

JAKE.

"SO you have got graduated, and come home to rest awhile after all your larnin', have you? My sakes! but you've got to be sich a great young lady I'd hardly a knowed you to be the same little gal, knee-high to a grasshopper, who I used to take a fishin'. Not too big to go a fishin' with old Sile yet? Well come on then, we'd best be a startin'. Yes—education is a great thing—where's that can of worms—can you steer any better'n you used? Now, were off—better fishin' further down stream. Yes, as I was saying, edication is a great thing. They didn't used to do so much of it in my day as they do now. I remember we used to all think Jake Young was crazy cause he would spend his share on larnin'. Poor Jake! 'Taint many would die just cause they couldn't have all the larnin' they wanted. How? Yes, die. How? Well, it's a long yarn, but you allus was a good listener.

"You see, old man Young died and left his farm to his two eldest sons. The little money he had, he left to Jake cause he was the youngest, and he was lame and couldn't work hard. Nobody liked any of the Youngses. They were a surly, cross-grained lot, but I never thought Jake was half bad. The other two hated him cause he allus would go to school. Nothin' couldn't never keep him home and he allus knowed his lessons, 'ceptin' his figures. Jake could not larn figures. No use talkin', they staggered him. None of us cared to go anywhere after we got too big to go to the village school. But Jake, someways or other, he managed by walkin' five miles each way every day to go to town school. To this day I do not know how he done it. This riled his two brothers, who wanted Jake to put his money in machinery and sich. But no, Jake he was stubborn and larn he would. Anyways he got so far as he could try some exam. so's he could go down to Toronto to college. Well, he wrote on that thar exam. four times. Figures knocked him out every time. Latin and Greek and sich he larned quicker'n wink—my, it was grand to hear him talk them! How well I member the last time he wrote! We was threshin' down at Higginses. From where I was I could see the road, where the mail wagon would go down to the village with the papers. We all knowed Jake would find out if he could go to Toronto if his name was in print. I never liked his brothers but I hated them that day. It was so hot, simply scorching. Jake was pretendin' to work but I could see he was getting narvous. Finally we heard wheels, I seen it was the mail and nodded to Jake who dropped his fork and louped off—he had such a funny hoppity-skip—across the field. In half an hour he came back. I just looked once at him. He allus was terrible ugly. I never yet can think of him without thinkin' of our old nut crackers at the same time. I don't know why. His forehead came away out and his chin went away in. But he did look terrible. He let his under lip hang down and his eyes—just like a horse when you're flixin' its sprained leg. I couldn't a bear to say a word. I knowed he had failed agin. Jake picked up his fork and stared hard at nuthin'. Then one of his brothers sez mean like 'Well, supposed you figured it out all right this time?' With that somethin' in Jake seemed to give way. I knowed then he would never try agin, cause he didn't say like he said before 'Boys, I knowed I mixed that x and y'—whatever they may be. He simply throwed himself face downwards in the straw and sobbed and sobbed like a child. His whole crooked back seemed to twist and turn as he lay there. If one of his brothers had a said anythin' then I would a pitched into them. Somehow I would a give my new gun to a been able to said somethin' cheery like, but it seemed like when Rachel in the Bible cried—no one could comfort him. So by-and-by supper was ready and when I sneaked in some bread afterwards I could not find Jake. No, he never tried agin. Next I heard he was givin' a lecture on 'Matrimony.' Lectures was great treats so the little old dull hall was jammed full. We all cheered when Jake louped up on the platform. Oh, I guess it was all right! He allus was daft on Latin and knew more about it than matrimony. Never

had a girl in his life! Anyway he spouted lots of stuff—he was the only one who knowed what it was. Then the old squire got him a permit to teach school. The boys run him out, cause they thought the Latin he quoted was a sign for them to begin a funny scrap. This failure seemed to knock Jake up entirely. Might as well tell the rest? It is too sad— Well, if you must have it. Jake was missed. His brothers were in no hurry to find him. Guessed 'he had went off to some of his durned exams.' Some neighbors found his skeleton next spring in an old sugar shanty. They burried his bones with what the squirrels had left of an old Latin book he had in his hand. There now!—I might a knowed better than tell a girl such a yarn—they allus cry for nuthin—did you see my old red handkerchief anywhere?"

ENIGMA.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY.

Sir,—In a recent conversation with a Princeton graduate who was active in establishing the debating league between his own university, Yale, and Harvard, I was much interested to learn that it is the practice of these institutions to allow every one of the debaters two short periods of time instead of a single longer one, the first for the presentation of preconstructed arguments and the second for an extemporaneous reply to the opposing orators. At the inception of the league, Princeton alone favored this plan, Yale and Harvard advocating the system in vogue now in Canada; and, consequently, during the first season a compromise was adopted that gave a second period to two only of the three speakers allowed to each side. However, the next winter the New England universities were quite ready to try the Princeton plan in its entirety, and it has since been followed by universities throughout the length and breadth of the United States. Its advantage is obvious. Extemporaneous speeches on subjects familiar to the makers are demanded in practice quite as frequently, I should think, as orations carefully prepared. This is especially the case among parliamentarians, in whose number the public appears to be more and more desirous of seeing university graduates. Now, the Princeton system gives adequate encouragement to the cultivation of just such a ready and deft style of eloquence as befits the easy but keen debater. Our own system, on the other hand, does not. Nay, against those students—and they are probably not few—who can speak at their best when free from the bondage of a straining memory and the trepidation arising from long contemplation of the ordeal of a public disputation, it rather discriminates. It would certainly be worth while, therefore, to try an adaptation of the Princeton system at Toronto in the debates of our year clubs and literary societies. Later, the change, if found satisfactory, might be introduced in the inter-college and inter-university leagues. I hope the students of the lower years will, at any rate, consider this suggestion valuable enough to note for reference next fall.

A. EDWIN HAMILTON.

University College, February 28.

NOTICE.

The business manager will be in his office on Wednesday from 9 to 1, and on Thursday from 11 to 1, to receive subscriptions. Those who have not paid are requested to attend to this matter, and so avoid inconveniences later on in the term.