

ing urgent attention. One of these, moved in the Senate by MR. HOUSTON, on the same evening as PROF LOUDON'S proposition was made, seems to have been quietly ignored. The establishment of the proposed new graduating department in English, Constitutional History, &c., is most urgently demanded, and deserves serious consideration. We believe it also deserves priority over any radical change in any now existing department, particularly if that change involves any further expense.

In the meantime, little is definitely known outside the Senate of its intentions in the matter, if any intentions have yet been definitely formed. We trust that, even if no funds are forthcoming some plan will be adopted by which justice may be done to the Modern Language department, but without involving consequent injustice in any other direction. We hope, however, that funds will be obtained to equip all Departments fairly and sufficiently.

### Editorial Notes.

We refer our readers to a letter by Mr. J. W. Patterson, M.A., published elsewhere, for an explanation of the reason that the students of Toronto Medical School took umbrage at some recent comment in the VARSITY on the Banquet Elections at that institution. While believing that the report in question was written with no intention of unfairness, we confess that it partook too much of a partisan spirit, and for this reason regret its insertion.

It appears that the proposed Inter-Collegiate sports between Toronto and McGill Universities are destined to be postponed until next year. In our last issue we implied a surprise at the want of energy displayed in completing the necessary arrangements by the McGill students, who count among their number some of the most successful amateur athletes of the Dominion, as the success of their games a fortnight ago can testify. We now find that a misdirected telegram was the real cause of the delay in the arrangements, and since there cannot possibly be such a meeting this year, we hope that the proper steps will be taken at an early date in 1884 to carry out this laudable object.

The Executive Committee of Convocation is proceeding steadily with its work of organization. In a few days, graduates in every county in Ontario will have circulars in their hands calling upon them to take the first steps in the formation of County Associations. Several such are already formed or in course of formation, and the interest shown in the work, from one end of the Province to the other, seems, from information received, to be general and genuine. When an Executive Committee of Convocation can meet, composed of delegates from every county whose representative in our Legislature we have to appeal to, a great step will have been taken by Convocation towards the obtaining of those ends it has set before it as the objects of its existence and of its renewed activity.

The Literary Society is about to establish a course of lectures by eminent men on popular questions during the academic year. We congratulate the Society on their attempt to move from out the groove in which they have quietly glided for many years, and trust their efforts to bring the Society prominently forward, and to profit by the instruction afforded by such means may be crowned with the deserved success. Matthew Arnold is soon to visit Toronto. Could he be secured to deliver a lecture under the auspices of the Society, we are sure the action would be unanimously endorsed by his many admirers among the student body, and public in this city. We hope that arrangements will be early completed, and some able and eminent men retained for a series of say four lectures for this year.

The scheme of founding a University Club, broached some weeks ago in the VARSITY, is attracting favorable notice from graduates in Toronto and elsewhere. Indeed, if such an institution could be founded on sheer enthusiasm, we believe the club might be in active working operation to-morrow, but the

financial backing necessary, even to such a modest beginning as ought to be made, is considerable; and, starting under most favorable circumstances, it will take some time to arouse the body of graduates to sympathy with the project, and to get the necessary guarantees. Let the promoters of the idea (for the matter has been taken up definitely), work with all energy and determination, but at the same time let nothing be done hastily. The ultimate success of the club we believe to be assured, but it will be all the more lasting and certain, if the beginnings are small and every step considered.

At the first regular meeting, last Thursday, Mr. Torrington congratulated the Glee Club on the favorable indications for a more than ordinarily successful season. The membership has never before been so satisfactory at the beginning of the term; this may be partly attributed to the fact that an unusually large proportion of good voices have been found in the first year. With so energetic a committee, and so able a director, the club cannot but advance to a high position among the musical societies of the city. The Committee are proposing the raising of a fund for the purchase of a piano, to obviate the difficulty so frequently met with in securing a suitable instrument for practice and performances. It is to be hoped that every musically inclined undergraduate, and there are many, will join the club, and thereby avail themselves of the opportunity of pleasant recreation.

The *Brantford Expositor* of the issue of Oct. 27th, reviews editorially, in an able and systematic manner, the work and needs of the Provincial University. The stand taken in the article coincides exactly with the views always expressed by the VARSITY on the subject, and shows the reasonableness of the conclusion arrived at by the graduates of our University as to the proper source from which to ask and expect aid to our finances. We quote one paragraph with pleasure: A national university, to be of any value, must keep pace with the age, or be even a little ahead of it, and if the Toronto institution is not to fall into the ranks of the smaller sectarian colleges, money must be forthcoming to endow its fellowships, to increase its chairs, and to keep it in the same rank with the leading universities of Europe and America. This is no matter of sectarian and jealous back-biting. It should be the object of every educationist—of every man interested in any of the colleges of the country that the University of Toronto should hold and maintain the position of a national and fully equipped University. And we are more than astonished at the position taken by Principal Grant of Queen's College, when he says that the provincial institution has no more right to such provincial aid than have the denominational colleges; that its hope of aid should be centred in its graduates.

### University News.

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The society held its first public meeting of the year in Convocation Hall, on Friday evening, Nov. 2nd., Dr. Wilson in the chair. A well-filled hall shows that these meetings are not losing their popularity, and if the excellence and brevity of the programme presented last evening can be maintained throughout the year, they are certain not to do so.

The Glee Club gave a selection entitled 'Moonlight on the Lake,' which was rendered in a spirited manner. The hearty reception it met with may be taken as a measure of the disappointment felt at their failure to put in a second appearance; and, by the way, their refusal to sing even the National Anthem seems to require some explanation.

Prof. Ramsay Wright, President of the society, gave an interesting inaugural address which was listened to with marked attention. As it will appear in full in our columns, we shall not attempt to summarize it.

R. J. Duff read the 'Execution of Montrose'. The reader's voice is excellent, but his style lacks vigor.

The subject 'Resolved, that Macaulay's statement, "As civilization advances poetry almost necessarily declines," is erroneous, was then debated. The speaking was of a decidedly high character.

S. C. Robinette's style was excellent, but his language, rather bookish, and his burlesque finish left an impression of insincerity. H. Bowes clothed his thoughts in choice language, but allowed his