

### THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

The following extracts are taken from an article in the current number of the *Canada Educational Monthly*, by J. Howard Hunter, M.A., '61, superintendent of the Institute for the Blind at Brantford:

The rapid development of our elementary and intermediate schools has rendered absolutely necessary some corresponding development of the provincial university and of University College. This development should be not only material, but intellectual. The endowment ought certainly to be increased: additional buildings are manifestly needed; the professors are insufficient in number; the scientific professors are insufficiently assisted; and they are all insufficiently paid. With this enlargement of resources, the area of modern culture should also be enlarged. Such internal reforms are required as will rigorously exclude from quarters within the college—if not indeed from the lecture rooms—all but earnest students. Finally, to prevent our academical degrees in Ontario from losing all value or significance, we urgently need a university standard which all collegiate corporations should be required to employ for their academic weights and measures.

And so in Ontario the functions of the provincial university and of University College, though entirely distinct and easily distinguishable, have hitherto fallen into a hopeless tangle.

It is thus of vast consequence to this country that the statutes of the University Senate represent the results of the most recent research and the most improved educational methods. This can be most readily attained by publicity of discussion, by close criticism within the deliberative body itself, and by outside criticism.

Yet here we have in this University Senate an educational parliament elected by qualified voters to represent various educational constituencies; holding its meetings without public notice, at uncertain intervals and dates, and generally not in the university buildings at all; excluding public and press, publishing no statutes, or minutes or documents, other than a decennial or quinquennial curriculum.

There is an express enactment requiring the Senate to annually report to the lieutenant-governor, at such time as he may appoint, on the general state, progress and prospects of the University, and upon all matters touching the same, with such suggestions as they think proper to make, and copies of such annual reports shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly at the then next session thereof. This obligation is still in full force. During the twenty-five years that have passed, how many such reports has the Senate presented to parliament? Has it presented one? If so, will some one obligingly tell us where it is to be found?

In the Act of 1873, it was distinctly assumed, and indeed it was explained in parliament, that in the next curriculum there would be a proper recognition of modern science; and, accordingly, the 7th section of the Act provided for the convocation-rights of *Bachelors and Doctors of Science*. This new curriculum has appeared; but in spite of some strenuous representations that were made in the Senate, the promised recognition of science has been refused.

The remedies are tolerably obvious. Two sessions, each of a week, would probably dispatch all the business of the Senate in any year. These sessions being held from day to day, could, without much expense or inconvenience, be attended by non-resident members. The Senate should hold its sessions with open doors in the convocation hall

of the University; and it should encourage and welcome the presence of its constituents and of the members of the press. It should furnish an annual announcement of its educational policy, as required by the statute. For the transaction of routine business between sessions permanent committees could readily be arranged. These are ordinary details, not beyond the ingenuity of any voluntary organization in the Province. The single difficulty in the whole matter is the indisposition of the Senate. Legislation should not be required, but it may once more be found necessary.

### K C O. Q. O. R.

The annual dinner of the University rifles was held last evening at the National club, Bay street. About sixty sat down to an elegant spread, and many old members of the company evinced an unabated interest therein, by coming a considerable distance to meet their brothers in arms around the festive board. Capt. Baker occupied the chair, with Sergeants Short and McDougall in the vice-chairs. Capt. Baker was supported on his right by Col. Otter, Major Croft, Dr. Oldright, and ex-Capt. VanderSmissen; and on his left, were Col. Arthurs, Lieut. Manley, Mons. Pernet and Capt. Buchan.

The programme was one entirely unique, and we regret that our space does not permit its insertion this week. The title page tastefully designed, bore the inscription from Macbeth, 'Now good digestion wait on appetite, and health on both,' and a semi-classical admonition to 'be garçons. The menu was so christened in foreign languages that freshmen were observed to take what was set before them, asking no questions; while to the toasts were attached quotations, graceful and appropriate from various authors.

Capt. Baker proposed the toast 'The Queen,' which was drunk with military enthusiasm with 'God Save the Queen,' led by Capt. Buchan. 'The Governor-General and Lieutenant-Governor' was greeted in a similar manner, clearly showing the loyalty of our undergraduates. To the toast 'the army, navy and volunteers,' Mr. Buchan responded with 'Rule Britannia.' 'Alma Mater' brought the whole company to its feet, and Professor Croft responded in a characteristic speech. 'The regiment and regimental officers' was responded to by Col. Otter, Col. Arthurs, and Capt. Buchan. Mr. Pernet sang 'The Sea is England's Glory.' 'The officers of the company' was acknowledged by Capt. Baker and Lieut. Manley, Major Croft, Capt. VanderSmissen, and Corporal J. D. Cameron. The remaining toasts 'The prizemen,' 'prize donors,' 'ladies,' were disposed of in a short time, and with the customary tribute of respect to 'our fallen comrades,' the party broke up at an early hour, after which an adjournment was made to the parlor of the club, where singing was kept up for some time. All agree that the dinner was one of the most successful the company has ever held.

### A COLLEGE BOAT CLUB.

It has often been asked why our college has never taken an interest in aquatics. We have a good bay, there is a strong leaning in our people

toward this kind of sport, the champion grower is resident amongst us, we have good material in our under-graduates for oarsmen, and in fact everything except the organization. It would seem that now this last and all-important element is to be forthcoming. A number of undergraduates have taken the matter up and are now pushing it forward. They have held several meetings, discussed the question, interviewed a number of prominent persons, and have come to the conclusion that a boating association is not only a desirable organization, but one the establishment of which is in every way feasible. Accordingly a committee of graduates and under-graduates has been appointed to draw up a prospectus, issue it, and open up a subscription list. Of course such an association cannot be started without money; a site must be secured and a boathouse built and stocked with boats. But once these are provided the organization can easily be made self-sustaining. The committee have about elaborated their scheme, and they hope soon to submit it to all connected with, or interested in, the College and the University for their support.

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The attendance at the regular weekly meeting last night was rather light, owing no doubt to the attraction presented by the dinner of the rifle company. A report was presented from the special committee recommending that three organ recitals be given under the auspices of the society; that each member of the society be allowed one ticket and have the privilege of purchasing three additional ones at twenty-five cents each; and that the first recital be given on Saturday, the 14th inst., at 3:30 p.m. The report was adopted. A motion was carried adjourning the public meeting from the 20th inst. to the 27th inst. A proposal made by Mr. Courtice to call the society's building 'the student's resort, was voted down, as was also two amendments thereto. An essay on Oliver Cromwell was read by Mr. George Inglis. The debate: 'Is capital punishment justifiable?' closed the evening's proceedings. The affirmative was supported by Messrs. Ballantyne and Clark, and the opposite by Messrs. Elliott and R. Y. Thomson. The vice-president, Mr. Herridge, gave decision in favor of the negative.

YALE has graduated 4 signers of the Declaration of Independence; 140 members of the U. S. House of Representatives; 44 U. S. Senators; 15 ambassadors to foreign courts; 16 cabinet officers, including Mr. Evarts; 16 lieutenant-governors and 29 governors of states; our present chief justice; the lexicographers, Webster and Worcester; 4 presidents of theological seminaries; 65 presidents of colleges, and 252 professors in colleges and professional schools.—*Ex.*

THE YALE glee club cleared \$750 in Chicago during their recent trip.—*Ex.*

FROM the Amherst college catalogue for 1879-80, we learn that there are 5 resident-graduates, 72 seniors, 83 juniors, 79 sophomores, and 111 freshmen—making a total of 350 students, 'the largest number,' says the *Amherst Student*, 'that has been connected with the college at one time, for many years.'