

the style and colour to the thoughts of many of our best prose writers, and as being itself a text-book for style and thought to every true student of English rhetoric and composition. So, if the study of other English classics is insisted upon, it cannot be wise or well, on any ground, to exclude that which has given them so much that is worthy in them, and which has coloured the whole history of English literature,—without which, in fact, the history of English literature is unintelligible.

I might also justly insist on the necessity of academical study of the Bible on the ground of its being the source of the moral and religious motives that lie at the root of our civilization, which furnishes more material than any other work for the solution of the greatest of historical problems, being in fact the main agency by which the modern was developed and moulded from the ancient world. And it might be pointed out how the history contained in the Bible itself is still important for the social and political philosopher, as showing the working of moral ideas among men essentially like ourselves; and how the whole discipline of Bible study is most wholesome for the earnest and thoughtful young men and women of this or any age of the world.

But these and other considerations must be foregone for the present, as this article, which was intended only as suggestive and provocative, is already too long.

I would only remark, in conclusion, that any association of the idea of sectarian or theological influence with university Bible teaching would be both wicked and absurd. It must rather be obvious that a great non-sectarian university furnishes the best opportunity conceivable of showing to school boards and other parties concerned how the literary, historical and ethical study of the Bible may be carried on without prejudice or injury to the most sensitive sectary or partisan. It is not uninteresting to remark that, among the many neighbouring colleges that are taking up just such study of the Bible as I have been advocating, the Johns Hopkins University has taken a leading part, and that under the guidance of the Professor of Political Science. For a graphic account of the progress of the movement in this non-sectarian institution, its growing popularity among students of all the faculties and of all denominations from various parts of the world, I would refer those interested to the *Old Testament Student* for May, 1888.

I must thank the Editor of THE VARSITY for his courtesy in allowing me to discuss this question in the Commencement Number.

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### Valedictory.

WITH this number the present editorial staff of THE VARSITY retire from active connection with the college paper, and at the same time bid a long and last farewell to the freedom and camaraderie of their undergraduate days.

It will not be out of place, then, to devote a little space to a retrospect of the work which THE VARSITY has endeavoured to accomplish during the collegiate year which is formally closed to-day. In doing this, it will perhaps be permitted to refer to the general policy which has actuated the present managers of THE VARSITY for those years in which they have been connected with it. In 1886 they adopted as the sub-title of the paper the phrase: "A Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events." This phrase sums up the whole matter. The Editors of THE VARSITY have endeavoured, first and foremost, to provide their readers and the University public generally with a good literary journal, acting under the belief that a University should be the centre and the true *alma mater* of literature and literary pursuits, and that University men, whatever else they may be, should be men of culture, men of mind and reading. It is, of course, quite impossible that one should expect to find in such a modern institution as the University of Toronto, or in such a young country

as ours, that studious ease and cloistered leisure which is naturally to be found at Oxford or Cambridge. Time, opportunity, and means are not always, indeed scarcely ever, to be found with us, for the prosecution of literary pursuits, or the cultivation of literary tastes and studies apart from and independent of that "struggle for existence"—the passing of the annual examination.

But, notwithstanding this, the truth must be spoken, though it may offend some. And the truth is simply this: that literature and literary pursuits are not sufficiently encouraged,—in a word, are not popular with the present generation of University men. The craving for studies which may form "realizable assets" in after life, and the growing popularity of athletics, are perhaps the counter-acting influences at work. Be these what they may, the fact still remains that it is hard, very hard indeed, to interest the present undergraduate in the literary work which THE VARSITY is established and maintained to promote and increase. These facts may be said to argue, however, a failure on the part of the editors of THE VARSITY. The editors are, indeed, conscious of much that might be included under that category, but they can truly say that their sins have been rather those of omission than of commission. They have always striven, often at the expense of comfort and of what, without egotism or vanity, may be called popularity, to say and do all in their power to direct attention to such topics as should engage the attention and enlist the active co-operation of university men, or to the management of affairs which might be improved, reformed, or changed altogether.

THE VARSITY has criticized men and affairs with a freedom which the editors quite feel and appreciate to be almost unknown elsewhere in the college world. But care has always been taken not to abuse such a privilege, or to adopt a line of policy not in accordance with loyalty to existing institutions and a sincere wish for constant improvement and progress. THE VARSITY has advocated, in its editorial columns, measures and reforms apparently in advance of popular sentiment, or at least in advance of the sentiments of those in authority. But THE VARSITY has abundant faith in the progressive spirit of the age, and does not despair of seeing changes made and advocated by those who now seem to regard as visionary and revolutionary, ideas and opinions which they will hereafter teach and preach as practical and progressive.

THE VARSITY has advocated the creation of a separate Faculty of Science, of an actual and teaching Faculty of Law; it has advocated the right of the Literary Society to broaden its field so as to include the discussion of practical Canadian politics; it has done its best to aid in the establishment of an Athletic Association and a University Club; it has supported the authorities in the prosecution of the University's claim upon the Government and against the City; it has shown the necessity and the advisability of alumni and class organizations; and it has advocated a thorough reform of library management, and in doing so has presented an array of evidence which is at once overwhelming and irrefutable in favour of those modern and practical ideas which form the basis of the policy of the best universities in the United States and our own country.

It is needless to enumerate further other special topics which have been discussed in the columns of THE VARSITY during the past year. This much may be said, in conclusion: Whatever opinions the editors may have held or expressed, they have, at all times, opened their columns freely for counter-criticism and reply, in the belief that by this means the discussion of subjects would be rendered more valuable, more fair and just, both to critic and criticized.

It only remains now to say the words of farewell to the readers of THE VARSITY. In doing so, the editors desire to thank most sincerely those whose literary help and support, no less than those whose words of kindly sympathy and encouragement, have done so much to enhance the value of THE VARSITY as a literary journal, and to lighten the cares of editorial management. The editors lay aside their pens and surrender the responsibilities of their positions with a feeling of much regret, but with a feeling of much hope that THE VARSITY, no less than the institution which it humbly represents, may flourish and grow great.