

## THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

We publish in this issue a carefully-written letter dealing with the relations existing between the Literary Society and the Faculty of Arts, and we also subjoin a list of the subjects proposed for debate, with those italicised which have been objected to. Doubtless the Arts' Faculty has a good reason for its action, but the general opinion seems to be that, by their action, they are giving undue value to the results of these debates. An unpleasant feeling of restraint is created, and without depreciating their value in any way, we do not believe the future of the University or the country would be materially affected by the decisions which the Literary Society might arrive at respecting such vexed questions as the execution of Riel, and the problematic value to a nation of Freemasonry. At present this is the only jar between students and teachers, and it is a pity it exists, the more especially since a little sweetness on both sides would remove the difficulty.

The following is a list of the subjects proposed for debate, those in italics being the ones objected to by the Faculty :—

- Is Electricity destined to supplant steam as a motor?
- Is the theory of Evolution corroborated by nature?
- Will the culminating point in the civilization of the nineteenth century be reached by woman?
- Is the National Policy a failure?*
- Is Arbitration destined to become the general method of settling international disputes?
- Is Imperial Federation practicable?
- Is Annexation preferable to Independence?
- Is Great Britain, with her possessions, the most powerful nation on the globe?
- Is Freemasonry inimical to a country's interests?*
- Is a nation's Literature affected by its form of government?
- Resolved—" 'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."
- Should judges be Elected by the people?
- Should Reading and Writing be made a requirement for suffrage in the case of all new voters?
- Should Suffrage be given to women on the same conditions as it is given to men?
- Was the Execution of Louis Riel unjust?*
- Do Inventions improve the condition of the labouring classes?
- Should Military Training be provided for the students of McGill?
- Is Co-education practicable and desirable?*
- Is the American Continent destined to form one great nation?
- Should all Monopolies, Trusts, and Combines, so-called, be declared illegal?
- Is Independence preferable to the present relations with Great Britain?*
- Should the Sale of Tobacco to all persons under twenty-one years of age be prohibited?
- Ought Secret Societies to be abolished?
- Should the Chinese be accorded those privileges on this Continent which are given to other foreigners?

- Are all men in America born free and equal?*
- Can the welfare of the Canadian people be best promoted by Annexation?*
- Is Church Property justly exempted from taxation?
- Is the world growing better?
- Is Rafting an objectionable method of raising money?
- Are Card-playing and Dancing inconsistent with a Christian life?
- Is Theatre-going to be condemned?
- Is an hereditary Upper House a standing menace to the rights of the people?
- Does a large Standing Army tend to insure peace?
- Ought the Manufacture and Importation of Alcoholic beverages to be prohibited?
- Is the National Policy conducive to the formation of monopolies?
- Do the Universities of America afford a better chance for an Education than those of Great Britain?
- Is the Granting of Subsidies by a Government unwise?
- Should an Agricultural Department be Established in connection with McGill?
- Is the present Canadian Administration corrupt?*
- Ought the Running of Street Cars on the Sabbath to be prohibited?
- Is Annexation preferable to the present relations with Great Britain?*
- Should Taxes be levied on personal property?
- Should the Government assume control of railways?
- Is a Two Cent Postal Rate desirable?
- Ought Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister to be legalized?*
- Has more progress been made since the Sixteenth Century than during all previous time?
- Is the period of Great Orators past?
- Is the possession of a lively imagination a great misfortune?
- Is a city a better place for a University than the country?
- Do learned societies have greater influence in forming the literary character of a nation than individuals?
- Do parents exercise greater influence than teachers in forming the character of the young?
- Does the pulpit afford a better field for eloquence than the bar?
- Is the Nineteenth Century especially favourable to the progress of Christianity?
- Is it expedient that a new Extradition Treaty be formed between the United States and Canada?
- Ought Canada to have the right of Negotiating her own Treaties?*
- Should there be a change in our Divorce Laws?
- Are Women unjustly treated by Canadian Law?
- Is the National Policy disadvantageous to the labouring classes?
- Is India destined to become the leading nation of the Eastern world?
- Do we stand in need of a Dress Reform?
- Has the Policy of the British Government towards Ireland been unjust?*
- Are the Poles justified in endeavouring to regain their national freedom?
- Is the permanent connection of the British Colonies desirable?
- Have the effects of the French Revolution been beneficial?
- Is the existence of the House of Lords beneficial to the country?
- Is Cremation preferable to Burial?
- Resolved,—"*That two contiguous countries, peopled by the same race, and speaking the same language, should be under the same Government.*"
- Would a course in Arts be beneficial to the farmer?