

# The Varsity

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TORONTO, FEBRUARY 19, 1912

## TASTE AGAIN.

The average undergraduate probably has a lamentably vague idea of the real difference between Turner and Titian, he may know very little about the pre-Raphaelites; and his sole remembrance of Leonardo da Vinci may be a hazy impression that somehow or other he once managed to make rather a fool of the Kaiser. It is a pity. It is also a pity that he should prefer—as he sometimes does—a lurid green and blue horror by Kline or Blumenthal to a print of a really good picture. But in spite of that, one must acknowledge that this same undergraduate displays as a rule a good taste in dress that is in sharp contrast to his taste in pictures. The Blumenthal horror is unknown; there are no apparitions reminiscent of a Turner sunset;—we speak now of term after Thanksgiving, when the Freshmen has learned to distrust the pictures on American magazine covers. Our trousers as a rule are not converted potato-bags turned up at the bottom, nor does the average coat resemble a curtailed cassock. Highland tartans are not popular as suitings, and though we may not all agree with Chesterton as to the character of the wearer of a green tie, especially on the seventeenth of Ireland—still, ties are quite moderate. The average Toronto undergraduate is decidedly a tastefully dressed man.

True, there are grotesques. But why not? Is not the beauty of the most solemn of Norman or Gothic buildings enhanced by gargoyles, grotesque enough in all conscience, but none the less pleasing. If anything, there are too few grotesques among us. But these are born, not made. They are the embodiments of revolt against usage, and your common or garden undergraduate is a hopeless and helpless slave to usage—within limits. Remember, too, that the grotesque must not predominate. The gargoyle is not pleasing when it is a dominating feature. Let us be thankful for our grotesques, but for goodness' sake don't let us have too many of them.

But is it not strange—and this is what we started out to say—that good taste in dress should combine with so much execrable taste in other things? There must be some reason for it, but what it can be puzzles us entirely. We may pray devoutly, however, that our taste in pictures will follow taste in dress. Otherwise, Heaven help us!

### FOUR RULES FOR WRITING ESSAYS.

1. Choose the least interesting subject. (This is much safer, as the student is less likely to be led to express original ideas differing from those of his reader.)
2. From the Carnegie or some other library unearth, if possible, some book dealing with the subject chosen.
3. Select from the book as many passages as may be necessary for the length of the essay.
4. With the aid of any text book of rhetoric correct these selected passages to conform to the rules laid down in it. (This last is very important in order to secure good marks, and it will also render the source of the essay quite unrecognizable).

## ONLOOKER'S CORNER

My friend has a keen appreciation of the beauties of good music. So he looked forward with great pleasure to our excursion to the Royal Alexandra to hear *La Boheme*.

Gaily we tripped up three flights of stairs and found our appointed seats from which Olympic height we could survey at our leisure the expectant throng of music lovers. The house was packed and we remembered that we had noticed the S.R.O. sign as we came in. What a tribute to the taste of the good people of Toronto! We congratulated ourselves. "How well" we said, "is good music appreciated here."

The curtain rose and soon we were in a sort of trance induced by the flood of glorious sound rising from the stage. Suddenly a harsh discordant cackle brought me to earth. It was the man on my left. I fixed my eye on him but he refused to writhe. Instead, he cackled again. The outbursts of ill-timed humour soon became so frequent that I began to study them. I easily discovered the key to the mystery. He had no more knowledge of Italian than the rest of us but he had picked on a certain fat man as the humorist of the 'play' and he laughed accordingly. It was ingenious; but when a burst of heartfelt laughter broke in on the death scene I wept copiously.

At the door I heard an elderly lady remark on the fine appreciation that Torontonians have of music. I hope I shall never meet that lady because I hate her.

THE ONLOOKER.

## HABITUAL HIGH-BROW

A good book and a deep chair are mighty comforters, but if one is to find College life he must be up and doing. I closed the book regretfully and went to the Lit. I am a Unionist. I vote the straight ticket and put my good money in the barrel every springtime; and I know the V.P.V. yell, were if I have never solved the mysteries of the Unionist policy. So I am a Unionist.

It is very interesting. There is a bashful boy making his maiden speech, bullied continually by a snarling heckler, who has evidently learned his politics at the School of Latter-day Pliny, over in the Park.

"Question... question" roars the mob, and there is a rattle of chair legs.

"Count; give us a count" wails the Opposition, though they know well their case is hopeless. The motion is lost; nobody knows what it was, but the government is sustained and the erstwhile heckler smiles brutally upon his co-freres. He will make a speech forthwith, and carry the atmosphere with sneers and abuse.

But I will not suffer, for I will be far away. There is a good book and a deep chair not far off, and I have voted with my Party, like a good Unionist. College Life? By heaven, no! I must seek elsewhere.

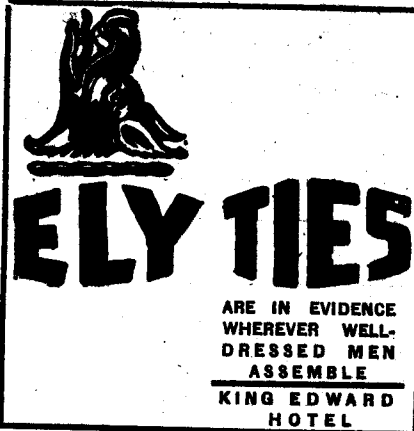
## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of Varsity:

Dear Sir:—As throwing light upon the grievance which was voiced in your columns in a late issue by "Square Chance" I would like to bring before interested students some facts which may serve to show in an unequivocal manner where the cause of this ever-burdening lies. Let us take for example the present II Year Biology Course. The number of hours obligatory work prescribed in the calendar for this course is 32 per week, whereas students in this course during the last term worked 35 hours per week. The extra 3 hours were inflicted in the following manner. 2 hours per week extra in Cryptogamic Botany and 1 hour per week extra in Practical Physiology.

According to the regulations there are 100 hours work in a laboratory and lecture course in Botany. Taking the number of weeks in the fall term as 12, the total number of hours put in at this work was 132—an excess of 32 hours for the term the stipulated amount and one-third as much again—or nearly 3 hours per week extra!

Similarly in Physiology the course prescribed for III Biology is a 3-hour course. I am given to understand, however, that other men working with the Biology men—



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There are 3 hours per week of extra work devoted to subjects that according to the Calendar—which is generally recognised around the University as the court of final appeal on such subjects—are not called for. Were part of this time devoted to instruction in Scientific French and German might it not be a little more even distribution? The great value of German—aside from French—to men who

Continued on Page 4, Col. 4.

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