

# THE VARSITY

*A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.*

VOL. IX.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, FEB. 2, 1889.

No. 10.

## A MEMORY.

Something transient as may be  
Floating on a sunset sea  
Stray tints of sky-built radiancy—

E'en as mournful as the wail  
Of some summer-haunting gale  
When the stars cloud-shadowed fail

Was the light in my lady's eye,  
Was the tone of each love-lit word  
That swept thro' my soul till its deeps were stirred,  
Ere Death said "Come," and she hurried by.

P.

## WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE ?

PROFESSOR ASHLEY'S INAUGURAL.\*

When Her Majesty, to use the official language, has changed her advisers, and a new Government comes into power, the authoritative declaration of intentions by the first Minister is of real consequence. It is the platform—the succinct statement of tenets and principles which for the time will be embodied in legislation and carried into effect, as far as may be, by the Executive. Political Economy, as a lifeless adjunct of the course in Philosophy, has given place to the study of Political Science. Formerly, we traversed as slightly as possible the classical doctrine of the English Economists, a doctrine unrelated to the changeful life of man, but based on the pure economic theory of man the mercantile being. Now, we are seriously to inquire into our political society as it is—its constitution and functions, the organs by which these functions are discharged, its relations to the individual and to other societies. At the onset of this inquiry the preliminary words of the man under whose leadership we are henceforth to be, are worthy of our best attention.

Political Science naturally falls into several well-defined branches. These are not distinct and independent subjects of inquiry, but allied parts of the same general inquiry. For example, the purpose of the State, the limits of individual liberty, the opposing claims of order and progress, all have their bearing on the study of Political Economy proper. And it is with this branch of the general inquiry that Mr. Ashley is chiefly occupied. His point of view is instructive.

The classical economic maxims or laws cannot claim to be true at all times and places; their truth is relative to certain conditions, which may be absent or change. It is not that all Political Economy is valueless, but that a particular set of doctrines have only a relative truth. The abstract deductive method of the past has performed what service it could. The fruitful field now is in following new methods of investigation—historical, statistical, inductive. What is valuable in the orthodox teaching is the result of observation and historical

comparison. These results are not to be thrown away; nor is an opposition set of dogmas to be brought forward. Having mastered the abstract theory, the important thing is to attack directly the pressing economic questions of the present. The method is direct observation and generalization from facts, whether past or present. The economist will not aim at ending with a law of rent or a law of production based on Ontarian facts, but with a picture of Ontarian agriculture and of the influences that affect it. Having found what is, the duty of the economist is to point out what should be. On him is the duty of practical guidance. For he who has given more careful consideration than others to the economic side of social life ought to be more capable of giving sound advice about it. He is to find some standard. The final test, of course, must be the welfare of the State. Thus the relation of economic phenomena to the whole of society comes within the purview of the economist, and political economy is a vital part of the great department of Political Science. This is the change in treatment of the subject that is associated with the modern scientific school of economists.

A University may be defined to be a nucleus of intellectual effort. Its value to the State is to be sought not only in the positive acquirements of the individual university man but, further, in the atmosphere of research, in the concentrated attention bestowed on the great questions of the hour by men who have the opportunity and the facilities for unbiased inquiry, and in the right such men have, by virtue of their position, to afford to the public the results of their labours. The Professor is a leader of thought. In the name of the Province the University has invited Mr. Ashley to an important sphere of duty. Problems of race fusion; of internal polity; of our relations with the mother-land; of our relations with the American Republic; tariffs; industries; railways; our penal and dangerous classes, what is to be the outcome of democratic tendencies; in short, a host of problems require the wisdom of our statesmen, the constant care of our law-givers, the aid of our statisticians, and, which has been almost denied us in the past, the trained insight of our students of Political Society.

W. H. H.

## JAMES ORCHARD HALLIWELL-PHILLIPS.

The news that Halliwell-Phillips, as he was familiarly known, has lately died, will be received with profound regret by all thorough students of Shakespeare. Born in 1820, in London, in the regular course of study he entered Jesus College, Cambridge, where most of his attention was directed in the line of mathematical research—some of his earliest published work relates to that subject. At the same time he was busily engaged in poring over the many manuscripts to be found in the various colleges at Cambridge. The result of this was seen in

\* Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison, 1888.