

There is no more insipid kind of conversation than when men, holding practically the same views on a much-debated question, meet and congratulate one another on the profound wisdom of these views. It is for this reason that the proceedings of the Departmental Societies are of such an insipid character.

When the University of Toronto ^{***} claims to have the highest standard on the continent for the B. A. degree, it is no idle boast.

"BENEATH TWO FLAGS."

MR. EDITOR :—

I was one of the many, who, last Friday night, attended the meeting of the Literary Society and participated in the "fight" (to quote Mr. McFarlane) which enlivened its proceedings for a time. No one, and allow me to say it in all humility, no one about Varsity likes to see a fight more than I do, but I like it to be fair and honorable. There were one or two things which were noticed on that occasion by many, which, to my mind, were neither fair nor honorable, and I wish to call public attention to them. When the vote on the appeal from the ruling of the chair was being taken, those who were loyal to the chair noticed among their opponents a gentleman who is Historical Secretary of the Society. Being such, he is one of the seventeen men who form the cabinet, so to speak, of the Society. That cabinet was elected last March as a unit, and, to my mind, should work as a unit. That Mr. Howitt, the gentleman to whom I refer, committed a breach of loyalty to the cabinet of which he is a member, and to Mr. Carson, personally, as head of that body, is very clear to my mind, and I think that the one way out of the peculiar position, in which he has placed himself by voting "want of confidence" in his chief, is to hand his resignation as Historical Secretary forthwith to Mr. Carson. No doubt Mr. Howitt has found more congenial environment among his new colleagues. In fact, I wish him joy in his unique position.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Yours very truly,

NICK HINCH.

MR. INKSTER'S VIEWS

EDITOR VARSITY :—

Of late years there seems to have arisen a tendency on the part of the Literary Society to refuse to accept the recommendation of the Editorial Board of THE VARSITY in filling vacancies which occur from time to time. The Literary Society may have the right to do so, but until the last year or two it has always accepted without question the action of the Editorial Board. I would like to point out that the board is in a much better position to choose a suitable man, and for these reasons: the board is composed of men who are far more profoundly interested in the welfare of the paper than the Literary Society is; the board is more intimately acquainted with the abilities of the aspirants for the vacant posts than the large body of students who flock to the meetings of the Society; the board is far more likely to weigh each candidate's qualifications, than the motley throng who naturally wish to see their idols placed in seats of honor, whether worthy or not. For these reasons, and for the further one that the Society should have full confidence in the board it elected last spring, the Literary Society should pause and carefully consider its position before rashly attempting to slap the Editorial Board in the face by overriding the deliberate action of the board. Sincerely yours,

JOHN G. INKSTER.

LITERARY SOCIETY.

Last Friday evening in the absence of the president, Mr. Young, the meeting was called to order by the first vice president, C. M. Carson. During the reading of the minutes by Secretary Wagar, which did not require my attention, I sat quietly musing on the unusually good attendance, for there was a goodly number seated there quietly looking at Mr. Wagar or whispering low among themselves. I came to the conclusion, at length, that there might be two reasons for the increased attendance; first, there were two seniors down on the programme, G. H. Black, a song, N. E. Hinch, a reading—these surely would draw; second, the annual inter-year debate between the men of the first and second years was likely to bring out all those who wished to see their year triumph. While I was musing thus the Society was beginning the business routine. Nothing of note developed; quietly each order of business was passed over until at length the programme was reached and then I congratulated myself upon my acumen in deciding that it was the programme that they had come to hear. Mr. Black was called upon for his song but asked the indulgence of the meeting for a few minutes until his accompanist arrived, which was graciously extended to him. Meantime Mr. Carson asked Mr. Hinch for his reading. Nick came forward to say that he had been playing football in the afternoon and that Eric's husky ninety-niners had so trounced him and his team that he had no heart to recite. Mr. Carson urged him to try and he did so, only to fail, and we all felt so sorry because we knew his big heart was too full of grief for him to proceed. Mr. Black then sang a song which had been contributed for the new college song book. In spite of Mr. Black's good rendition of it I cannot refrain from saying that it was the general opinion that the song was not good enough for the new book. We were now beginning to settle down comfortably to listen to the debaters pour forth the arguments they had been preparing all week, when without the slightest premonitory symptom W. M. Martin arose and shot a thunderbolt upon our unsuspecting heads by moving that we return to the order of business "Reports of Committees." G. M. Murray seconded the motion, and before we had recovered from the shock the motion had been put and carried. Then H. H. Narraway arose from the midst of a congested group in the centre of the room and called attention to the fact that the Editorial Board of VARSITY had seen fit in the profundity of its wisdom to fill a vacancy and had not submitted a report of its proceeding to the society. Then and not till then did I realize my mistake, for these men had come, not to hear a programme, but to call the members of the VARSITY Board to account. Editor Gahan, believing that his board had full authority to fill its own vacancies, and not having been authorized by that board to make any announcement or recommendation, naturally held his peace for some time. Mr. Narraway, however, inspired by Mr. McFarlane, appeared to be so worried over the matter that Mr. Gahan good-naturedly gratified his curiosity by announcing that a vacancy really had existed on the Editorial Board. Having counted heads and finding itself in a slight majority the opposition determined to elect a man forthwith to fill that vacancy, and to over-ride the action of the board, which, it was understood, had chosen O. M. Biggar to succeed H. J. O'Higgins. Accordingly, Mr. Narraway proposed the name of J. T. Shotwell and a very lively debate followed. Finally, the chairman ruled the motion out of order, basing his ruling on a clause in the constitution which says that nominations can be made only at the meeting following the announcement of the vacancy and the election a week later. Painfully Mr. Narraway arose and with sadness inexpressibly depicted on each lineament of his face, said he was forced to appeal