

# THE VARSITY,

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TORONTO, FEBRUARY 24th, 1904

THE VARSITY offers congratulations to the Literary and Scientific Society of University College on having attained its semi-centenary. Fifty years is a period almost equal to the life of the University existing as such. The part played by the society in the evolution of the University has been an important one. The function it set itself to perform has been well maintained. The multiplying of organizations of various kinds throughout the University suggests the possible necessity of a remodelling of its constitution, if its highest purposes are to be realized in the future. As the oldest society, it should be the one privileged to move in the matter of providing a great organization, in which all the faculties might meet as one body of undergraduates. Nothing of its rights would be sacrificed, and the increase of its influence would be incalculable. Some such organization is bound to follow the opening of the Convocation Hall. Let it be called what it may; it must be a University and not a college society. The Lit began as a University organization. The time may have arrived for it to enlarge itself to the sphere at first provided for it.

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PROFESSOR WRONG entertained the editors and business manager of THE VARSITY, together with several of his colleagues and representative students, at dinner on Wednesday evening. THE VARSITY was the subject of discussion. What is to be the fate of the publication? The news columns were noted to be frivolous and the literary articles decidedly amateur in form. Comparisons were made with the *Oxford Magazine* and others. One proposal was to unite the Monthly with THE VARSITY, making the latter more of a newspaper, and increasing the latter by undergraduate contributions and the like into a magazine of size and literary value. The discussion is bound to result in good, and Professor Wrong will yet see the result of his kindly interest in college journalism. He may have to wait for a few years, however. The University itself can hardly be said to have settled down to a permanent organiza-

tion. The University magazine is only two years of age. With the broadening of spirit that is now going on among the colleges the sphere of the students' publication must broaden also. What is needed is a permanence of organization in the editorial staff that will make it possible to keep in touch with the changing conditions in the University. This was the point most thoroughly dealt with on the evening in question. It was also felt that the Union should have more of a free hand in selecting the chief officers. A consideration given for the privileges retained by the Literary Society might be a long step towards reforming the Editorial Board in its organization.

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DR. SWEENEY addressed the Medical Society on Friday evening on the relation of the student to the University. His chief point was the power in the hands of the students to directly influence the governments of the province and of the Dominion. This power was, however, latent, and required a stimulation of some sort to make itself evident. Laval has three representatives in the Federal Parliament, and McGill has two. Toronto has not a direct representative in either house. This condition was explained by the lack of organization of the student body, by the want of a great University journal, and by the fact that the authorities took no note of undergraduate opinion. The discussion of problems of national import and public affairs generally would be productive of good even though party strife were introduced into University politics. With much of this we must agree. With some of it we cannot entirely accord. To begin with, the students do know, or ought to know, something of what can be done when they act unitedly. The Convocation Hall will stand for one result of a unanimous desire of the undergraduates expressed to the Government. The same unanimity would be equally effective if used again to emphasize the plain needs of the University as urged by the authorities at the present time. The great journal will come with the other great things. It cannot but achieve greatness when public sentiment begins to notice things that make for greatness.

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A MUTTER of discontent with the organization of the Athletic Directorate may be heard pretty constantly if one looks for it. A decided clamor may one day grow out of it. Just what is wanted the discontents do not seem to know. Down at the bottom of it all the desire to have control is the principal cause for protest. Certain reforms are, however, fast assuming the nature of necessities. One is the appointment of a permanent secretary. It would be economy to double the salary in order to make it worth a man's while to give up the necessary time to the work. Some one suggested the uniting of this office with that of secretary of the Union, and possibly also that of business manager of THE VARSITY. A fair salary could be derived from these, and all could be better done than by men who find their chief