

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. X.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DECEMBER 9, 1890.

No. 10.

Editorial Comments.



NEXT Friday evening the motion of Mr. Robinson to change the time of the annual elections of the Literary and Scientific Society from the Easter to the Michaelmas term will come up for discussion. This is a question that merits the thoughtful consideration of every one interested in the welfare of the society. The

change proposed is of such importance that any decision, pro or con, should not be given without due thought of the consequences that may arise from the action taken.

It is claimed by the supporters of the motion that under the system proposed a healthier, if not a greater, interest in the society and the elections would be aroused; that there would be no break up of work just before exams., as at present; that the medical members could be more easily induced to come out and vote, and that thereby their active co-operation in the work of the society would be more generally obtained; and, further, that the individual members would, to a much larger extent than at present, pay their own fees, and that in this way the prevailing corruption—which word is an entire misstatement of what actually does exist—would be avoided.

While denying that the innovation is the panacea it is claimed to be, its opponents urge that the relaxation from work preparatory to the April "cram" which is now afforded by a week's election campaign is rather to be desired than not, and that in the Michaelmas term, when the athletic contests are in full swing, when the smaller societies are occupying the attention of all classes in college, and when the men are only partially acquainted with one another, the elections would degenerate into a very tame affair, with none of the exhilarating excitement now attendant thereon. But more especially it is urged that the proposed change would seriously interfere with the working of the society, an objection which seems to be well taken, and one of the strongest reasons for the rejection of the motion.

Consideration will clearly demonstrate how this interference will arise, and how injuriously effective it may be. If the elections are held in October the society could not get into good working order until the officers were elected, which means that a month or six weeks of the best time in the year will be lost; if in December, there would be two difficulties to encounter. At present, four officers—the First Vice-President, the Curator, the Recording Secretary and one Councillor—are fourth year men. If Seniors continue to be elected to these positions, they must necessarily be vacant during the following Michaelmas term; if, on the contrary, a wholesale change is made in the constitution to allow third men to fill them, the helpful experience of the fourth year men will be entirely lost, and a third year man will receive the highest office in the gift of the undergraduates, while the fourth year men are still five months from gradu-

ation. The adoption of either end of the dilemma could not but have a detrimental effect on the welfare of the society. Whether the benefits to be derived from the change could compensate for the evils that, as has been shown, will follow in its wake, remains to be seen. It is plain that the objections pointed out are very substantial and very difficult to overcome in theory, not to speak of practice. THE VARSITY, as the representative of the whole body of students, takes no side, but merely wishes to point out the advantages and disadvantages of the question at issue. We trust our readers will fully consider the question in all its aspects, and be prepared intelligently to discuss and decide the matter on Friday night.

This year, perhaps, more than ever before, there has appeared around our College a disregard for the rights of others, the presence and increase of which cannot but be regretted by all. The reason of this may be difficult to say, but the fact remains. Instances of this spirit of carelessness and looseness are very common, and can be seen almost everyday. Two or three very glaring ones have been brought to our notice. The December number of *Harper's Magazine* has been so carelessly handled by some persons that it has been necessary to remove it from the files in order to prevent its entire mutilation. The other day somebody had the audacity to make a clipping from one of the daily papers when it had been on the files not more than an hour. Such actions as these are almost unparalleled in the history of the College, and were the offenders known the Literary Society would be asked to deprive them of the rights of the reading-room, of which they have proved themselves so utterly unworthy.

Not long since the ladies of '91 were so seriously disturbed by the noise made by some unthinking students, thoughtless of both their own and others' rights, that they were obliged to adjourn their meeting. An apology to the ladies is certainly due from the gentlemen who acted in this manner. These are but a few examples of almost every-day occurrences, the flagrancy of which, when considered by each student, must appear in glaring colors. A little thought of what one owes to one's self-respect and one's fellow-students, should most thoroughly prevent the recurrence of such violations of the principles that should govern gentlemen and, above all, students.

The Business Manager desires to intimate that all subscriptions to THE VARSITY are due before the Christmas vacation. His duties will be greatly lessened if those who are in arrears will attend to this matter at once. The management of THE VARSITY are to be congratulated on the almost entire unanimity with which the students paid their subscriptions in advance, nearly three-quarters of the whole number having done so. If those who have hitherto neglected this will kindly accept this intimation the manager will be able to put his books in good order before the holidays.