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## College Topics

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TORONTO, TUESDAY, FEB. 22ND, 1898

## HEARD IN THE HALLS.

The Rev. Prof. Clark, of Trinity University, will give his famous lecture, "The Water Babies" in Victoria College chapel on Friday, February 25th, at eight o'clock, on behalf of the fund for a Residence for the women students of Victoria University.

The open meeting of the Union Literary Society of Victoria, held last week, was well attended, and proved a decided success. The first number on the programme was a debate between the juniors and the graduates, the subject being: "Resolved that the Franchise should be given to Women." The affirmative was supported by W. G. Smith, '99, and R. Emberson, '99; the negative by H. E. Warren, B.A., and John Clubine, B.A. Mr. J. R. L. Starr, honorary president of the society, acted as judge, and decided the debate in favor of the juniors. During the year a series of inter-year debates has been held. This was the first of the semi-finals. The final debate will be between class '99 and the specialists for the championship of the college.

Another very interesting feature of the evening's programme was an address by Mr. Tekagi, on "University Life in Japan." Mr. Tekagi gave some interesting facts regarding the system of education in Japan. Schools, he said, are of three grades, modelled after the plan of the schools of Germany. In the elementary schools an eight-year course was given. Five years were spent in the intermediate schools, and five more in the university. Tokio is the great centre of learning. As many as 50,000 students attend its schools. The course most popular in the university was political science, but the result of the overproduction of lawyers was that there were a great many of what the Japs call "three-cent" lawyers. Japanese students had one great incentive to study. The most eligible man in the matrimonial field was the man who had taken the highest honors at graduation; while the man who failed was doomed to inevitable celibacy. The sports most popular among Japanese students were boating and football. Many of the students take military training, and prove the best soldiers of the nation. In closing, Mr. Tekagi congratulated the members of his audience on the fact that they were born in this country, where co-education was in force.

The unveiling of the picture of the graduating class of specialists was the occasion of an interesting address by Prof. McLaughlin. Both he and Mr. Starr indulged in reminiscences of old Victoria. Music was furnished during the evening by Mr. A. E. J. Jackson, Mr. A. B. Steer, and the Mandolin Club of the College.

The fact that the Trinity conversation was dispensed with this year gave a distinctive tone and an added appreciation to the public debate and dance on Thursday evening. Everyone enjoyed the affair and every credit is due to the committee of the Literary Institute, which consists of President Rev. J. F. Rounthwaite, B.A.; First Vice-President C. Heaven, M.A.; Second Vice-President H. T. S. Boyle '98; Secretary, A. Lee Ireland, '98; Treasurer, H. J. Johnston, '98; Librarian, H. S. Muckleston, '99; Curator, L. McLaughlin, '99; Councillor, H. C. N. Wilson, '97; and First Year Councillor, A. S. B. Lucas, '00.

A very interesting debate was held last week between members of the Varsity and the Victoria Women's Literary Societies. Misses Stovel and Hughes, of Varsity, upheld the study of science, and Misses Kerr and Wilson, of Victoria, the study of literature. The debate was decided in favor of Victoria.

The Classical Association of Varsity will hold an open meeting this evening. The following will be the programme: Some metrical versions of the Odes of Horace, Mr. Crawford (Parkdale C.I.); The Silver Age of Rome compared with Modern Times, Mr. Kingsford; Oxford Types, Professor Hutton.

A large audience of students attended the mass meeting of the S.V.M. in Students Union Thursday afternoon. John R. Mott and Robert P. Wilder addressed the meeting.

The open meeting of the Political Science Association of Varsity will be held Thursday afternoon of this week in Room 9, University College. Deputy Minister of Agriculture James will address the meeting. Mr. James is an able and interesting lecturer, and a large audience will undoubtedly be present.

"Billy" Greenwood, B.A. '97, is now business manager of the *Leamington Post*.

At the Varsity Athletic Directorate elections last week, Gibson and Whitely were the successful candidates for '00, and Smillie for '01.

A large turnout of students is expected to greet W. J. Thorold, B.A. '95, McMaster, who appears at the Grand Saturday evening, March 19th, with Julia Arthur in "A Lady of Quality." It is intended that a programme of college songs will be arranged for the intermissions between the acts.

The Varsity Lit elections will be held Friday evening, March 18th.

At the meeting of the Modern Language Club last week Miss Flavelle, '98, and Miss Alexander, '99, read interesting papers on Keats and Wordsworth.

B. K. Sandwell, B.A. '97, who is now in London, Eng., is preparing for the spring exams at Cambridge.

Ross Gillespie, '00 Arts attended the conversat at the Whitby Ladies' College Friday evening.

The convention of the C.S.M.A. held at Trinity the past few days was largely attended by students of the city.

The programme for the Varsity Philosophical Society Thursday afternoon of this week, will consist of an essay by H. L. Partridge, '98, on "Spinoza," and one by F. C. Malotte, '99, on "Wundt's Theory of Hypnotism."

At the meeting of the Modern Language Club yesterday afternoon, interesting papers were read by Miss E. M. Fleming, '00, on "Racine and the Greeks" and by Miss H. E. Downey, '99, on "Voltaire and the English."

The Saturday afternoon lecture last week by Professor McCurdy, on "Our Debt to the East," was largely attended. Next Saturday Professor Ramsay Wright will lecture in the Biological building on "The Life of the Great Lakes."

Messrs. Inkster, Birmingham and Narraway, Varsity, made several speeches at the conservative rallies last week.

The Varsity Glee Club give a concert in Massey Hall, March 7th.

S. Temple Blackwood, '00 Arts, was in town last week.

### WHAT SHALL I DO?

A QUESTION WHICH COMES TO EVERY STUDENT.

