

and pours forth a tirade of abuse upon some practice already condemned by the popular mind. If so, such a method must detract from the spiritual power of the minister for he is no longer declaring to men "the unsearchable riches of Christ," but *preaching before them to satisfy their peculiar fancy*. Let the pulpit advertise itself. *Place living coals upon the minister's tongue and the people will turn out to see them glow*. Touching this point the Rev John Thompson, D.D., of Sarnia, well-known to many of our students, says:

"It is much to be regretted that announcing texts and themes in the newspapers is the fashion of some pulpits even of the Presbyterian church. It is the flag of distress and a sure sign of conscious weakness. It is the last resort to bolster up a sinking cause. *A man is far gone when he attempts to float on the bubble of wonder*. It is sure to degenerate into buffoonery—odd texts and titles and all the little devices to catch the curious. There is better employment for the minister than the manufacture of these vulgar expedients and it is to be hoped that common sense will kill it in the bud.

"*Preach to men and make them feel the majesty, the solemnity and the power of the truth and not before men that they may admire the performance.*"

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The practice of "hazing the uninitiated freshman" in our colleges is rather a common one among senior students. The ceremonies on such occasions are not the most appropriate or dignified, and on this account many have waged war against our "venerable seniors," and have endeavored to deprive them of their so-called prerogative. College authorities have recently taken some steps towards the abolition of "this phase of childishness" from student life.

The members of the sophomore class at Yale were recently brought before the faculty for hazing, but they were released in compliance with a petition signed by over 400 undergraduates. The president of Lafayette college, however, is more determined to stop this academic custom. To obtain the result aimed at, every sophomore will be required to renew the pledge taken last year and every freshman of this year will be required to sign a written declaration by which he promises to take no part in "this heathenish custom." Doubtless this is a step in the right direction for it is well-known that the hazers themselves have been guilty not only of the same offences and at the same time as the unfortunate culprit, but very often of more grievous ones. But apart from this what is their object in hazing? Is it to hold up a student before his collegiate companions that they "may have fun out of him." If so the sooner the measures adopted by the principal of Lafayette college become universal the better. Or is it an honest attempt on the part of the privileged seniors to reform "the verdant new-comer." If so, it is well for the seniors to remember that it is not a rational method of reform to expose a transgressor to the contemptuous merriment and derision of unsympathetic students. To ridicule is not to reform. We are not surprised therefore that the effect of hazing and of similar practices has been anything but salutary.

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Queen's is to celebrate her semi-centennial on the 18th inst., and every true alumnus will assist in making the occasion a jubilee indeed. A joint committee of the university council and of the city council has the matter in hand, and the Principal has asked the Alma Mater society, as representing all students past and present, to make suggestions, to appoint a committee and to co-operate in every possible way. So far, the programme that has been agreed upon for the 18th includes a religious service, with special features, in the forenoon; a public meeting in the afternoon, at which memorial brasses will be uncovered and addresses delivered by prominent statesmen and representatives of literature, and a dinner in the evening. Our race in the Old World has always conjoined eating and drinking with every great occasion, and the good custom may well be continued in Canada. The university welcomes all graduates and benefactors—in a word all readers of the JOURNAL—to its semi-centennial. Considering the average life of universities, this may be looked upon as our coming of age. Those who intend to be present from a distance are requested to notify either the registrar, R. W. Shannon, M.A., or the treasurer, J. B. McIver, at once, so that railway and other necessary tickets may be sent them. Convocation Hall is not very large and the demand for tickets will be great. Friends who live outside Kingston will be preferred, but they must speak without delay.

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As suggestions are in order, we submit one or two. Why should the exercises in connection with the semi-centennial be limited to one day? The university touches life at more points than those taken up in the proposed programme. Would not a mass meeting of students—to be addressed by one of the professors on the afternoon of Sunday the 15th—be appropriate? Our poets could produce something worthy for such an occasion. On Monday afternoon, Dr. Fenwick's lecture in Convocation Hall should be thrown open to all who come from a distance to take part in the celebration. If the dinner of the medical students is to be held on Thursday night, the glee club could give a popular entertainment on the Tuesday, or *vice versa*. A conversazione or torch-light procession would fitly wind up the jubilee.

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Our sister university at Cobourg is just now having a hard fight for existence. Her friends and supporters have divided into two classes, known respectively as Federationists and Anti-Federationists, and each of these has virtually declared eternal war on the other. The former hold that Victoria's influence would be increased if she joined her forces with those of Toronto university and that otherwise she cannot hope to live, while the latter cry that federation, under the present circumstances, means complete absorption, and maintain that Victoria's life depends upon her independence.

And so the struggle, a very bitter one at times, has gone on since a small majority of the General Conference of the Methodist church decided in favour of the principle of Federation, about four years ago. The *Christian Guardian*, the official organ of this body, in its vain efforts to stem the flood of opposition, attempts to forever silence