting his appointment comes under an obligation to fulfil the duties of his Fellowship during the terms of the academic year in which he is appointed, unless specially exempted."

This is far from the ideal Fellowship, being merely a compromise between such and a Lectureship, yet when the financial position of the University is considered, the liberality of the authorities should certainly be commended, and their good intention to aid aspiring merit should receive all praise. But the *institution* of the Fellowship is not all; it remains for those in authority to see that the conditions to be complied with *can* be carried out, and *are* carried out.

Now first the Fellow, while taking part in the work of teaching, is expected to pursue a special line of study. We fear that in many instances the amount of lecturing required of the Fellow precludes the possibility of his doing so. It is even said that in some cases he has hardly time to prepare his lectures. If these are facts, we claim that the original object is not attained. The Fellow is a Lecturer—the sixth master of our former comment—poorly paid, and oft changed. This is a state of affairs satisfactory, we should think, neither to Faculty nor to students. Here certainly the conditions to be complied with, *can not* be carried out.

But this cannot be said of the Fellows in all of the departments. The Fellow who has time to engage in pursuits foreign to his special department, cannot complain of overwork in the way of teaching. That a great many of our Fellows have so engaged themselves is a fact sufficiently well known, and we have merely to draw attention to it. If a Fellowship is viewed as accessory to a course in Theology, Medicine or Law, as a means of complementing stipends from night schools, ladies' colleges,

etc., or as a convenient halting-place where the weary pilgrim specialist may water his camels, acorn his swine, and wait for something to turn up, then we say the conditions of the Fellowship are *not* carried out.

In the case of these latter a double wrong is done. Added to the fact that an obligation has been treated lightly is the other fact that in many cases a gross injustice is done to those, who, hampered financially and desirous of prosecuting their studies, would use the Fellowship aright.

We hope that these matters may be looked into; if so our object has been attained.

MY DEAD FRIEND.

I had a friend, but now I am alone;
Death took him young, and left me to bemoan
A vanished face;
Yet he is with me still—my prince of men,
For souls of friends are often nearest when
Apart in space.

Mine was the feverish soul, the fret, the sin;
His was the calm without, the depth within—
The clear, vast brain;
How much of me he filled I ever feel,
And in his death old Time will never heal
My sense of pain.

Imagination, love, fancy and wit
Feathered with fun the shafts with which he hit
The false, the base;
But, like the Grecian's spear, his arrows cured
The wounds they gave, while the wise words allured
To nobler ways.

His soul and face kept time like works and dial;
And his was that calm strength in fiercest trial
That goodness brings;
Transparent truthfulness in word and deed
He shewed, and his true soul was swift to read
The truth of things.

His being burned with that intensest fire,
Which in a young Marcellus we admire
With reverent fear;
Blazing like that star in a by-gone sky,
That, brighter than its peers, shone but to die
Within a year.

The tribute that the Spartan soldiers gave
To a dead comrade, on thy early grave,
Dead Friend, I write—
*We missed thee when the hour of battle came,
But what thou wast has led us like a flame
Of conquering light.*

CHARLTON BLACK.

At a recent meeting of the faculty of Lehigh University it was decided to charge a tuition fee of \$100 per annum after January 1st, 1892. Free tuition has been in vogue, but increased attendance necessitated a change.