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THE VARSITY.

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Topics of the Hour.

In view of the late successes of Toronto men at Johns Hopkins University, it will be interesting to review our standing there. At the recent examinations in December, Milton Haight (Tor. '84) and John R. Wightman (Tor. '71) each received a scholarship. The present representation of Toronto at Johns Hopkins is therefore as follows:—Milton Haight, scholarship in Mathematics; John R. Wightman, scholarship in Romance Languages; John D. Fields, fellowship in Mathematics; Charles Whetham, fellowship in Romance Languages; J. Playfair McMurrich, lectureship in Osteology and Mammalian Anatomy. A facetious member of the staff here remarks to the writer, that if this kind of thing is to go on much

longer, the University of Toronto had better annex Johns Hopkins at once and have done with it. Mr. Whetham further maintained the reputation of his *alma mater* by an able paper read before the recent meeting of the American Modern Language Association in Boston.

In the older countries and in past ages the highest institutions of learning were self-contained and self-seeking. Colleges did not exercise the direct influence on public opinion which they might have done. Their knowledge was not power in a social sense. And this was because they showed no sympathy with the life of the outside world. They cared naught for the people, and the people cared naught for them. But men who are truly educated should know better than to assume such an attitude. They should recognize the fact that it is a nobler occupation to elevate others than to sneer at them. It is the glory of Canada and the United States that the people are proud of their colleges and feel and acknowledge that a benign influence emanates from them. This bond of sympathy between the people and their colleges is greatly strengthened by a custom which is becoming more and more common in Canada, and one which has prevailed for a much longer time in the neighbouring country. We refer to the numerous lectures which are being delivered to the general public by the college professors both in academical halls and elsewhere. There are many souls longing for intellectual light whom stern necessity excludes from the benefit of a regular college course. Cultivated men ought to consider it a pleasure to assist in such a way those to whom fortune has been less kind than to them. We have had occasion to commend the action of our own professors in this direction. It affords us no less pleasure to notice that Trinity College has taken up the same good work. In Montreal also, Mr. J. Mason Mulgan, the assistant professor of Classics in McGill University, is about to deliver a course of ten lectures on Greek poetry, philosophy, and history for the Montreal Ladies' Educational Association. In order that all such lectures should be in the highest degree beneficial, they should be made interesting, and every encouragement, to attend should be given to the general public, even to the extent of numerous personal invitations. It is earnestly to be hoped that such a course of lectures will never degenerate to a means of mere fashionable dissipation for aristocratic idlers.

The seventh Monday Popular Concert took place in the Pavilion on Monday evening last. It was, in some respects, not as interesting as its predecessors. For one thing, there was no quartette. The programme commenced with an "Intermezzo," written expressly for the Toronto Quartette Club by Cornelius Gurlitt, a friend of Herr Jacobsen. This proved to be a pleasing *morceau*, being very melodious and full of good broad harmony. The Club also played the "Praeludium" from the 6th sonata for violin solo, by John Sebastian Bach. The most difficult part for the first violin