

not in reference to the formation of a college court, but with regard to the custom of hazing, matters not; the interdict is against all bodies of students, public or private, acknowledged or unacknowledged, which claim authority over the actions of the general body of students. The action of the Council was necessary and unavoidable. To have allowed the active existence of such a body, "free and above board" as it was purported to be, and constituted not of private individuals, but representing the whole body of students, would have been to have recognized it as an accredited society of the University, and to have acquiesced in its claims to authority. Such claims could not be admitted. By entering the college the student voluntarily submits himself to the regulations laid down by the Council; if he desires to join any of the college societies he must conform to their rules; but the penalties of the University are inflicted only if he becomes a member of it, the fines of the societies, if he joins them; the College Court, on the contrary, proposes to exercise its authority, *volens volens* on all alike, whether members of the fraternity or not. The recognition of the existence of such a body, much more the countenancing of its acts, would be a subversion of all principles of personal liberty and freedom, and would be resented first by those who are now advocating its formation were its restrictions imposed on them by others.

The only form in which such a body could exist would be as a society of voluntary enrollment, whose authority would be commensurate with the extent of its membership, and whose influence would be universal only when all had become members of it.

There are only two ways in which the hazing difficulty can be settled; one method is through the intervention of the governing body of the University, the other lies in the hands of the students themselves. The governors have bared their weapon in the announcement quoted above, namely, the expulsion of any student who uses personal violence or abuse against another. But the power of the authorities is restricted. Their jurisdiction applies only to overt act of oppression. Against covert acts and the secret existence of the hazing court they cannot proceed: its fate lies wholly in the hands of the students. They have the power of putting an end to its influence, if not to its existence, by frowning it down. Turn the popular opinion of the students against it, and, even though supported by tradition, it will go down. We speak only of the method of stamping it out; of the advisability of putting an end to it we make no question. We all love our college customs and traditions; but a custom that is evil is more deserving of

death than an honorable one is worthy to live. The hazing system, whatever good may have been accomplished by its means, will always be a more potent power for evil, and will serve only to aggravate those evils which it seeks to cure, aside from the cowardice of its methods of punishment, by the latent rebellion of those upon whom it seeks to inflict its penalties.

The question of Canadian History in our University has at length assumed a practical form. A petition has been drawn up, asking that the History of Canada be placed upon McGill's curriculum on the same basis as British and Classic History. It is signed by students and graduates in Arts and Applied Science, and will be presented at the Arts Faculty meeting of March 15th. The professors regard the matter, some with enthusiasm, nearly all with favour, signatures are first filing in, and we have every hope that the calendar for '89-'90 will bear witness to the dawning of a new era of patriotism in McGill.

Following is the petition:—

To the Dean and Faculty of Arts,

McGill University:

The petition of the undersigned students and graduates of McGill College, is an earnest and most respectful effort to call to mind the position their University occupies as an educational centre and a source of culture, with a wide influence in directing Canadian thought, and moulding public sentiment. They are also impressed with the need of developing a feeling of patriotism, and of devotion to their native country. They are of opinion that this can best be done by turning attention to the past history, present resources, and future possibilities of Canada; and they believe firmly that McGill University would add to its own dignity and value in being the first to officially encourage and develop this sentiment, by placing the study of Canadian History upon its curriculum, on the same basis as the study of the history of England, Greece and Rome. Your petitioners beg to state that they are but expressing a general desire, and would venture to hope that your body will be inclined to consider the details of a scheme that, to them, at least, appears feasible.

A REBUKE.

It is not often that THE GAZETTE is called upon to speak seriously of the shortcomings of the students, but when what we generally call shortcomings become exaggerated so as to assume the definite shape of vice, it is quite time not only that we should call attention to the matter, but also that active measures should be taken by those in authority.

The habit of stealing has, at some of the faculties, become quite common, and particularly in one