

# The News

FRIDAY NIGHT—Constitution night at the Lit.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8th—Assault at Arms.

## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE LIT.

The Students' Union Hall was fairly well filled last Friday evening, with an appreciative audience, assembled for the purpose of listening to the first debate which has ever taken place between Queen's University and University College. There were not many Varsity students present, the majority of those present consisting of people not in actual Academic life. It is to be regretted that Varsity students did not turn out to the debate in greater numbers.

The chair was taken promptly at 8 p.m. by Prof. Wrong, and to his right and left sat Rev. Dr. Milligan and Prof. Alexander, respectively. The chief event of the evening was, of course, the debate. The subject was "Resolved, That Imperial Federation is practicable and advisable from a Canadian point of view." Messrs. Robertson and McDonald, of Queen's, were to have been the affirmative speakers, but on account of both of these gentlemen being ill, they were unable to act, and so Messrs. Cannon and Anthony were sent in their places. The latter gentlemen made excellent substitutes. Messrs. Fisher, '09 (Arts), and Laidlaw, '00 (Arts), represented University College.

In opening the debate the affirmative leader, Mr. Cannon, began by defining what is meant by Imperial Federation. The latter is a union between the Mother Country and Canada, which gives to Canada a fair share of government. Now the present condition of things in Canada cannot last forever, since the people of Canada are seeking for nationalization and perfect legal freedom. Now there are three courses open to Canada. (1) Annexation with United States. (2) Political Independence. (3) Federation with the Mother Land. Of these three there is only one practical, and which appeals to the hearts of the Canadian people. This is the last. Continuing, he admitted there were difficulties in the way of Federation, but he said these could be overcome. He closed his speech by setting forth the benefits and advantages which Canada would derive from a union with England. The great defect in his speech was this; he did not offer a scheme by which to accomplish Imperial Federation. Mr. Fisher, the leader of the negative, began his remarks by saying that the affirmative, in order to prove their case, must show two things: (1) That the existing state of affairs is unsatisfactory to the Canadian people, and (2) That Imperial Federation will benefit us. In a clear, logical fashion Mr. Fisher proceeded to show that the existing order of things was satisfactory, and he deduced many good arguments to show that Canada would lose rather than gain by a union with England. Turning his attention, then, to the remarks of Mr. Cannon, the leader of the negative questioned his definition of the term, and said that what was meant by it was not only a union of England and Canada, but also of the Australian and South African colonies. Now in the way of such a union there are many difficulties which the affirmative

overlooked, and of which the greatest is the lack of a common interest. And hence, even if Federation were accomplished, with no interests in common, the colonial representatives would divide themselves up into separate factions, and the colonies would consequently suffer. In closing, Mr. Fisher severely denounced the affirmative for not offering a practical scheme whereby to accomplish Federation. Mr. Anthony followed for the affirmative, and he was forcible, sarcastic and eloquent by turns. He did not attempt to debate the question on its positive side, but devoted his whole time to replying to Mr. Fisher. He denied the statement of Mr. Fisher that Imperial Federation would injure us, and brought forward many arguments, on the other hand, to show that it would benefit us greatly. The difficulties in the way of Federation, which Mr. Fisher had enumerated, were shown to be no greater than those encountered by the Fathers of Canadian Federation, and easily overcome by practical statesmen. With regard to the negative criticism of the affirmative for not bringing forward their scheme for Federation, Mr. Anthony said it was unjust, as Federation was a work for the future, and it was not for them to say as yet what form the future should give to it. They preferred to leave it for statesmen to decide. Mr. Anthony's speech, on the whole, was about the best of the evening, as it was wholly impromptu. It is not often that we have a debater at the Union get up and make a direct reply as Mr. Anthony did. After Mr. Anthony came Mr. Laidlaw for the negative. The latter devoted most of his time to replying to the arguments of the affirmative. Five minutes were then allowed Mr. Cannon to reply. But his unnatural gestures, and the speed with which he attempted to speak were the cause of a number of interruptions in the Hall, which prevented many of his remarks from being heard. After he was through, the judges, Prof. Wrong, Rev. Dr. Milligan, and Prof. Alexander, withdrew. In their reassembling, the Chairman, Prof. Wrong, announced that after careful deliberation, the judges had awarded the decision to the visitors from Queen's, though the judges were not unanimous in that opinion. The applause which greeted the decision showed that the audience was much of the same mind as the judges. Varsity takes great pleasure in congratulating the victors.

That this, the first debate which has taken place between University College and Queen's, was an unqualified success, was quite obvious to those who had the good fortune to be present. It is to be sincerely hoped, therefore, as the Chairman, Prof. Wrong, remarked, that the Queen's debate hereafter, will be one of annual occurrence, and that next year the Varsity representatives will bear away with them from Kingston the laurels which Queen's representatives won this year at Toronto.

Before the debate, and whilst the judges were arriving at a decision, the following musical and elocutionary programme was well rendered: Solo, Mr. Prizer; violin solo, Mr. Beardmore; recitation, Mr. F. E. Brophy; 'cello solo, Mr. Lucas.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

The Medical Society held a most successful open meeting in the Biological Building last Friday night, at which a large crowd was present.