

The Varsity

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FINANCES

In comparison even with the average undergraduate whose financial straits at this time of the year are a source of painful dismay, the Parliament is as poor as the proverbial church mouse. Theatre Night returned a surplus of three hundred dollars but this amount will be swallowed up in the deficits which the other "money-making" institutions will doubtless present. The position is a most unpleasant one. Not only does the Parliament feel that the services of such men as the Editor and Business Manager of Torontonensis, who put in a year of hard work in the interests of the student body should be amply rewarded, but there is a desire among all those who have had any part in the conduct of undergraduate business affairs to give the institution a financial permanence, in order to insure a sense of responsibility, and a confidence in attacking new problems. There are matters by the score in which the Parliament might engage to its very great advantage, but can not because the assurance that money, in case of unfortunate occurrences, is by no means available to cover up liabilities.

If there were plenty of financial backing there would probably be not the slightest hesitation about putting Theatre Night on an amateur basis, or of taking up the cares of the business management of our numerous functions and placing them upon a paid official who would do nothing but attend to the details which make the lives of some fourth year men well nigh a night-mare.

Naturally, the most direct method of securing a revenue for a government is to tax all those who share the advantages of the administration. On the assumption that every man in the University reaps benefits, direct or indirect, from the activities of the Parliament, it follows that he should pay his share of the upkeep of University institutions. A fee, then, not necessarily large, might be imposed on every male student.

The difficulty with this proposal is that it is not possible to convince even a majority of the students that the benefits derived from the work of the Parliament are universal. The conduct of The Varsity, of Torontonensis, of Theatre Night, and so on, are not recognized as being of sufficient import to warrant the financial support of every individual. When the new Union is completed, in the course of two or three years, in all probability a fee will be imposed on all male undergraduates. However, definite may be the advantages which the present Parliament bestows upon the students, in the near future there will be a tangible benefit which must be paid for, and the authorities will have no hesitation in using the machinery of the Bursar's office to collect the money. If at the present time the students wish to secure funds, they will have to use their own means. Needless to say, this is almost a hopeless task. We have seen in the failure of the attempts the Literary societies of University College and Victoria to make membership compulsory, the students' violent dislike for the slightest "regulation." Personal liberty is guarded almost to an extreme.

Our finances, then, will have to be supplied from the money-making functions, such as The Varsity or Theatre Night. The latter does fairly well, but the former is in very poor shape. The added number of issues has made difference of eight hundred dollars in expenditures, and last fall the advertising field was so crowded that The Varsity was unable to place a high enough rate on its space to cover this extra expense.

As there is no other activity which promises any money, it will be necessary for the incoming Parliament to do some fine work in financing, and it behoves every undergraduate to make certain that the man who represents him on the main body has sound ideas on the problem of the upkeep of the representative organization.

ONLOOKER'S CORNER

The subject I am about to consider is a delicate one. Girls. My predecessor in this column could never force himself to write on the theme, although his observations were extensive. He divided the girls into two classes—girls as is, and girls as isn't. Fruitatively speaking, he meant that there were lemons and peaches. Heaven forbid that such as I should judge them. Rest content, reader, with a few observations.

In your hourly traverse of the campus, soft Youth, you find great pleasure in examining the review of fair ones that passes by. She may pass alone, demurely, a wisp of smoke, a blown anemone. They pass in pairs; no longer demure, and with indifferent glances. And often, to the discomfort of you men, they pass in knots and crowds. O painful! You expect to hear your beauty or your boots criticized. I cry out against this flaunting of strength in numbers. Have mercy, *e pluribus unum* Amazons, on our boiling complexions!

You can always know that a girl sees you, when she isn't looking at you. That is, when she looks earnestly at a blank corridor wall as she passes you, you can follow her gaze. That is a bad habit of hers. It is an acknowledgement of weakness. We expect ladies who study the same mighty minds as we do, to be strong and look at us. (I can hear some smart thing remarking that the pain would be too much, looking at us.)

We can only speak of the ladies here as they are seen at College. In social life, dances, receptions—they are the same as all others. But in that campus stroll, you are benefitted by the sight of them. Your mind is cleared entirely of the facts of the late lecture, and you are sent to the next one with an armament of dreams that offsets any of the effects of materialistic teaching.

THE ONLOOKER.

HABITUAL HIGH-BROW



Term examinations, I admit, are boring. But in some matters one has no choice. I took a long last look at the dog-eared French Grammar, mastered another irregular verb, and ten minutes later marched up the centre aisle in West Hall. Irregular verbs seemed to stand out all over my portly figure. 'Croire, croyant, cru' was upon my lips; 'boire, buvant, bu' was written upon my brow. They are all old friends to me. I have learned them now semi-annually for a long slice of life. And I love to turn to them, as to some choice chapter of Dickens, regularly, with long intervals between.

Then the paper—and to write. Those verbs once down, I breathed easier. Memory is fleeting, and an hour is long. There were sentences—hopeless from the start; and a bit of prose to be turned into English which seemed more tempting. I put down enough to pass me, and blotted the sheet. Fifteen minutes more.

Directly in front of me, a huddled form was shaking in nervousness. His eyes would stray to the wall-clock and then how fast his hand would speed over the page. Fear and ambition spurred him on faster—faster. While across the room the class beau sucked his fountain pen nonchalant, and cast furtive looks to the class beauty. His whole make up suggested to me that I offer him a cigar. But, alas, my vest pocket was barren.

In due time I departed. "This is not College Life," I mused. "I must seek elsewhere."

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of The Varsity:

Dear Sir,

In reply to La Chine's fervid denunciations of a somewhat skeptical public and passionate avowals in the Dr.'s personal integrity, I should like to ask him a few questions dealing with the other side of the discussion.

First—Is he aware that the Danish Court who were so lavish and prodigal in bestowing orders, decorations and what not upon him, subsequently cancelled them all in a very summary fashion, due to their having come to the conclusion that his proofs, and documentary evidence in general were largely the figments of a diseased and disordered imagination?

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Secondly—That the two chief witnesses and assistants of his in his calculations were two illiterate Esquimaux, who, as it was subsequently proved, were unable to count above three even in their own language?

Thirdly—Does he think it in accordance with the natural dignity of a free born American citizen to remain in hiding for five or six months in Europe after having admitted that some of his calculations might be inaccurate owing to the severe mental and nervous strain that they had all undergone especially the two aforementioned Esquimaux?

This no doubt La Chine could account for by quoting the retiring and bashful nature of Dr. Cook that must be apparent to all who have had the privilege of his acquaintance.

Fourthly—That when appealing to the British Royal Geographical Society for recognition and reward he was rather taken aback when that august body wanted a few facts to be given them which were apparently not readily forthcoming owing to some slight lack of foresight on the part of Dr. Cook.

In conclusion I should like to state that I am animated by no private feelings either for Peary or Cook but remain, Yours very sincerely,
"A LOVER OF BRITISH FAIR PLAY."

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

There are still a few in the class '13 who have not yet paid their class fee. These would confer a great favour upon the executive by remitting their dollar at once, as heavy payments are waiting to be settled. Fees may be mailed to the treasurer.

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Second Student—"In the course of time."—Acta Victoriana.

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