

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND LOYALTY.

Of late we have seen in the press many remarks tending to throw doubt upon the loyalty of the University of Toronto. We have also heard many such remarks uttered in a more or less frank and semi-public manner. We are not going into any personal argument, nor do we intend to refer to the propriety or otherwise of having German teachers in connection with the University. Our readers are quite familiar with the opinions of able legal men, such as Lord Halsbury, on the matter of the employment, by the state or by state institutions, of aliens whose country is at war with us.

We purpose only at this time to enter our protest against the statements that have been made impeaching the loyalty of the University of Toronto. As far back as 1866 the University sent her quota to defend the country against the Fenian Raid, on which occasion they nobly fought and some of them bravely died. From that day there has not been lacking the University Company in the Queen's Own, a regiment which did its full duty in the suppression of the Riel Rebellion in 1885.

On the present occasion we feel confident there is not a disloyal member on the staff in any of the faculties of the University, nor a single student who does not place Canada above all other considerations in this titanic struggle. There is not one regarding whom the words of Shakespeare's character, Hector, could not be said:

Life every man holds, but the brave man
Holds honor far more precious dear than life.

Or, so far as King and country are concerned, whose feelings would not find fitting expression in the words found in "As You Like It":

I will follow thee,
To the last gasp, with truth and loyalty.

We have been at some pains to ascertain the truth, and so far as we can discover, the three German professors taught their respective subjects, but not Germanism. We must not lose our heads. Goethe, Schiller and Kant will ever remain among the immortals in the world's literature. If Britain were at war with Italy that would not blot out Dante's star from the firmament of letters. Germany at the present day is cursed because she is led astray by a war party. A hundred years ago France had her war lords in the persons of Napoleon, Ney, Junot, Soult, Murat, Bernadotte and many others. But France had her Racine, Molière, Diderot, LaPlace, DeCartes, to adorn the domain of letters; and we properly love the French language and its glorious literature, notwithstanding that on many a bloody field, as witness Poitiers, Crécy, Agincourt, Waterloo, Britain fought France.