

THE VARSITY.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

Last summer a movement was set on foot amongst the Toronto members of the above organization, and those of the general public at all interested in scientific pursuits, to induce the Association to hold its annual meeting for 1889 in Toronto; the invitation was accepted some months ago, and now that all the arrangements are well under way, and everything promises a successful assembly, it will be well to give a brief account of the Association and its objects, and to indicate the probable features of this particular meeting. The A. A. S. was formed in 1848, being the offspring and successor of the American Association of Geologists and Naturalists, which had existed for eight years before that date. By the first article of its constitution, the objects of the Association are defined to be, ". . . by periodical and migratory meetings, to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of America, to give a stronger and more general impulse and more systematic direction to scientific research, and to procure for the labours of scientific men increased facilities and a wider usefulness." One of the most striking features of the Association is its division into sections, sub-divisible at will, which are as follows: (a) Mathematics and Astronomy, (b) Physics, (c) Chemistry, (d) Mechanical Science, (e) Geology and Geography, (f) Biology, (g) Histology and Microscopy, (h) Anthropology, (i) Economic Science and Statistics. From this list, including as it does every important branch of modern science, may be gathered the immense scope and range of the labours of the society. That the attention of the Association is not entirely given to the strictly theoretical side of Science, but also takes an intensely practical stand, may be gathered from the following examples taken at random from a list of Special Committees appointed at one of the General Sessions, viz., Committees on Weights, Measures and Coinage; on the best methods of Science-Teaching in the Public Schools; in relation to Duty on Scientific Books.

The City of Toronto has for several years been endeavouring to obtain the privilege of entertaining the Association, and the fact that there is the keenest competition for this privilege and that it is extremely difficult for even the largest cities to secure it, makes the present success a matter of sincere congratulation. The University will probably be asked to lend its building for the occasion, and the benefits which will accrue, both to those University men who may have the good fortune to be present during the convention, and to the University itself, in becoming more widely known, are too obvious to require more than indication.

From the City, too, thanks are due to the promoters of this movement, among whom we may mention Prof. Loudon, the Secretary of the Local Committee, to whose exertions are largely due the present forward state of the arrangements; as the great bulk of the work and responsibility will continue to fall upon the Local Secretary's shoulders, it is to be hoped he will receive ready assistance from all those interested in the success of the convention.

THE CONVERSAZIONE.

The Conversazione is drawing nigh, and by next Saturday will have become a thing of the past. This annual event is of

no mean significance, in more ways than one. It is the only opportunity which the students have of entertaining their friends and of returning the hospitality extended to them by the city.

Aside from these considerations the way in which it has been managed in past years renders it an occasion of general social importance. The Literary and Scientific Society of University College has ample reason indeed to congratulate itself on the success of its conversat. hitherto; and there is certainly good ground for saying that this year promises as much as former years have fulfilled.

It is no small task to attend to all the *minutiae* of preparation, and the zeal and devotion of time on the part of the committeemen are highly commendable. But it is a labour of love, and as such certainly merits the full measure of success, which, as before, will doubtless attend it.

THE NON-HAZING UNION.

The annual meeting of the Non-Hazing Union held on Friday, 1st instant, and adjourned for further discussion until yesterday, recalls the circumstances under which its organization was effected a year ago, and suggests a comparison of the state of things then existing with the present position of affairs.

At the time of its inception there undoubtedly existed a strong and somewhat bitter feeling between the promoters of the Union and their opponents, a feeling which was evinced by hasty and ill-considered words and actions on both sides.

Since then, however, it has been discovered that the treatment (or maltreatment) of freshmen is not the sole subject of interest in the University world, and that, important as it is, it can yet be discussed in a quiet and friendly tone. The recent scene on the lawn we regard as the action of a few hot-headed students and not in any way as compromising the whole undergraduate body, and, this outbreak excepted, the feeling this year has been temperate and reasonable. The Non-Hazing Union is to be congratulated on the sensible and dignified stand it has taken throughout the year (for we do not hold the Union responsible for the now famous letters in *The Mail*) and we believe that, whatever may be the outcome of the present discussion of the formation of a College Court, the somewhat stupid and barbarous hazing of the past is no longer possible.

EXCHANGE NOTES.

THE VARSITY welcomes gladly the first number of this new magazine. The title-page describes it as "a monthly magazine devoted to the interests of undergraduates" and in their prospectus and editorial columns the editors declare their object to be the elevation of the tone of the College Press and the formation of a means of introduction for undergraduates of literary tastes to the outside world. It is proposed also, we imagine, to perform for College Journalism the same function as *Littell's* and other magazines perform for the general monthlies, viz., to select for republication whatever literary matter seems of most merit. Such an enterprise should meet with the heartiest support of all college journalists.

The *McGill University Gazette* comments rather dubiously on the movement towards the formation of a college press association. The *Gazette* seems to think that the plan proposed by THE VARSITY some time ago is quite impracticable and even chimerical. However, it considers the promulgation of the scheme a step in the right direction, and we are pleased at receiving even a qualified approval. According to the *Gazette*, "college journals possess a certain influence, but it is chiefly local." Why should they not, provided they deal with subjects of general interest, extend their influence through the whole sphere of education, through the whole college world?

Of course, there are plenty of subjects which are purely local in character and indifferent to outside readers, but surely there is a sufficiency of general matters to provide interesting and acceptable reading to students everywhere. If there is not "community of interest or feeling" among college journalists, there ought to be.