

THE VARSITY.

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OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

The present number of THE VARSITY will be the last regular issue for the present term. A special Holiday Number will appear, it is hoped, before Christmas and before the students leave town for the vacation. It is purposed to make this issue an entirely University one, and contributions are requested from graduates and undergraduates. These should be sent in at once to the editors. Arrangements are being made for the presentation of some special features in the Christmas Number of 1887, which will make it superior to all its predecessors. Subscribers wishing extra numbers are requested to send in their names at once to the Business Manager.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND THE JUDICIARY.

It is a remarkable fact, as Vice-Chancellor Mulock pointed out in his speech at the banquet the other evening, that most of the gentlemen recently promoted and appointed to the Bench in this Province, are graduates of the University of Toronto. Chancellor Boyd, recently promoted to the Presidency of the High Court of Justice, was graduated in 1860, taking the gold medal in Modern Languages; Chief Justice Armour, of the Queen's Bench Division, was graduated in 1850, with the gold medal in Classics; Judge Falconbridge was graduated in 1866, with the gold medal in Modern Languages; Judge Street graduated in Law in 1868, with the gold medal in that department. As a city contemporary points out, the three judges of the Queen's Bench Division are all graduates of the University, and each a gold medallist. This is a coincidence of more than ordinary significance, and is as gratifying as it is remarkable. It is evidence that the University of Toronto has done its work well, and that in the highest department of the civil administration of our Province, its graduates are found worthy to fill the most elevated and important positions.

A PARTIZAN ANTI-FEDERATIONIST.

Mr. W. F. Kerr has been lately airing his views upon University Federation with a freedom of expression and inaccuracy of statement that are as remarkable as they are amusing. It is a pity, however, that Mr. Kerr's excessive zeal on behalf of Victoria College should lead him to make statements about University College and the University of Toronto which are so wide of the truth, and to indulge in inuendos for which there are no foundation whatever. Mr. Kerr's personal opinions are in themselves of no particular public interest, but the persistency with which he reiterates them, and the fact that such, or similar, views are held by others interested in University affairs, make it important that something should be said to correct them.

The President of University College has very effectually answered Mr. Kerr's absurd statement regarding the diplomas of the new University. Mr. Kerr, in criticizing Dr. Burwash's recent magazine article on Federation, said:

"The Doctor's great claim, that the 'bond of each student to his college for the future is secured by the fact that his diploma is at once the diploma of the College and of the University,' is merely another sign of the inferior position which Victoria will occupy

in the federation. That clause in the Act was passed in compliance with the wishes of University College. It is amusing to find it quoted now as an evidence that Victoria will not lose her students under federation—a conclusion that does not appear sound. So fearful were the authorities of Toronto University least by any possibility a Victoria man might be mistaken for a University College man, that they insisted that the name of the college from which he came should be inserted in his diploma. So that a Victoria man must, like the lepers of old, stand afar off and cry out, 'unclean, unclean!'"

To this, Dr. Wilson replies:

"So utterly is this the reverse of the truth that, not only was the clause inserted solely at the request of the late Dr. Nelles and other representatives of Victoria College, but I objected to it at the time, though solely on account of the trouble and delay that must arise in the filling in of the numerous diplomas, no longer with one common formula, but with varying specifications of colleges and diversity of signatures. It was adopted solely on the assurance that it would be acceptable to Victoria College men, and to those other federating colleges."

Like some other anti-Federationists Mr. Kerr's attitude is that of a Jeremiah. He is full of lamentations; Victoria College is to occupy an inferior position, it will become merely a divinity school, and so on, *ad nauseam!* He apparently forgets these facts: that the Methodist Church has decided, rightly or wrongly, for Federation; that the success of Victoria as a component part of the new University depends entirely upon herself and upon her friends, and that it is unpatriotic—putting it upon denominational grounds alone—to discredit and embarrass the authorities charged with carrying out the wishes of the majority of the Methodist Church in this respect. Mr. Kerr and his brother Jeremiahs should remember these things, and should try and rise a little above the level of mere denominationalism in this matter. Let them build up, not throw down; let them stop lamenting, and begin encouraging; let them be national, and not provincial in their ideas.

A great deal of this narrow sectional jealousy which the letters of Mr. Kerr and others show, is born, we doubt not, of ignorance and a want of appreciation of the real facts of the case. A good many supporters of the denominational Universities regard the University of Toronto as an interloper, and as an unnecessary ornament to our educational system. They seem to forget that it is the Provincial Institution, the National University, and as such is entitled to their confidence, respect, and support. In their blind zeal for their own particular connexional institutions, they appear to think that it is a rival which must be crushed at all cost, by means fair or foul, and all that their own college shall grow and increase. It is well to remind these gentlemen that the University of Toronto is not a rival to denominational colleges, in the sense of the word which they make use of; it is the necessary and independent cap-stone of our educational system, which the government was as much bound to establish, as it is now bound to support. The necessity of its existence does not rest upon the same grounds as that alleged for the existence of denominational institutions. Whatever may have been the excuse in the past for their foundation, there is none whatever now for the establishment of more separate Church Universities in this Province. The University of Toronto exists because our educational system exists, and it would exist whether a hundred students or one student attended it. The State is bound to support an institution for higher education just as much as it is to support the primary or secondary schools. For this reason the University of Toronto exists. Among other claims these Church Colleges put forth, is necessarily that of connexionalism and denominationalism; that, for instance, a Methodist should attend Victoria; a Presbyterian, Queens; an Episcopalian, Trinity; and so forth. This is all right and good as far as it goes, but it is apt to be carried too far, and mere denominationalism exalted at some risk to the higher education. The University of Toronto, on the other hand, being a State institution, relies simply upon its standards, its professoriate and the character of the instruction given within its walls, to attract students. It regards with no jealousy the other universities which are doing the same good work which it is engaged in; it asked them to join in a confederation, in which each would exist independently, yet all accept one common standard for degrees.