

It having been noticed that boys who have gone from here to the Universities have always been more or less deficient in public speaking, some of the elder boys at the beginning of the present term determined to organize a Debating and Literary Society. Accordingly a meeting was called in the Speech Hall, on Monday, January 24th, when the following officers were elected: H. K. Merritt, President; F. B. Hill, Vice-President; C. H. Brent, Secretary; A. E. Abbott, Treasurer; Executive Committee—E. C. Cayley, C. C. Ambury, and J. A. Ritchie.

Trinity College School, February, 1881.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### A MONTHLY ISSUE

To the Editors of *Rouge et Noir*.

DEAR SIRS,—One of the greatest advantages to be derived from coming before the public, is to be found in the adverse criticism which the public is sure to bestow either upon a prominent individual, or a public enterprise. Criticism, from whatever source it comes, so long as it is not prompted by a spirit of enmity, is generally worth at least some consideration, and we ought to be ever ready to acknowledge our transgressions, especially, where they are aptly criticised. Such criticism as this is to be found in the *Varsity*, of January 7th, in reference to *Rouge et Noir*, and well deserved it truly is.

Trinity has, I am thankful to say, after many years of stagnation begun, in some matters at least, to raise her head amongst the other educational bodies of the country, and a long felt want has been supplied in the institution of a College Paper. It has certainly, in the garb of a Reformer, during even the short period of its existence, been a great success; the Council have, it may be unconsciously, most certainly carried out many of its suggestions: but I will not particularize.

The state of the treasury tells us it has been a financial success—that it has, at least, paid for itself. Many of the literary articles which have appeared in it, have been of a first-rate order, and have been noticed as such not only in our College exchanges, but in the leading Papers and the Magazines as well. In fact *Rouge et Noir* has become, after four issues, quite a factor in the University. With all this before us, why should we not attempt at least a monthly paper, it would only incur twice the number of that of our present issue, and would require very little more trouble and time, than at the present bestowed. The taunt of the *Varsity* was well deserved. Even Trinity men who are not right on the spot, are apt almost to forget the existence of the paper between the times of issue, and outsiders have frequently asked me, "What has become of your College paper? has it died out?" I feel quite sure that we have enough literary talent among our grad's and undergrad's, to support a monthly (that is, eight issues annually,) of the same size as our present quarterly; all that is necessary, is, to get the men interested, and a more frequent issue would tend greatly to bring this about. There is nothing like keeping before the public, if we wish to keep up the public interest in our doings. Just now, too, judging from recent occurrences, is the time to look for greater assistance and more general support from the graduates; and while I am on the subject of stirring up a general interest, I would remind those still in College, that if enthusiasm is to be infused into the graduates, it must first come from

the undergraduates; if they are lukewarm it throws cold water on the whole scheme, if they are enthusiastic the graduates will follow them.

I trust then, gentlemen, that you will consider it advisable to bring this matter up before the College, for I feel confident that if we attempt a monthly issue, we shall be successful.

January, 1881.

ALUMNUS.

### RALLY!

To the Editors of *Rouge et Noir*.

SIRS,—The support which *Rouge et Noir* deserves from the graduates, she unfortunately appears not as yet to have received. I refer entirely now to support in a literary way. This is obvious from the fact that those articles to which names are attached do not display a great variety of contributors, and it is far from likely that those which are anonymous do so in a greater degree. The reason of this is, I think, very simple and not hard to hit upon. It doubtless is that the use and importance of the paper are not fully recognized; and I wish now to point out one or two at least of the most marked benefits of a College Paper, in Trinity especially. The fact of the matter is, Trinity has too long held much the position of an advanced boarding school; and Trinity men think with a great deal too much awe of those terrible ogres, the authorities. Now I do not wish to appear to be writing in a spirit of insubordination, for I hold authority in high esteem, both theoretically and, in this case, practically; but I have sufficient respect for the authorities to think and believe that could the voice of the University generally, in any way be heard in matters of moment, they would at once give it due and careful consideration, and, where practicable, act upon it. Now, by making *Rouge et Noir* a University, and not merely a College paper, in fact as well as in name, we at once have a means whereby we can freely express ourselves, and the only means which, at present at least, seems a practical one. Its columns, of course, will ever be open to general discussion, and though its leaders must necessarily take a decided stand on University questions, yet its general columns in a corresponding degree will ever admit of the thorough ventilation of all shades and opinions. For this reason alone I should expect Trinity men, both old and young, to stand by the paper. But there are other reasons for doing so almost as strong. In the first place, every University and College on the continent has its journal, and with all these *Rouge et Noir* exchanges, thus becoming a great advertising medium (a thing which by-the-by we sadly lack), and in order that it may be such to the honour and glory of Trinity, let the grad's come forward in support and subscribe their articles as well as their money. Then again, it becomes a bond of union among the old men, and keeps up that strong love, that *esprit de corps* that every Trinity man feels long years after he has left college. It keeps the old place, old scenes, and old familiar names and memories ever fresh and bright before us. This alone is a sufficiently strong appeal to ever loyal sons of our loved Alma Mater. Let these reasons for support suffice, though many others, and quite as strong ones, too, could be added. Let us rally round *Rouge et Noir*, and give it our true, loyal support, thereby making it in earnest, what its founders ever meant it to be, the voice of the University.

Yours, etc.,

B. A.

Wellington street, Toronto.