

# University Gazette,

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## Editors for 1877-78.

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THE QUESTION OF A POLITICAL EDUCATION, brought to our notice by the Rev. Prof. Murray in his lecture on "The Study of Political Philosophy," delivered by him last week, is one which deserves our serious consideration. Our Universities do not specially train men for the arena of politics, and we ought of ourselves to study and watch closely the political questions before the country, and the entire management of public affairs. At most it can only be a few years before the government and guidance of public affairs will, in this country, be entrusted to those who are now young men; and it is for us, to a large extent, to determine whether we are to allow the positions of honor and trust in the country to be filled by men wholly incapable from their want of education and political training. If we look at the composition of parliament to-day, we will find that the great majority of those who compose that body know not the first principles of political philosophy, and have never studied legislation as a science. The future greatness of our country will depend upon the wisdom of her legislation. Our system of government is one based upon the will of the people, as expressed through the ballot, and our parliament is but the exponent of that will. In order, then, to secure wise legislation, the popular mind must be educated upon political questions. How is this to be accomplished? Clearly, to a large extent, as the learned Professor says, "by men who take a leading part in the government of the country,"—namely, the politicians. But who to-day are the politicians? They are, with few exceptions, men who have spent their lives in the acquisition of wealth, and whose every energy and thought has been directed in that channel. Having accomplished this they seek a *status* which they think will be secured to them if they have but the right to place the letters "M.P." after their names. They do not seek this position from any desire to benefit their country or to be instrumental in her legislation. They are not actuated by any such philanthropic motives; self is the grand centre around which they revolve. They seek this position merely

to satisfy an inordinate personal ambition, dictated by ignorant self-conceit. These are not the men who are to become popular educators, and men fit to elevate the public mind on the science of politics. Yet our University men throughout the country are every day compelled to stand aside and see those placed above them who are in no respect their equal, unless it be in regard to wealth. We owe to our country and to ourselves, to see that education, and not ignorance, shall be the leading characteristic of our future public men. The demagogism which is displayed in the political campaigns carried on by both parties in this country is a disgrace to us as a people. Were members of parliament men of University training, men who have studied politics as a profession, and who had some other object on entering the House than the gratification of a mere personal ambition, our politics would not be what they are to-day—a mere party squabble—and the future outlook of Canada would be brighter.

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THE WOMAN'S RIGHTS QUESTION, viewed as regards the admission of women to Universities, is a subject that may very properly be discussed in a college journal. Toronto University has lately opened its doors to women, of course, under certain conditions, residence not being required, nor are so many and arduous examinations imposed as in the ordinary curriculum. The fact of non-residence gets rid of one great difficulty in University co-education. We refer to the possible generation of scandal among the students, who, if residence were required, would be for three or four years thrown together without any of the home restrictions to which they had been previously accustomed. On the other hand, the arts degree is much more easily obtained by women than men. In the United States neither of the two leading universities, Harvard and Yale, have hitherto taken any steps in this direction. Some of the minor colleges have, however, done so, notably Oberlin, and with very good results—according to their own report. Mr. Elliot, some time ago, made a tour of all the American colleges where the system prevails, and on his return he embodied his remarks in a report to the Social Science Association, at Boston, decidedly adverse to the project, and even asserting that it was already on the wane. Mr. Elliot's policy in regard to educational matters has always been marked by extreme liberality, and consequently if any beneficial results might have been expected to accrue from admission of women to universities, we should have expected to see Mr. Elliot among the foremost to adopt it. The question, as a rule, is met with merriment, but still it is one of vast importance. It may be extremely useful for a woman to have an accurate knowledge of physiology to assist in the rearing of children, but it is of far greater importance