

picion against Residence—much of it perhaps ill-founded—is becoming stronger and stronger, and friction and irritation seems to be increasing. Such a state of affairs is almost inevitable as long as Residence remains with its present limitations for receiving students. Two remedies were suggested last term for the relief of the trouble—both radical, both sure cures, but as wide as the poles asunder. One is contained in the sentence in which Mr. McFarlane summed up the conclusion of his now famous article on the subject—"The time has come for the total abolition of Residence." The other is suggested by a sentence of Mr. Gahan's editorial of October 21st—where, however, he was not discussing this phase of the matter—in which he said, "The college authorities . . . far from abolishing Residence should aim at its improvement and extension," and, we would add, such an extension as would accommodate a large proportion of the undergraduates. In the meantime it is the duty of every man in Residence and out to use his influence in building up a strong healthy college spirit without any distinctions of class or place among the men. We consider this a matter of vital importance to the undergraduate body, and we may return to it later.

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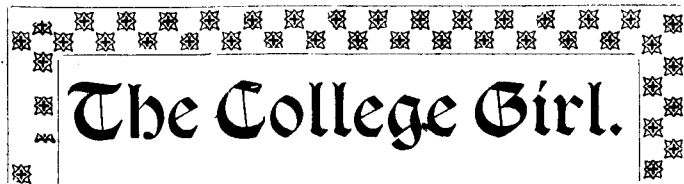
The recent calamity that has befallen our sister university at Ottawa recalls very vividly our own great fire of eight years ago. Though that happened before the present body of undergraduates arrived, the life-long scar remains to remind us only too painfully of our loss. We are able therefore in the truest sense of the word to extend our sympathy to our fellow-collegians in the East.

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There will begin in next issue of THE VARSITY a series of three articles by G. W. Ross '99, on the Lives of our Past Presidents. The subject is one little enough known by most undergraduates, and should prove most interesting and profitable.

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We are sorry to have to ask the indulgence of our readers in this first issue, on account of the late appearance of the paper. We have only to offer the old time-worn excuse expressed in the formula, "circumstances over which we had no control."



A Happy New Year to all the college girls and a large measure of success throughout 1898. "May good luck follow you always and catch up with you every day."

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To say one's parting word, and bow oneself formally out of the columns of VARSITY, only to reappear in the next issue, seems very much like the dodge by which celebrated actors and musicians seeking to enlarge their audience, advertise their performance as "positively the last appearance." It was in all sincerity, however, that I

said my farewell in the Christmas issue. Circumstances beyond my control have brought it about that my name still appears at the foot of the "College Girl" page.

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To college girls generally, the most interesting thing that has happened during the Christmas vacation, is probably the Victorian Era Ball, so I thought possibly a short account of it might be a suitable subject for this page. The daily papers have contained such elaborate accounts of the ball in its general aspects—the very beautiful decorations, the different dances, the general arrangements and impressions—that it is quite unnecessary to attempt to repeat them here. A more detailed account than the papers were able to give of the two University sets will probably prove of more interest.

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The W. L. S. was invited by their Excellencies to supply two sets in the group devoted to literature. The society at once accepted the invitation, and the committee selected the works of George Eliot and the Victorian Drama as subjects for illustration. Then the characters from these works had to be decided upon, and the students chosen to represent them. This done, not a little interest, work, and excitement was caused by the preparations of the costumes and the numerous rehearsals for the dance. The result, however, was entirely satisfactory, as the following quotation from Lady Aberdeen's note to Miss Hunter—written just after the ball—will show.

"Before I go to bed I feel that I must send you yourself, and through you all who took part in the two University sets, the heartiest thanks of His Excellency and myself for the co-operation which did so much to make our Victorian Era Ball a success.

"The get up of the characters was charming, and the drill was very good."

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For the George Eliot set four characters from *Romola* were selected, since that work gave most scope for picturesque costumes. Miss Hutchison as *Romola*, "all white and gold, like a tall lily," and Mr. F. A. Young as the stern Dominican *Savonarola*, were a striking couple. Opposite to them danced *Tessa*, the fair-haired, blue-eyed, "girlish *contadina*," and *Tito* the handsome, learned scapegrace, whose "innate love for reticence and talent for it," caused so much tragedy. These characters were represented by Miss Rosalie Jackson and Mr. J. L. R. Parsons.

From the *Mill on the Floss* came *Maggie Fullier*, "the dark-eyed nymph with her jet black coronet of hair," and *Stephen Guest*, "diamond ring, altar of roses, and air of nonchalant leisure," in the persons of Miss A. Rosebrugh and Mr. R. Y. Parry.

Miss Benson in quaint old Quaker bonnet and kerchief, made a charmingly realistic *Dinah Morris*, the district preacher whose face "was one of those faces that make one think of white flowers with light touches of color on the pure petals." Her partner, Mr. W. A. Sadler, personated *Adam Bede*, the "handsome carpenter with jet black hair." As they move through the figures of the dance opposite to Miss Rosenstadt and Mr. Black who wore the bright and effective costumes of *Fedalka*, the Spanish Gypsy, and *Don Silva* the handsome cavalier of Spain, the natural simplicity of the one couple made a striking contrast with the stately picturesqueness of the other.

Miss McNally the charming heroine of Mr. Gilfil's *Love Story*, who, being of foreign descent, "grew up very much like the primroses which the gardener is not sorry to see in his enclosure, but takes no pains to cultivate," looked daintily sweet in the wedding gown and poke bonnet all of white. Beside her danced Mr. Benson as