

# THE VARSITY.

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## THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

Towards the hour of eight the undergraduates could be seen going in the direction of the Students' Union Building, for it was the night of the meeting of the Literary Society. The attraction was the inter-year debate between '99 and the centuries. How our hearts go out in sympathy when we think of our younger brethren in the first year! For we were once freshmen ourselves, and can enter into their feelings and think how we once came into the august presence of the members of the Literary Society to make our first speech. How we quivered before the seniors, and even the juniors, as before things of a superior station!

It was a few minutes past the regular hour of opening the meeting, and those in the assembly hall were waiting patiently for the proceedings to commence. Presently there entered the Vice-President, who, in the absence of the President, had to take the chair. He was followed by the Recording Secretary with that ponderous book wherein are concealed the minutes of the Society, and wearing his accustomed smile he took his seat and commenced the proceedings by reading a few chapters from his log book. Mr. Scarf announced that the Mock Parliaments would be held on the two last meetings before Christmas.

Mr. Gibson made a motion to change the reading-room from its present position to the office now occupied by the Committee of the Athletic Association. He thought the Society should grant the request, but the Society did not think so judging from the remarks made by many who engaged in the discussion.

Then John Inkster arose and spoke about sentiment. He thought sentiment should not enter into the matter. McFarlane referred to the fable of the dog in the manger and the ox, but we were unable to learn whether the dog or ox was triumphant. At any rate, the Society thought best to negative the proposal of Mr. Gibson, and declared their intention to remain in their present quarters.

On a communication being read from Trinity University inviting the Society to send a representative to their Convocation Dinner, the Vice-President called for nominations for the same. The Society thought they should confer the honor on Mr. J. H. Hancock who was accordingly declared elected. The Society was then requested to elect two debaters for the Osgoode debate. Mr. C. H. Clegg and Mr. George Black were the choice of the Society.

During the election the genial Secretary rendered a "love" song in excellent manner, and on being heartily encored, led the Society in a college song.

Mr. Black then arose 'mid an uproar of applause and gave notice of a motion to allow the young lady undergraduates to attend the Mock Parliament. The deafening applause which followed certainly indicated that there are many admirers of the fair undergraduates in the Literary Society.

Mr. W. H. Alexander of '98 then read an interesting and much appreciated paper on "The Decadence of Literature in Our Own Times." He deplored the fact that literature is at present declining. He said we live in a

practical age and that on all sides of us nothing but "Facts, facts, facts," are demanded.

The next part on the programme was the debate between '99 and the century year, "*Resolved*, That higher education should not be furnished free by the State." Mr. Little, the leader of the affirmative, made a forcible speech and advocated the rights of the working man as well as the rich man. Mr. Good came forth and attempted to address his audience unadorned with a gown. Then there went up the accustomed vociferous yell and he was induced to don the college garb. He spoke much about the farmers being against higher education. His speech was some "good," and was listened to with interest. Mr. Russell then in a cleverly prepared speech boldly maintained the attitude of his leader. Mr. Todd followed to redeem the side of the freshmen if possible. He spoke well and the debate was closed by Mr. Little, who replied to the arguments of the negative in a neat little speech. The Vice-President then congratulated the speakers on their efforts and decided in favor of the affirmative, a decision which created a good deal of jubilation on the part of the members of the sophomore class. The meeting then adjourned and all went quietly to their several abodes. H.

## THE WOMEN'S LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Women's Literary Society met on Saturday night, November 14, in the Students' Union. At 7.30 p.m. a large number assembled on the steps, awaiting admittance. After the worthy President and her followers had walked across the lawn for the key, it was found that the caretaker was in the building. Those nearest the door put forth their energy in shaking and knocking it, while others descended to perform the same operation upon the windows. At last a light appeared, the door opened and we entered.

In order to lose no more time, the President immediately called upon the Secretary, Miss M. E. Hunter, to read the minutes. Then followed the business, which consisted in a discussion as to what materials should be placed in the reading room.

Miss MacPhail, '97, brought forward a motion, seconded by Miss Nichols, '97, that one daily paper and *The Saturday Night* be placed at the disposal of the readers. This was carried, and Misses Adair and White appointed a committee for their purchase. Miss MacDougall then moved: That instead of buying novels, which have heretofore miraculously disappeared, the Society buy magazines; and that Misses Stovel and Patterson be appointed to choose and purchase these. Miss Kirkwood seconded this and it was carried.

The society voted \$5 for purchase of magazines, on motion of Miss MacPhail and Miss Hill.

The first number on the programme was a brilliant piano solo by Miss Glashan, '97. The encore however was not responded to. An interesting and concise Literary Report was read by Miss Stovel, '98. The ground covered by the report was extensive, but, in her usual thorough way, Miss Stovel gave due space to each work. Miss Cowan, '95, gave the Political report, without a gown—an offence only tolerated in the case of a graduate. She