

THE STAGE.

If you will permit me, reader, I shall begin somewhat dryly, with statistics. The adult population of Toronto is approximately 90,000; an average weekly attendance at our four largest theatres totals 36,000. In other words, 40 per cent of the adult population of Toronto go to the theatres each week. Arguing theoretically we should expect the percentage of student playgoers to be far higher. For this reason...

Ignorance, penury, apathy and decrepitude, along with a dozen other classes by their nature non-playgoing, make up a large portion of the 90,000 that form the grown population of this city. On the other hand, we at the university are most of us young men of (it is to be hoped) somewhat liberal ideas, not yet entirely bound down to one narrow subject destined to be our life's work; and it is such a class that should form the backbone of a theatrical audience. If, then, 40 per cent of the grown population of Toronto are playgoers, we, a class so favorably composed, might in reason be expected to show some 50 or 60 per cent of our numbers, theatrically inclined. A very gratifying conclusion, and which has only one objection, namely, that it is not true.

The fact of the matter is, a weekly attendance of students at the theatres would not total 25 per cent. To those who hold scientific views on the merit of the contemporary stage, this will be gloomy intelligence. What is the cause of this apparent indifference of the majority of the students to matters theatrical? A friend of mine suggested that the stage was somewhat of an expensive luxury, and that the greater part of the students could neither afford the time nor the money requisite for its gratification of so costly a taste.

To which I make this reply: With the expenditure of \$3.00 and twelve evenings, one may see the best of the plays presented on the Toronto stage during the dramatic season. The university undergraduate can raise the necessary cash for his fees, board, books, etc., and venture to assert that if he thinks there is sufficient educative value in visiting the theatres, the small amount of time and money required for that purpose will be forthcoming, too.

If this is true, it will be profitable to answer another question, namely: Are the plays presented in Toronto worthy of the attention of a discriminating audience, such as the university may be expected to furnish? Basing my reply upon the performances of last season in this city, I answer strongly in the affirmative.

Here is a list of a few of the best plays presented at the Grand Opera House at that time: Arizona, Gismonda, Macbeth, The Liars, Merchant of Venice, Rostepierre, The Merchant and the Flame, The Little Minister. Notable among the players were Blanche Walsh, Julia Arthur, Mrs. Fluke, Sir Henry Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal. And it was possible to see all these plays and plays for \$3.00.

I cannot here go into a description of the merits of these dramas. To speak of one alone, Sardou's Gismonda is undoubtedly one of the finest plays that has been produced this century. And is there nothing to be learned from witnessing an impersonation by Mrs. Fluke, or Mrs. Kendal? Who shall name three greater dramatic artists than these?

Of course it is not necessary for us to see plays. After all, as Lessing points out, art is not indispensable. But if we are interested in Dickens, why should we exclude Pinero? Smile not at the comparison, reader, for Dickens has not accomplished more for the English novel, than Pinero for the English stage.

Owing to a very crowded first issue, my space is this week somewhat limited. In our next number I shall say something about the proper spirit in which a theatrical performance should be viewed, and also begin reviewing the current attractions to damn or praise, as they shall deserve.

REFERRER.

KNOX NOTES

The first meeting of the Literary Society will be held next Tuesday evening.

The College Missionary Society met last Tuesday night. A. McTaggart lectured as to his summer work at Depot Harbor. We are glad to note that there has been marked progress and that a new church has been built at which four denominations worship. There is football practice every night. Knox has entered the inter-collegiate series and despite the loss of valuable members of the team has still some splendid material. "Sandy" McLeod is captain. Watch for the cup.

W. W. McLaren spent the summer at Worthing and reports a good summer. Look out for some stories! F. E. Laidlaw, B.A., of 166 left on Wednesday evening for Glasgow, where he will pursue his studies at Free Church College. Success "Bob" W. Mac. MacKay will be missed this year.

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FOOTBALL.

Varsity II. Association played a practice match with the Crawfords on Saturday. Alan scored for Varsity shortly after the kick-off in the first half. DeLury also scored in the first. Towers scored for the Crawfords. In the second half the game was even. Groves scoring for the Crawfords and Allan for Varsity.

The Crawfords worked hard, but were unable to score again. Some pretty combinations were played on both sides. Score, 3 to 2, favor of Varsity. The teams: Varsity—Goal, Wigham; backs, Golland, McPherson; halves, Cranston, McQueen, Hackney; forwards, DeLury, Gladney, Day, Allan, Dixon.

