

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. X.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DECEMBER 16, 1890.

No. 11.

Editorial Comments.



THE year eighteen ninety, memorable in the history of our College, is fast drawing to a close. With chiming of bells and joyous acclamations the world will soon be greeting the advent of eighteen ninety-one. Hope says:

"The new year will be joyous, no more sorrows, no more woes. The new will redress the wrongs of the old, the bright and happy days to come will wipe out the grief and the stains of the past. Be of good cheer. The glittering future is ours with all glowing possibilities." Thus in a little while, hopeful of the future, men will congratulate one another with smiles and hand-shakings upon the birth of another year. And in the midst of this universal joy shall we alone be silent? Have we not cause for congratulations, have we not good reason to hope for a prosperous future?

The Spring of 1890 saw our Alma Mater in ruins, our beloved College lying prostrate from an awful blow, her alumni scattered, confused and well-nigh hopeless. The winter of 1890 beholds that College with her strength renewed like the eagle's and with her protecting alumni drawn about her, stronger, greater, dearer even than before, rearing her shattered walls to heights more and more exalted, and sheltering within those walls, shattered though they be, a student-body that has proven itself in class list and on campus well worthy of her fostering care.

The contemplation of this must make the heart of every true son of old Varsity throb with pleasure. The editors of THE VARSITY—and this reminds us that to this notable year is due the rejuvenation of our College paper—share in this feeling, and as we look on the noble spectacle of our College rising majestically from the ruins, we feel inspired with a love and admiration for her hitherto unfelt.

But now we turn to the future. Eighteen ninety-one with all its possibilities is close upon us, and we are impelled to ask ourselves the question, what will the new year bring forth? Our College, notwithstanding the ill-fated 14th of February, is prospering, and so long as graduates and undergraduates stand fast about her, helpful and hopeful, she will continue to prosper.

Stone walls do not a prison make,

nor do they make a university either. The past year has demonstrated this fact quite clearly. We know now, if we knew it not before, that the strength of the University of Toronto lies not in her magnificent buildings, but in the hearts of her devoted alumni. Confiding then in this strength and in the source from which it emanates, we feel that our Alma Mater has nothing to dread from the future.

We now approach a matter that touches us all quite as closely. Upon the 7th of October of this year, THE VARSITY was launched forth on the sea of university journal-

ism. Notwithstanding the fact that it was under the protection of the Literary Society, this enterprise was undertaken by the directors with no slight feelings of anxiety, uncertainty and responsibility. Only the confidence they had in the support of the student body, and the hope of its most active and hearty co-operation, induced them to venture upon the publication of a College journal. Time has shown that they were not trusting to a bruised reed. Graduates and undergraduates of the University, by their prompt and ready response to the call for support, have justified the hopes of the directorate in such a way, that THE VARSITY, in spite of conflicting circumstances, has pursued the course she entered upon with daily increasing prosperity. For this prosperity we are indebted not so much to the prudence of the directors, or the zeal of the staff, or the generosity of the graduates, as to the hearty co-operation of the student body. THE VARSITY is essentially an undergraduate's paper. "Of the students, for the students, and by the students" is our motto, and of this the undergraduates should never be forgetful. Students of Toronto University, the continued and increasing success of this paper lies entirely in your hands. Only through your sympathy, your enthusiasm and your contributions can we continue to prosper. Each and every one of you has a duty to perform, and the success of THE VARSITY in 1891 depends upon the way in which you discharge these obligations that now devolve upon you. We expect every man who has the welfare of this enterprise at heart to be mindful of THE VARSITY during Christmas vacation. In the New Year we shall expect further contributions from you, and it is within your power to see that our expectations will not be vain.

To one and all, faculty, graduates and undergraduates, THE VARSITY has great pleasure in wishing a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

We have been asked to call attention to two or three other actions of a similar character to those to which we referred last week. Time and again the President has appealed to the students to have a care for the furnishings of the class rooms, but seemingly without avail, as damage amounting to a very considerable sum has been done already this year. "Arnold's Phraseological Dictionary" and a copy of "De Quincey" have been surreptitiously removed by some persons from the library and not returned. We would fain believe that this has been the result of thoughtlessness, but from the fact that these books are still missing render that supposition unlikely. We cannot too strongly condemn such an action, the consequences of which will doubtless be injurious to the whole student-body. The loss to the library is inconsiderable, but the students will suffer in being denied many liberties of which, except for such acts, we would have shown ourselves worthy.