

# The Varsity

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 NCE more we stand at the opening of a new calendar year, and dull indeed must be the soul of any man who is not touched by some passing spirit of seriousness. It is a time for retrospect and prospect, and consequent moralizing. The unused opportunities and unrealized ambitions of the past condemn us for our sloth, and urge us to more vigorous endeavor in the future. But for us, as undergraduates, the season bears a peculiar meaning, summoning us to a fresh start. It is not the beginning of *our* year. Already three months of that are gone—three months of bright memory, but of little work. And the climax has been reached when we have separated to celebrate the greatest event in human history among the beloved Lares and Penates of our own home hearthsides. Doubtless the relaxation has done us all good, and we have again begun that term in which work and not play is the watchword—again entered upon that path which ends not until May—with some of us perchance in the Slough of Despond, but with many more, we hope, on the Delectable Mountains. THE VARSITY has no wish, however, to assume the robes of the pulpit, and we shall therefore close this salutatory paragraph by wishing each of our readers a very happy and very prosperous New Year.

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And, if we discern rightly the signs of the times, there is no good reason why the incoming year should not be a very happy and prosperous one for the undergraduates of Old Varsity. All the indications of last term were favorable to such a conclusion. And when the pot of student politics almost boiled over toward the close of the term, and when every undergraduate and many graduates took an active interest in the discussion, it was an evidence of life. And the greatest desideratum of Toronto students to-day is buoyant vigorous life. Better by far have this overflowing vitality give expression to itself in a rousing

fight than to have that perfect peace and calm which betokens only death, and this quite apart from the merits of the dispute itself.

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We are well aware that a fight carries with it attendant evils that are almost inevitable. Hard feelings and personal animosities are almost sure to be aroused. But we might reasonably expect all such things to be reduced to a minimum, if not entirely abolished, among University students, who should have acquired long ere this that balance and judgment so essential to an amicable settlement of our differences. It is neither possible nor desirable that we should all see eye to eye, but it is quite possible and highly desirable that we should treat with the greatest toleration all who differ from us. Let us then have the freest and liveliest discussion on all questions, but let us cultivate a manly, honest, straightforward spirit in all our student relations—in a word, observe the Golden Rule. THE VARSITY can suggest no better New Year's resolution than this for every undergraduate.

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There is no better way generally to allay strong feeling than to consider the question at issue in a calm philosophical frame of mind as a judge on the bench would weigh the evidence pro and con in a great law-suit. In this way many of our own contentions will lose weight in the balance, and some of our opponents' arguments will seem worthy of a little more consideration. The degree in which we can approximate to this judicial attitude will vary greatly with different individuals, but on the face of it it seems worthy of an effort from each of us.

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Last term the controversy centred around the question of Residence—by no means a new question, nor one to be easily settled. And with many things said on both sides THE VARSITY has no sympathy whatever. We do not believe that the two score men in Residence are of a different species from the men outside. They are fair samples of Toronto students generally. The difference is simply one of environment. They have been thrown together fortuitously as the same number of men might be gathered in any boarding-house of equal proportions. It is but natural under these circumstances that a strong feeling of good fellowship should spring up—that unconsciously the Residence men should be more closely drawn together and that they should vote for each other for office without any other motive than that of personal friendship. If Residence never went any farther than this no sensible man could consider it as unreasonable or unnatural.

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But when this tendency goes to such a length that Residence throws its united power and influence almost invariably as that of a single man on all questions that arise, and when Residence men hold office out of all due proportion to their numbers in the University, we see in it reasonable cause for complaint from the men outside. And we fear that the trouble is growing worse and worse, sus-