—PRESIDENT ANDREWS, OF BROWN, DISCUSSES IT—THE IMPORTANCE

OF THE CHOICE OF A PROFESSION.

In the February number of the *Cosmopolitan* President Andrews writes a very interesting article on the choice of a profession. He says:—

The selection of the field in which one's life-work is to be done is a momentous act. A wise choice in the matter is in itself a fortune; an error in it can hardly ever be recalled, and nearly always involves losses and pain for which no good fortune afterward can make amends. In about every community one meets victims of ill guidance in this all-important matter; men who, at the critical point in the journey of life, took the wrong road. Some of them succumb quickly and die. Others wander aimlessly and hopelessly about hardly attempting to advance. Many another bravely struggles on only to find, when all his strength is wasted, that the path is too rough, crooked or long for him, or that it traverses a country which he is constitutionally unable to love. Is it not inexpressibly sad that thousands of human lives should be rendered useless and unhappy in these ways? Cannot something be done to abate the evil?

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At first glance it is surprising that comparatively little has been written on a subject so important. The explanation probably is that the choice of a life role constitutes in each instance a highly personal affair, in which it seems folly for any but the man himself to take part. And, certainly the choice must finally be made by each for himself. Outside advice or hints, the best saws of sages or philosophers, can never, in this weighty business, take the place of our own insight, discretion and will.

Yet few solve the problem of a life-calling wholly without counsel. Consciously or otherwise we are, in our decision, helped by what we know of others' decisions. Reflections on the subject by students of human nature seeking to ascertain the causes of success and of failure in life, greatly aid many. It is believed that helpful direction of this kind may be extended further than it has yet been. There may also usefully be given some account of the special advantages and disadvantages of each several profession or calling, the rewards and amenities to be hoped for in it, and the temptations, hardships and other infelicities which its devotees must brave.

Certain favored spirits are never under the necessity of choosing their path in life. Most geniuses are such. They are fore-ordained to this or that mission and somehow become aware of it in good time. From his earliest boyhood Robert E. Lee, like young Hannibal of old, felt called to the profession of arms. Before he was ten Thorwaldsen carved beautifully in wood, excelling his father whose trade it was, and evoking from many observant ones the prophecy that the lad would make a great sculptor. Probably no artist ever becomes famous who is not moved in the direction of his destiny quite early. And many a man neither a genius nor an artist is so obviously fitted for some particular occupation that he need never worry or even deliberate over the question in what field he shall earn his bread. All these cases, however, are exceptional; the majority of human beings are not so fortunate.

A man may be far from sure what profession he ought to adopt, yet really have a pronounced aptitude in some special direction. In such a case the proper precept is: Follow your bent. If the subject possesses various species of ability but is peculiarly brilliant in some one, this his main forte is the thing to give him his cue. Highly versatile people, mentally alert, interested in all the departments of science and of fact, and having considerable but nearly equal powers in various ways, are in much danger of vacillation between two or more forms of endeavor, dawdling awhile over each, till all their richness of faculty is spent and success impossible. The man preaches, we will say, till some reverse overtakes him in that work. Cast down, and aware that he can teach, instead of redoubling his efforts to succeed in the activity first chosen he throws it up and crosses over, a beginner, to the school-room. Sooner or later he becomes discouraged here as well. Having once yielded to depression he probably falls prey to it again, now exchanging the school for the law-office. How many potentially invaluable lives are wasted in such fatal meandering!

Your dull fellow, lacking all special mental interest and without any sense of function or of power, may quite possibly turn out much better than that. If, somehow, he once gets launched in a given enterprise, being single-minded and free from distraction, he is likely to develop triumphant concentration of attention and energy. But how is he to make the start? Perhaps arbitrarily, by a sort of flop, lunging for the first opportunity to work. Splendid results often wait upon such a choice. Better, however, go by friends' advice. President Francis Wayland used strongly to insist that a man's friends are often, if not always better judges of his qualification for a given career than the man himself. Only, when he puts his hand to the craft picked out for him—this, too, formed part of Wayland's philosophy—he must determine to succeed, and hence work like a demon. Interest in the undertaking, even devotion, will then come.

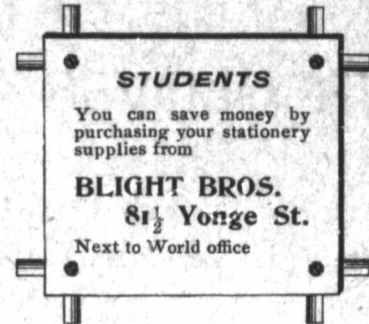
If there are some who deem themselves suited to a calling when they are not, a much larger number foolishly dread suggested callings out of a belief that they could not succeed in them. I am no speaker, a man says: I cannot make either the law or the ministry my orbit. But you have vocal organs, and they can be cultivated. You may also possess all the necessary logical powers. Perhaps all you lack is training information and hard work. The majority of men have greater versatility than they imagine. Within pretty large limits any fairly bright candidate can succeed reasonably well in any occupation to which he gives himself with sufficient preparation and energy. It cannot be too often or vehemently urged that in these days of desperate competition any man a genius even, however perfectly adapted to his branch of activity will fail unless he starts with a good outfit and then works hard early and late. On the other hand, in our era of specialization, every profession has a number of phases. It may be true that you would fail as a pleader, but you might succeed splendidly as counsel, and perhaps rise to be a judge. You might successfully argue civil cases yet find it well to avoid criminal cases. One clergyman does best as a preacher; another, not a star in the pulpit, accomplishes vast good as a pastor. Nearly every profession is thus cut up, making place for diverse tastes and talents.

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