

the means of bringing the faculty, and through them the Senate into intimate touch with a publication whose excellence and whose success is of great importance to the University at large; finally, they might be the means of obtaining University support for *Torontonensis*, by guaranteeing the salaries of the Editor and Business Manager, who otherwise will still have to trust humbly to Providence that they will receive some pittance to reward them for their faithful devotion to what is beyond question the most thankless task any undergraduate can be called to perform at Varsity.

There are certain practical difficulties in the way of my suggestions, but I do not regard them as serious obstacles. Some changes must be made in the book. These suggestions, it would seem, if carried out, will give permanence, stability and efficiency to the committee and will popularize the book and greatly increase its circulation. But whether the suggestions themselves be valueless or not, the writer will be well satisfied if his letter sets the undergraduate body of Toronto upon the problem how best to adapt *Torontonensis* to larger opportunities. The Editor of Varsity has kindly consented to open his columns to discussion on this subject. I hope that many will avail themselves of this opportunity of expressing their views upon the year-book question and upon the suggested changes.

Yours etc.,

Critic.



The Lit.

The attendance at the Lit. Friday night was remarkably good, considering the unsettled state of the weather, and also the fact that the men had lost considerable time in the earlier part of the week over elections. President Fasken was in the chair and performed his duties in an eminently satisfactory manner.

Messrs. J. S. Jamieson, D. C. Gilchrist and J. D. Munro were appointed a committee to confer with the Executive of the Undergraduates' Union with regard to having Queen's and McGill Universities represented by correspondents on the Varsity. It was thought that such a course would serve to bring the three seats of learning into closer union.

Mr. J. S. Jamieson read communications from Trinity and Victoria in regard to the University Arts dinner. The former expressed a willingness to take part, but the latter college protested that they have enough social functions. A lengthy discussion followed. Some favored dropping the dinner for this year; others expressed a desire to hold one jointly with Trinity; others again thought a University College dinner would be successful. Finally it was decided to make a canvass of University College, and also to ascertain the feeling of Trinity.

Mr. D. C. Gilchrist reported that the committee appointed for the purpose of selecting speakers to represent Varsity in the Inter-university Debating Union had chosen Messrs. W. E. Moore and J. D. Munro for the first debate with Ottawa University.

About twenty minutes were spent in discussing the G.T.P. contract. The speakers handled the

subject in a very creditable manner, indulged in no personalities, but considered the project on its own merits.

Mr. Munro, the critic pro tem, closed the meeting by presenting his report.



A Ballad of the Fleet

By A. Rumpoetsky

(With no apologies to Lord Tennyson or any other Englishman living.)

I.

O'er the motion of the ocean, Rojestvensky picked his way,
When the lookout on the masthead cried in truly Russian way,
"English fisher-ships at sea; I have sighted two or three."
Curses then our captain showered, as he swore,
"I am no coward;
Nay, for I will meet them here, though my ships are out of gear,
And half my men are drunk, ye I'll show the Russian spunk,
We are eight ships of the line, we will fight these fishers three."

II.

So he spake, and he laughed, and drank more vodka, and so
He ordered our fleet to run on, sheer into the heart of the foe,
With a few sober fighters on deck, and hundreds of drunk below.
And our guns belched forth their flame, and occasionally instead
Of hitting the sea, we hit one of the three, and dyed its deck with red.

III.

And the sun came up, and the stars grew dim, far over the great North Sea,
But never a moment ceased the fight of US and the fishers three,
For it seemed quite clear, that there might be here, a few stray Japanese.
And he thought, "It is well, I should send them to hell, and so the Emperor please."
And some we sunk, and some we shattered, and so they could fight us no more—
God of battles was ever a battle like this in the world before.

IV.

For as soon as it was light, and we had hastened out of sight,
Then did Rojestvensky say, "How many men were killed to-day?"
And the answer came back, "None, for they never shot a gun."
Then he rose up and he cried to every rank,—
"Let us quickly make for France, where I can get the chance,
To telegraph the Czar, that at last in seas afar,
His fleet by valor's might, this day have won a fight."
And we sat down on our decks and we drank.