

# THE VARSITY

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## Editorial Comments.

**I**N another column will be found an interesting report, prepared by the registrar, on order of the senate. The numbers there given include arts' students only; under non-matriculants are included those who are taking the full course for degree, but have not matriculated, while those who take a partial course are classed as occasional.

One of the surprising features is that about two per cent. only are not residents of this province.

Presbyterians and Methodists (including Victoria) are almost equal in numbers, but in University College the former have a large preponderance.

The total number, 834 arts' students, will appear surprisingly large to those who do not know how rapidly the attendance has been increasing of late years.

That the women are in earnest about obtaining funds necessary for a residence is evident; that the action indicated by the report in another column will further that object seems open to question.

To the ordinary male intelligence, the fact that to carry on a work, initiated by the Women's Literary Society, a committee should have been appointed which has not in its composition a single undergraduate is something surprising.

That the ladies appointed will carry on the work efficiently goes without saying, but that this efficiency depended on the complete exclusion of the undergraduate element, is, to say the least, not very complimentary to the latter. They may console themselves with the reflection that it is perhaps a higher office to suggest great things than to carry them into execution.

The transfer of the original power of the Literary Society to the present committee, is one of those developments, which Darwin's logical mind would have found difficult to trace. How a body, by appointing a committee of its own members, which, we presume, had limited powers, could voluntarily or involuntarily transmit through that committee, to a body entirely distinct from itself, a power which had not been delegated, is something which even the discovery of a missing link could hardly account for.

Unless there be some cogent reasons which do not readily appear, we think that this is one of the cases where the experience of years might be united with the ardor of youth, to produce results impossible to either.

It is not too much to say that the action of the undergraduates during the next two weeks will determine in great measure, the ultimate success or failure of Toronto University Athletic Association.

A new, untried institution, representative of so great a variety of possibly conflicting interests, with such extensive powers, controlling the action of some thirteen hundred students, and expending annually, a comparatively large sum of money, it is evident that the adoption of a constitution embodying principles of destructive tendencies, or the election of officers, not imbued with a sense of the responsibility of the position, might effectually prevent the Association from exercising that important and beneficial influence which is the object of its formation.

To-morrow, the students will be called upon to consider the former—the adoption of a constitution—and it is to be hoped that the men will recognize the fact that their individual interests are involved, and be out in large numbers.

The committee have done their work to the best of their ability, but it is possible that some important considerations have been overlooked, and it was with a view to bringing to bear on such matters, the united wisdom of the undergraduate body, that a summary of the more important articles were published in *THE VARSITY*.

Beginning with a wide variety of opinion on most important matters, the committee had the satisfaction to find, on the conclusion of their report, that no single point had been settled, but by the unanimous concurrence of the members.

The work of the committee was greatly facilitated by the fact that the members were, without exception, resolved to place before all sectional considerations, the general welfare of the members of the Association, and it is hardly necessary to remark, that it is only by the election of officers, who will consider it their duty to subordinate all such considerations to the general interest, that any successful issue to their initial action can be fairly expected.

Without wishing to prejudice the election of any, we call attention to a few of the characteristics which we think should mark those selected to control the important athletic interests of our University.

The Director should be a man who believes that athletics have a place—not an unimportant place—in a system of liberal education; a man, willing to devote a share of his time to the furtherance of athletics, and sufficiently liberal in opinion, to be able to exert some influence on his fellow directors, through an appreciation on their part, of his fairmindedness and sound judgment.

No man who is a mere sport, a non-entity in other respects, has a just claim to the vote of the electors—let him be excluded, along with that bane of all societies, the