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## McGill Fortnightly.

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### Editorials.

#### UNIVERSITY DINNER.

Now that the idea of a University Dinner for this year has been abandoned, a revival of the subject will perhaps appear as a fanning of the ashes after the fire has gone out, but at the same time it may be treated generally.

A University Dinner is no doubt a serious undertaking involving a great deal of labor and thought. The question arises, is it worth the time and labor expended, and are the results obtained sufficient to warrant such an expenditure?

We must tread carefully, but while single Faculty Dinners are certainly more provocative of real social enjoyment, does not a joint Dinner of all the Faculties afford a still greater pleasure of a peculiarly genuine nature? Speaking as a participant in the last University Dinner of 1890, there was a sense of *grandeur* and unity obtainable from such a gathering that is never acquired from a smaller assembly.

Again, it gives us an opportunity of seeing and

hearing from the heads of all the departments both educational and political in the land, and it also spreads the fame of Old McGill the country round in a manner that nothing else in the College world can do.

These are the advantages, what are its defects? The plea is put in that the individualities of the different faculties are lost; that the men themselves are lost in the great gathering.

True it is. The units are lost in the splendid whole, but the University Corporate receives an impulse from the sacrifice, and the reputation of Alma Mater has been enhanced. Of course, even all things considered, we do not attempt to advocate a yearly University Banquet. Such would be a practical impossibility. The labor which devolves on the General Committee is too severe, and as a matter of fact the University does not want it. Give us an alternation of Faculty dinners, and, say every three years, a joint dinner of all the Faculties.

This we can advocate strongly, and in so doing probably echo the voice of the majority.

For this year therefore kind wishes to all the Faculties, and next year let us have another reunion similar to that of 1890.

#### COLLEGE RESIDENCE.

If we remember rightly, De Quincey estimated the advantages of a college life as two, viz., intercourse with the professors and access to the libraries. And although De Quincey's situation and prejudice in some degree disqualify his judgment, he is pointing in the right direction. He tells the truth, but not the whole truth. The greater number of those best qualified to decide agree in this, that the profit consists not so much in the acquirement of knowledge, not so much even in the regulating discipline of the course, as in the development of the faculty of suggestion, the power of exertion, self-knowledge, self-reliance, and manly character,—everything, in fact, which goes to form the *man*, so that the student does not, as Macaulay expresses it, go forth into the world a schoolboy. And this is attained chiefly, if not merely by intercourse with professors and access to libraries, yet by the operation of these influences in conjunction with the much more effective influence arising from contact with the infinite variety of character and intellect in the student-world about us. For it is a world, a sort of microcosm, "a privileged world within a world," a representative community; more so, indeed, than the House of Commons, for those are picked men, but in the university