

# THE VARSITY

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## MOUNTAIN VOICES.

*From Heine.*

A Knight through a mountain gorge,  
At a solemn pace doth ride ;  
" Ah ! shall I come to my darling's arms,  
Or find in death a bride ?"  
The mountain voices sighed :  
" In death a bride !"

The Knight rides slowly on,  
A groan escapes his breast ;  
" Then I am doomed to early death,—  
Ah well ! with death is rest !"  
The voices answering pressed :  
" With death is rest !"

A tear rolled down his cheek,  
And on his bosom fell ;  
" Since death alone can bring me rest,  
For me then death is well."  
The hollow voices swell :  
" Then death is well."

J. H. MOSS.

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

### IV. THE QUEBEC CAMPAIGN.

A very important step was gained when the University and College were at length safely housed in their new home. But so long as the University consisted to so large an extent of the representatives of institutions, whose interests were opposed to it ; while both the graduates and the professors of the College were excluded : it was impossible that harmonious co-operation, or true confidence could exist. An extract from the speech of Dr. Wilson before the Parliamentary committee at Quebec in 1860 will illustrate the feeling that prevailed. Referring to the composition of the senate, and the appointment of examiners, when at length, three of the professors, in addition to Dr. McCaul, had been put on the Board, he said :

" It may sound very plausible to those who know nothing about the facts of the case to talk of the injustice of four Professors sitting on a Board numbering forty-three members, which had the entire control of their courses of teaching and system of study. Let it be remembered, however, that until they were added to it, the seditious of the Senate frequently presented the anomaly of a university and college controlled in all their arrangements by those who systematically withheld, not only the students of Cobourg, but the medical students of Toronto, from the University over which they exercised so much control. Had Victoria, Queen's, or Trinity College actually recognized the University as such, while maintaining a thorough independence as separate colleges, the Senate would never have been driven to the necessity of giving so large a share in the oversight of the University examinations to Professors of University College. . . . But it is a proposition which no reasonable man could entertain, that the Professors of such colleges should—as they now do,—examine their own students, confer degrees on them by right of their own university powers, and even establish a faculty at the seat of the University of Toronto, so as to confer the degrees of Victoria College on Toronto students ; and yet that they should also be the governors and examiners, or electors of the examiners, of the University they disown."

The mischievous results from such a system became at length

so manifest that Sir Edmund Head interposed ; and in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by the University Act of 1853, he, in 1857, named as members of the Senate, three of the Professors, Croft, Cherriman and Wilson ; and to those were added subsequently, Dr. Larratt W. Smith, T. Helliwell, Judge T. Boyd, Adam Crooks, Dr. McMichael, T. E. Thompson, T. D. Armour and J. K. Kingsmill, all old graduates of the University. With this important change the hopes of the friends of the University and College revived.

From accounts given by old members, the Senate must have been a very different body then from the sober matter-of-fact board that now conducts the routine of University business. In those old days it was as clearly divided into two parties as the House of Commons at Ottawa. They had their leaders ; and their fiery discussions were prolonged at times into the morning. With Dr. Ryerson, the skilled tactician, bent on winning for Cobourg a good slice of the endowment ; and not without influence in filling up vacancies on the Senate : it took constant vigilance on the part of the graduates and professors to hold their own. Mr. Langton succeeded to Dr. McCaul as Vice-Chancellor, and did good service, till the removal of the Parliament to Quebec carried him away from the field of action. But, happily, he still held office when the memorable onslaught of 1860 brought the conflict to an issue. The history of that famous struggle is to be found in the " Proceedings and evidence of the Select Committee on the Petition of the Rev. Joseph Stinson, D.D., etc., etc., in relation to the University of Toronto." The blue book is voluminous, but well worth dipping into. At the request of the Senate, however, Mr. Langton and Dr. Wilson prepared a statement including their addresses, with notes and extracts from the evidence. The future historian of the University will not fail to study those documents.

A new generation of graduates has grown up since the exciting times of that Quebec conflict. It is very doubtful if the men of our own day realize how narrowly their University escaped extinction. There was no secret made of the deliberate purpose to break up the endowment and divide it among the denominational Colleges. Dr. Cook was then principal of Queen's College. Dr. Ryerson and Dr. Nelles undertook the cause of Victoria College, under the nominal lead of Dr. Stinson, President of the Conference. The Rev. Provost of Trinity College, and other members of denominational Colleges, also appeared before the Committee. As to their object being the division of the endowment, this was avowed without the slightest disguise, and may be concisely indicated by a passage from Mr. Langton's reply.

" It is argued," he said, " that the Collegiate Institutions supported by the different denominations, have, by the Act, an equitable, if not a legal, right to an apportionment of the University endowment. Dr. Cook supports this view upon what he conceives to be the well known and easily proved policy of the framers of the University Amendment Act ; Dr. Stinson upon what he considers ' the plain letter and obvious design ' of the Act."

This was the contention of the assailants or the University from first to last. Nor was there any mystery as to the purpose of the Government if the petitioners could only succeed in making out their case against the University. The policy of the Government was, long subsequently, set forth very explicitly to a Toronto audience. On the return of Sir John A. Macdonald from England, at the close of 1884, with the distinguishing mark of royal favour, as a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, it will be remembered that he was welcomed by a large and enthusiastic assembly in the Grand Opera House here. On that occasion he explained what his plans for edu-