

# THE VARSITY

*A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.*

VOL. X.

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No. 1.



IN fulfilment of the promise made in our circular of September the 15th, we to-day present to the University public the first number of Volume X. of *THE VARSITY*. We trust that its appearance and contents may be of such a character as to win that approval necessary to future success.

This is our first experience in the editorial chair, and the realization of that fact might well make us hesitate ere we cast ourselves on the sea of journalism at the head of a paper representing the University of Toronto. The students have placed us in the position we now occupy, and we have no apology to make for their choice. The assurance that we have of the cordial sympathy of the Graduates and Faculty of our Alma Mater and of the active co-operation of the undergraduates gives us hope and courage as we enter upon the task that is before us. If the bestowal of vigorous and constant energy will ensure success, we have little fear of the result.

*THE VARSITY* is now under the management of the Literary and Scientific Society, and therefore is an undergraduate paper. It shall be the aim of the editors to make *THE VARSITY* a mirror of the events, the lights and the shadows of college life, and moreover a true exponent of the views of the undergraduates of the University of Toronto. Managed and edited as it is entirely by undergraduates, *THE VARSITY* can never be in itself a representative of the graduates. But it can be, and intends to be, a medium through which those loyal men and women who have graduated from our halls can keep in touch with us who are still here and with our mutual Alma Mater, and through which they may give expression to the views they hold on matters pertaining to our University. Under all circumstances we shall be loyal to the best interests of our College. But true loyalty does not consist in servile and unthinking agreement with and adherence to whatever the authorities may do or decree. That were poor loyalty indeed! We believe that even now there are things around old *'Varsity* that might be bettered, and it shall be our duty throughout the year to point these out and at the same time to suggest what in our opinion would be changes for the better. It shall be our aim to do our duty in these respects in that spirit of fairness, and with that true desire for what is good, which will commend itself to those who may chance to read or be affected.

We hope to make the literary style of *THE VARSITY* of the highest standard. That portion of the paper devoted to literary productions proper will be edited to suit, not the individual tastes of the editors alone, but rather of the constituency to which we, as a University paper, appeal. We are among the number that believe that events of local interest are especially necessary in a college journal, but in putting this belief into practice we shall endeavour to present our news, not in the stereotypic

phrases of a mere detailed chronicle, but rather after a higher standard of excellence.

We must confess that we are agreeably surprised at the response to our circular and the assurances of goodwill that we have received. The Treasurer has received numerous letters from graduates and members of the Faculty with subscriptions enclosed, and invariably a few lines expressing pleasure at the re-publication of *THE VARSITY*. The Honourable Edward Blake, Chancellor of the University, was among the first to write us, and we feel assured that his example will be followed by many others.

In conclusion we beg our readers' indulgence in their judgment of this number. We have had only one week to contract for the printing, canvass for advertising, procure editorial rooms, prepare the reading matter, and see to the many other incidentals in connection with the first issue of a new paper. At the very last moment we were disappointed in a sketch that we were depending on, and we have to go to press without it. By next week we expect to have everything in perfect running order, and then we hope to remedy whatever deficiencies there may be in this number.

## MEDALS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

There has been so much dissatisfaction among the students over the awards in the May Examinations that it may not be out of place to make some observations on the subject, and give expression to a widespread feeling as to the injustice, as some have termed it, which has been done.

The Class of '90 has the peculiar distinction of having among its members a medalist, who is not the medalist in his department, and at the same has another member who, after taking the highest place in his department, is ignored and the medal assigned to another who cannot be defended as the equal of the gentleman thus treated by those in whose hands the awarding of the medal lies.

We do not wonder that, after reading with great care the works prescribed by Professor Baldwin, and working very closely at all that would give him a thorough grasp of the subject of Philosophy, Mr. McCrimmon was indignant, and wrote on the subject to the papers. When the lists were published there could be but one conclusion from them as to whom the medal belonged, and when it was announced afterwards that he had not been declared the medalist, many of his fellow students joined with him in his indignation. This feeling was in no degree lessened when the reason for such an action was given that Mr. McCrimmon had not attended Professor Baldwin's lectures. It is only a year or two since the medal in Philosophy was given to a student who had not attended lectures. In this way a precedent had been established. If this was wrong then due notice should have been given that hereafter it would not be followed in any case. No such notice was given. Not only in the department of Philosophy, but