

exponents. At half-time the score stood 7-6 for Queen's and the lead was maintained to the end, leaving the students winners by 13-8. It is to be hoped this is merely the first of many such interesting contests.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

#### THE CONCURSUS.

*Editor of "The Journal":*

THE senate last session, before the sitting of the Arts' court, made it known that if the Arts' court were raided, they would abolish the three courts. And when we give the matter a little calm deliberation, we must admit that unless the court system be reformed it would be better if they were abolished. For the court system at Queen's often degenerates from an instrument to vindicate justice into the means for a clique to vent their vengeance, or, on the other hand, into mere horse-play to create amusement for the audience at the expense of the prisoners.

The originatoin of the concursus had a good end in view—to curb incidental bumptiousness, and to promote decorum among the students. Self-government was morally supported as promoting independence among university men. The principle is a good one, if properly applied; but we are satisfied that if the senate knew the inner workings of the concursus at present, they would change their attitude concerning it. The students to-day are in a better position to detect erring ones than the governing body. In fact the students, (if they were bent on this alone) could find out violations and wrong doing that it would be impos-

sible for the senate to do. In early days, we understand, the concursus carried out the object of its inauguration, and was then a commendable institution. But, sad to say, instead of advancing, we have in this respect deteriorated. If is a reflection on university men, supposedly advanced in ideals, that this should be so, and that higher education has not advanced them to having at least chivalry enough to promote equality and justice among their fellow students. It is all very well to indulge in maudlin sentimentality about the courts being time-honored, and therefore just, but from the prisoners standpoint it is quite different.

The court system at present is inadequate, and fails to cope with the problem of self-government. Two years ago the faculty of science had to step in and fine the freshmen fifty cents each for breaking seats in the mathematics room. Last year the faculty in science had to fine some of the sophomores for spitting tobacco in the drafting room. Two years ago the drawers in the chemical laboratory were burglarized. There was no systematic attempt by the courts to find out the culprits. Moreover, the courts are in three faculties, and a man can hide behind one faculty from another. Last session the senior judge in Arts, who was the valedictorian, in his address, referred to the court system, and advised a change. Probably his conscience was pricking him for his decisions at the Arts courts.

At present each of the three courts generally has one sitting each session (supposedly oftener if necessary, but almost invariably never more