On Saturday Varsity III. Rugby team played the Toronto II. on the campus. The Torontos evidently intended to lay out as many men as possible and consequently the game was somewhat rough. The referee, Charles Goldman, of amateur aquatic fame, showed a rather poor knowledge of the game and pleased neither side. The large number of off-sides and free-kicks was particularly noticeable. The Torontos proved rather strong for our boys and at the end of the game the score stood 4 to 1 in their favor.

The line-up of the Varsity team was as follows: Full-back, McIntyre; halves, McMahon, Lang (captain), Madden; quarter, Wood; scrummage, Steele, Helton, Robertson; wings, Campbell, Wilkie, McDougall, White, Poavin, Ives, Edmondson.

Varsity II. Rugby beat Trinity on Trinity grounds by a score of 47 to 0 last Saturday. Trinity was outplayed at every stage of the game. The features of the game were Stratton's punting and Ballard's work at quarter, his passing being very accurate. Captain Hoyles also played a splendid game. There was little roughness in the game, and no one had to retire.

For Trinity, Strathy played a splendid game on the half-back line. Only seven free kicks were allowed. Trinity getting six of them. The attendance was rather small. Line-up—Varsity—Backs—Thorne, Stratton, Wright, Quarter—Ballard, Scrummage—Harvey, Burnham, McKittrick, Wings—Salvely, Ingram, Henry, Moore, Martin, Wood, Hoyles, Spare—Locke.

Trinity—Backs—Sawers, Halves—Mockridge, Strathy, Walker, Quarter—Salt, Scrummage—Wade, Hewitson, Baldwin, Wings—Richards, Burbage, Kelly, Laneoffel, Hammond, Kidd, Trotter, Referee—"Biddy" Barr.

A Varsity-Argonaut game on Thanksgiving Day at Rosedale, should attract a large crowd of students and all lovers of the game. The Argonauts having already won from Hamilton and the Canities will put up a strong fight, but Varsity is in good condition this year, and the scrummage and wing line will average a greater sight than last season. Burnie is playing this year. Norman Pool is in his old position of full-back, while Brown and Aylesworth are still in the team. We are confident that the Varsity boys will maintain their old-time reputation, as they did so well last season.

A Varsity-Association team played a practice match with Victoria on Wednesday, winning by 1 to 0. The boys are turning out well to practice and should do well in the inter-collegiate matches this year. Several new men will be on this year to fill up the vacancies left by old players. McKinnon, a centre-half is a valuable addition to the team.

Great surprise was manifested at Varsity's defeat by McGill on Saturday. The Varsity boys during the first half and part of the second showed superiority in snap and speed, the score standing 4 to 0 in their favor. Capt. Brown had his men well in hand and they played in concert, while McGill's men seemed to be rattled. However, just 18 minutes before the time was up, McGill rallied and steadily gained on Varsity, and until the end of the game continued to pile up points against their opponents. When time was called the score stood 13 to 4 in favor of McGill.

The team was as follows: Back, Brown, Aylesworth, Baldwin, halves, Chown, quarter, Douglas, Poyd, Butler, scrummage, McLennan, Hunt, Meredith, Harrison, McAllum, Wilson, Armstrong, wings.

During the game the spectators on one grand stand cheered for Varsity and on the other for McGill. After the match the McGill boys further showed their friendship and good-fellowship by taking the Varsity men to the theatre, where they occupied front seats. There was great excitement when the players entered and the Varsity val was given. Our players are loud in their praises of the way in which they were treated by their friends the enemy.

Tues.—Laurier meeting Massey Hall, Wed.—2.30, '02 class elections, 4 p.m., Mr. Langton's address, Thur.—Time to study, Fri.—Varsity-McGill games, 2.30, at Rosedale, 8 p.m., Lt. Students' Union, Sat.—Varsity II. v. Trinity, Athletic Field, 2.30, Grand—"Cipher Code," John E. Kellierd, all week.

ABOUT TO BE.

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FRESHIES MEET THE SOPHS.

BATTLE FOR THE FLAG.

This Year's "Hustle" Held in the Ravine.

As last year's "hustle" proved to be something of a failure, the sophomore class of '03 decided to conduct it upon new lines this fall. They accordingly proposed to the freshman class of '04 that the "hustle" should take place in the ravine, south of the gymnasium, and the freshmen, feeling that the sight of the new flag-pole and the historic cannon placed upon a hill near the site of conflict would inspire them to deeds of valor and tenacious bravery, readily agreed to the proposal. Every freshman who is fitted to enjoy college life expects to take part in "hustle" when he enters college, and would be keenly disappointed if he had not the opportunity, and so all members of '04 were eager for the time to come, although perhaps at times feeling an involuntary twinge lest the sophos should prove too strong for them.

