

# THE ' VARSITY:

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EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

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## L'ENVOI.

This present number ends the VARSITY'S third year of publication. At its commencement we indicated what our own course would be, and offered to university men its columns for the discussion of university and college matters without fear or favor. For ourselves we have honestly endeavored to advocate what we considered best for the university and college—for the former urging steadfastly a systematic appeal to the people through their representatives in the Legislative assembly. We have discussed the matter in season and out of season, and believe that our efforts have led to a more earnest consideration of the question, and to the adoption of our views by those in authority. Attention has been repeatedly called to the present feebleness of Convocation, and if our criticisms lead to an improved spirit, we shall not have written in vain.

In the present state of ignorance which has prevailed and still prevails as to what transpires in the Senate, it has been simply impossible to criticize or applaud as occasion demanded. We have had only the results to judge from and rejoice to think that the drybones are beginning to exhibit some symptoms of revivification.

With regard to college matters we have striven to pay due deference to authority, but at the same time to show where defects might be remedied or abuses corrected. When would-be iconoclasts attempted with ruthless purpose to destroy some of our most cherished and most useful associations, we have stood forth as the champion of those institutions—and successfully. We have, on the other hand, criticised the action of the Council in some matters, but never without a due sense of what was due to the college and ourselves.

Our columns have been open to graduates and undergraduates alike, and many communications have been received. Some few we have with regret been compelled to decline. If this was done, it was in no spirit of unfairness or from any desire to stifle discussion. Generally speaking, the letters and communications received have been of a high order of excellence, and our only regret has been that we have not had more of them. It is our hope that in the future as University men recognize that there is a university and college paper, fearless, independent and honest, they will come to consider it as much a duty to write to it as the traditional Englishman does to write to the *Times*.

We have to thank our contributors for their kindness and to ask them to continue their labor of love—while to our critics and opponents we wish a better frame of mind and a change of opinion. For our self-imposed and voluntary toil, which has been both onerous and exacting, we desire no better thanks than some tangible display on the part of the graduates of an active interest in the University, and in the undergraduates of a continued support of this paper on the lines on which it has been this year run.

## A REVIEW.

The conclusion of another year in the annals of our University has been reached, and the hour has come in which to review its course, and note the achievements which mark our progress. And more than the achievements, the attempts also at a wider and fuller life,—baffled though they may have been, and premature perhaps as yet,—deserve an honorable mention in this record; for they more clearly reveal to the thoughtful

mind the deep, resistless currents of feeling, of which such attempts are the imperfect expressions, but which may in the fullness of time become all-important principles of action, recognized and adopted by everyone.

And what character shall we give to the year, taken in the aggregate of its activity? We cannot, indeed, boast of any gigantic fact, such as Antigone was in the previous year. Has there been stagnation? We have no hesitation in saying that the steady and all-pervading growth of this year constitutes progress, steady and satisfactory, though perhaps not of the highest kind; in every department of the University results of permanent value are recognizable, though their beginnings were accompanied by no violent upheavings which are so easily chronicled and so little deserving of historical fame.

A very important step has been taken by the powers that watch over our interests in the Institution of Fellowships. We may venture to prophesy, and certainly hope, that the basis of this highly desirable institution is destined before long to undergo much modification, but the fact that Fellowships have been established at all is a memorable one, and sure to result in great advantages to all parties. The appointment of a Demonstrator in Physics, and an additional Lecturer in English, is another notable augmentation of the instruction department. The economical principle of division of labor has also been applied to the undergraduate body in the separation of Mathematics and Physics into two distinct departments in the Fourth year, and the Natural Science branch is petitioning the Senate for a specialization of their Fourth year work, so that a thorough acquaintance with one subject may be the end of the Science course instead of the diffuseness which exists at present. Another measure, surely as important as the above, has been passed by the Senate at a recent meeting, providing for a reduction in the number of examinations for which the unfortunate student is obliged to cram up; we rejoice at the welcome intelligence, and feel assured that all real friends of University education will rejoice with us.

Among the undergraduates themselves, we have to notice the fruitful growth of minor Societies in the various courses, intellectual clubs in which the social element is not disregarded; the only Honor course which cannot yet boast of such a society is the classical, but we may, at no distant date, have to record the proceedings of meetings which discuss socially (!) whether the primitive root in Sanscrit was 'a' or 'i,' and other absorbing topics.

The æsthetic element of education has also had its due support in the University this year. We have first to mention the series of concerts and lectures on music given at an early part of the sessions in Convocation Hall by Mr. Lauder, our young Toronto virtuoso, under the directions of a representative Committee. It is to be regretted that these admirably instructive entertainments were not more largely taken advantage of, particularly by the undergraduates; but all things must have a beginning, and the University may be proud of having led the way in forwarding the interests of high-class music of this description in Toronto. The Canadian Institute took up the cause by inserting a lecture on Wagner by the same young artist in their course of popular lectures, and now Mr. Lauder's recitals and lectures are among the most prominent musical events in this city, and the University has the honor of having introduced the system.

The *Conversazione*, too, was conducted with great enthusi-