

# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

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The UNIVERSITY GAZETTE will be published fortnightly during the College Session.

Rejected communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

## Editorials.

### A DENIAL.

We desire to contradict an impression which prevails with some people, that this paper is the property of, and conducted in the interests of a certain society. No greater untruth can be imagined. Neither the proprietors nor the editors of the GAZETTE represent any others than the students and graduates of this University, considered as such. The columns of the paper are open to the expression of every shade of opinion, and all who wish to have any dealings with us may depend upon receiving fair play. We regret that this explanation should be necessary, but, as some malicious persons are to our detriment, industriously circulating the false report above mentioned, we are forced to give it this emphatic denial.

### THE SCIENCE FACULTY CRITICIZED.

WHILE we feel grateful to the men who have made the Science Faculty what it is, we should not overlook the fact that its future prosperity depends chiefly on the success of its graduates. Should they prove to be unfitted, by the nature of their education, to accomplish well the work required of them, their deeds will reflect discredit on their *Alma mater*. On the other hand should they be successful in undertakings requiring much practical skill as well as scientific knowledge,

the Faculty need not waste money in advertising; its halls will always be well filled. Its undergraduates comprise young men from all parts of the Dominion, many of whom are, and have been for years, wholly dependent on themselves to procure means for the prosecution of their studies. Owing to the nature of their early training and the circumstances in which they have been placed they are inclined to regard every undertaking in its practical bearings. They are unwilling to spend time and money in studies without closely calculating the benefits that are likely to accrue from them.

Professors, in their zeal to make departments under their charge famous, may unintentionally inflict heavy tasks, whose utility is doubtful, on this class of students. From our own experience we know that a teacher is apt to pay more attention and give undue prominence to the subject in which he excels. It must, however, be conceded by all that although such a course is pleasant to the teacher it may not be advantageous to the pupils. To the one whose main object in life has been—not how shall I earn a living—but how shall I become a famed mathematician, mathematical calculations and the unfolding of principles which are supposed to form the basis of engineering science will, in all probability, prove interesting.

It is not our duty to criticise without careful consideration the course of study that wiser men than we have mapped out for us. Our aim is to ascertain, if possible, whether it is to our best interests to spend the greater part of the third and fourth years of a four years' course in solving difficult problems by the aid of formulæ which we must be able to deduce by means of the higher analysis.

In relation to this question we may be allowed to quote from Mr. G. L. Vose, whom we know through his excellent practical treatise—"The Manual for Railroad Engineers." He says, "The idea that has sometimes been expressed that an engineer must at any time be able to go to the formation of any formula which he may have to use, shows simply an entire lack of appreciation of the work an engineer has to do. Indeed, many of the formulæ are found upon examination to have no foundation on which any reliance can be placed. A very large part of the rules in the books have been made, not by engineers, but by mathematicians, or by mere engineering scholars; and, how-