On the afternoon of the appointed day a meeting was called in the gymnasium, to which all freshmen were invited. Here interesting speeches were made by Messrs. V. E. Henderson on "Athletics," McPherson on the "Lit.," McFarland on the "Harmonic Club," Wilcox on "Varsity," and R. Hamilton on "College Topics." These were succeeded by great applause and tremendous yells for Varsity, and the respective years present, and the pointers given by the different speakers seemed to be well appreciated by the audience. While the meeting was going on a large crowd of spectators were gathering on the hill opposite to that on which the conflict was to take place, impatiently awaiting the coming of the freshmen.

At length two standard-bearers flanked the freshman flag on the summit of a kopje on the east side of the ravine. The banner bore the appropriate heraldic device of a donkey's head on a field of vert, which created much amusement among the spectators. In a few minutes the whole body of freshmen, over 100 strong, emerged from the gymnasium and marched in battle array to take up their position around the flag which they were to defend. The object of the sops was to dislodge them and capture their standard. As they surveyed the scene from the eminence they were thrilled with the spirit of battle and spontaneously emitted a yell for '04 which rattled among the trees and reverberated from the adjacent buildings. At this point the evening was darkened from the direction of the gymnasium, and the sophomore force appeared, coming on the double-quick. Undaunted by the steep hill up which they had to charge they raised their pace and slipped up hill at full speed. The sops took place right on the edge of the hill, there was a momentary struggle, waving now one way and then another, when at length the sophomore force appeared, coming on the double-quick. Undaunted by the steep hill up which they had to charge they raised their pace and slipped up hill at full speed.

W. Fox, B.A., '00 honor graduate in classics is leaving for Brandon College this week, where he has secured a lucrative position as lecturer in moderns. "L.L." will have no difficulty in teaching the ideas of the demigods of the "wild and woolly" how to shoot.

Wallace P. Cohen, M.A., '97, has been appointed lecturer in Chemistry and Biology. His popularity as a teacher is as great as when he was a student and his ability to fill the position is too well known to need discussion.

Prof. W. S. McLay, M.A., has returned from Chicago University and now fills the chair in English. The boys are all glad to see Prof. McLay back again.

Convocation night took place on Friday last. A large crowd was present in Bloor street Church. The boys marched down in a body and made things lively on the way. The address of the evening was delivered by Prof. McLay, and was much enjoyed by the audience.

The freshman class this year is composed of a "husky" gang of fellows, who look as if they would be able to turn out a first-class football team. Cheer up, freshmen! You may get the ping.

McNeill, from "The Bruce," is back again and wields the "High Kick" wand with dignity and grace. He says the West is all right, but it doesn't come up to Ontario.

Bishop Wood, '00 is imbibing pedagogical potatoes in Hamilton. Bishop is missed by everyone, and all are expecting a successful career for him in mathematics.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT. Names of Winners. This year's tournament has been the most successful yet held under the auspices of the U. Y. I. Tennis Club. A large number of people were present each day to watch the games, thus showing the interest which the tournament has awakened both among students and outsiders. The following are the winners in all the events:

Men's Open—Winner, Paterson; runner-up, Love. Men's Open, doubles—Winners, Alexander and Macdonell; runners-up, McMaster and Harris.

Men's Handicap—Winner, O'Flynn; runner-up, Harris. Mixed Doubles—Winners, Miss Hedley and Glasco; runners-up, Mrs. Burgess and Love. Ladies' Open—Winner, Miss Summerhayes; runner-up, Miss Hedley. Ladies' Handicap—Winner, Mrs. Burgess; runner-up, Miss Taylor.

Novice Singles—Winner, Dunlop; runner-up, Smart. Men's Handicap—Winner, O'Flynn; runner, Harris. The following handsome prizes were presented by the Honorary President: Men's Open—1st, silver berry-bowl; 2nd, pearl-studded scarf-pin. Handicap—1st, silver-mounted military brushes; 2nd, gold lead-pencil. Novice—1st, Campbell racket; 2nd, ornamental clock. Open Doubles—Silver-handled paper knives. Mixed Doubles—Silver berry-spoons. Ladies' Open—Morocco writing portfolio (kindly donated by Dr. J. Archer Watson).

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THE HARMONIC CLUB. New Plans For This Year's Programme. The Harmonic Club met for the first time on Tuesday at the gymnasium. There was a fair attendance and several new singers and players were present, so that the prospect for the coming year seems bright. The officers for this session are: Hon. President—W. J. Loudon. Vice-president—G. F. McFarland. Business Manager—W. Gourlay. Secretary-Treasurer—F. H. Phipps. Curator—W. Ingram.

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