

THE VARSITY

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Editorial Comments.



It is with a certain degree of anxiety that we take up the pen recently laid down by the late editor-in-chief, Mr. J. A. McLean—anxiety for the welfare of *THE VARSITY*, as well as its continued popularity among the subscribers generally.

The editorial column, in the past, has been filled with well-written, spicy articles on current topics affecting University life and actions, which have displayed no partisanship nor bigotry, but have always maintained a thoroughly neutral course on all debatable subjects.

For these reasons it will be hard for us to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors and keep the editorial columns as free from evidences of individual prejudices as heretofore.

Still the success of a college paper by no means depends altogether on its editorial column, but to a much greater degree on general matter contained therein—such as the accounts of the proceedings of the various societies, its sporting column, its letters, and its locals.

The success attendant on the efforts of the editors in the past inspires us to put renewed confidence in our subscribers and rely on them to keep *THE VARSITY* up to its former high standard as a mouthpiece of the students on all subjects relating to college life.

We will be most happy to receive letters from any student who has suggestions to offer on any scheme which comes up before the student body for consideration.

As to letters. Newspaper men tell us the great trouble with regard to letters sent to them for insertion has been their length, circumlocution, and ambiguity. Let us be brief. No long, well-rounded sentences, which do not convey facts, but merely an evident attempt on the part of the writer to imitate some noted journalist whose chief recommendation is his peculiarity of style and not his strict adherence to the truth. All gratuitous contributions to the letter column, as well as others, should be boiled down to such an extent that the subject may be presented to the student-reader in as concentrated a form as possible, because he has not time to analyse every article to find out any beauty of style or diction which may be hidden therein.

Let us be plain. No high-flown, classical-sounding words and phrases, but good "every-day" English, which will beget a truer response from the heart of the student, a firmer belief in the truth of your statements regarding the scheme or reform you are advocating, a greater sympathy on your behalf than any long-worded, heaven-piercing dissertation which the ordinary reader has to puzzle his brain to understand.

Some students seem to have the erroneous idea, because they are not pursuing a course in English, it must

needs be they cannot write a readable letter. For this reason we lose many valuable suggestions from those who are afraid of expressing their opinions through the medium of the college paper on account of the adverse criticism which they fear will follow. Still it is a very significant fact that the average adverse sarcastic critic possesses a cerebrum whose weight and complexity is in the inverse ratio to the length and scurrility of his criticism. We have had many evidences in the past of persons who were practically unheard of during their college course, but who afterwards took a high stand in journalism as well as in the professions. Any person who has a scheme truly at heart can and will find suitable means of expressing himself and words with which to do it. Hence our appeal. Let every student take an interest in his college paper, and contribute in some way towards its prosperity. We cannot expect to accomplish anything without your assistance.

As this is the first issue of *THE VARSITY* for the year 1892, we wish to draw the attention of the students to the importance of their attendance at each and every meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society.

There is no association around college which has so many claims on the student-body as this most important institution, devised for the maintenance of a college spirit, the cultivation of literary tastes, the training of public speakers, as well as the innumerable advantages of social and intellectual intercourse. This Society is truly the students' parliament, and should be looked upon as such. It is here that all business is transacted which affects the whole mass of students, and in time we would like to see it transformed into a sort of council, which would have for its consideration all questions relating to university life and customs, and by means of it let every person in attendance on lectures, in every department of our University, keep himself in touch with all clubs, societies, and associations that materially affect the welfare of the College.

It shows a great lack of college spirit, this division into clans and sects. We are altogether too clannish as regards class societies, clubs, associations, and, in fact, organizations of all kinds, but not nearly clannish enough when speaking of the College as a whole. The average Fourth Year student of the Medical Department of our University seems to have nothing in common with the Fourth Year man in the School of Practical Science. Should it be thus?

Students pursuing a course in Theology, Medicine, Science, Law or Arts should have one common end in view, and that the promotion of a firm bond of union among all the different departments of our University, and thus present one common front to all outsiders. As things exist at present we are not looked upon as members of the same college—we are that in name but not in reality.

How is such a union to be effected? It cannot be done.