

# The News

## CALENDAR.

Thursday, Feb. 23rd, 8 p.m.—Concert, Banjo and Guitar Club, Guild Hall.

Friday, Feb. 24th, 8 p.m.—Debate, Students' Union, Varsity versus Queen's.

Saturday, Feb. 25, 3 p.m.—Saturday Lecture, Dr. Rudolf, "The Seasons in India." 8 p.m.—Lecture, Canadian Institute, Mr. C. H. C. Wright, "Gothic Architecture."

Monday, Feb. 27th.—Meeting of Modern Language Club, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1st.—Lecture, Political Science Club, Mr. Lefroy.

## KNOX—VARSITY, FINAL DEBATE.

Varsity students do not seem to doubt the propriety of inaugurating a championship race to win it themselves; a fact which was much in evidence last Friday night at Association Hall, where Varsity, championed by W. F. McKay and T. A. Russel, captured the laurels of victory from Knox College, in the final contest of the Inter-Collegiate Debating Union, an Association organized this Academic year, at the instigation of our Literary Society.

By the usual hour a goodly crowd had paid their ten-cent fee and had well-nigh filled the hall. After the customary darts of different varieties had been thrown by the gallery at the fortunate or unfortunate students who were forced to put on their best clothes and sit on the ground floor, these uneasy gentlemen were relieved by the appearance on the platform of the officials and debaters of the evening, which attracted the attention of the gallery in another direction. Mr. I. H. Osterhout, the Secretary of the Union, in a paper entitled, "The Minutes of Previous Meetings," related the history of the organization since its inauguration of November 2nd, 1898, dwelt upon the object of the Association, and spoke of the success which it had already attained. Dr. Wickett, in his Presidential address, spoke modestly of the success which is generally known to have been due to his own efforts. "His experience," he said, "recommended him to make two suggestions: First, that the 25 per cent. now given to oratory in estimating the value of an address should be raised to fifty per cent., and, secondly, that the debates should be held earlier in the year." Hon. G. W. Ross was not present, and consequently we did not hear the Hon.-President. A solo by F. M. Bell-Smith was well received and heartily applauded. Then came the chief attraction for the evening, the debate on the subject: "Resolved, That the present unsatisfactory conditions obtaining in society are due more to defects of the social system than to individual faults." The choice of subject was apt, its politico-philosophical aspect affording good material, both for the Knox philosophers, who took the affirmative side, and the Varsity economists, who argued against the resolution. Before the debate was over, however, it was seen that each side was capable of trespassing on the private property of the other; the Presbyterian

theologians were accused of rank heterodoxy, and the politicians of entertaining unsound economic doctrines. It had been a public secret that the Knox representatives were looked upon as favorites, being older and more experienced; but Fred and Tommy proved that such obstacles can be overcome, and that success lies neither in age or moustache. The Knox representatives proved themselves to be the more accomplished and pleasing orators, while the Varsity champions atoned for this deficiency by a rapid and forcible delivery, supported by well-chosen arguments. Mr. T. R. Robinson, B.A., leading for the affirmative, traced the growth of the present society, and tried to prove the social evils to be due to socialistic production. W. F. McKay, the leader of the negative, set out to trace the same and additional evils to individual faults. The social system he defined as the political, moral, and economic conditions under which we live. He dealt with the economic side of the question, and traced economic evils to individual faults. The fact that society has not been able to curb individuals shows that individuals are to be blamed. All alternative systems are impracticable. Mr. E. Eakin, M.A., for Knox, said that any society should educate and elevate the individual, whereas now he is held down so that he cannot rise. This is due to the fact that the present system puts material before character, and employs only material standards. It produces a clash between ethics and economics. He severely denounced labor by women and children, necessitated by the present method of production. Mr. Eakin's Irish accent and facility of speech, as well as his logical arguments, made the Knox students in the gallery enthusiastic and confident. But they were not expecting such an effort from Varsity's stalwart, T. A. Russel, who, all must confess, made the best speech of the evening. He attacked his opponents' arguments viciously, literally tore them to pieces, and then showed they had no connection the one with the other; then he came to the support of his confrere, built further upon the foundation reared for him by his leader, and won the debate. His retorts were excellent, his logic deep, and his grasp of the subject thorough.

While the referees, Prof. Goldwin Smith, Principal Hoyle, Q.C., and B. E. Walker, were coming to a decision, Prof. Badgley, of Victoria, and Chancellor Wallace, of McMaster, gave short addresses. Leo B. Riggs delighted the audience by his mastery of the piano, and would have received even heartier applause, had not the desire to hear the decision of the referees been so great. Goldwin Smith, when called upon, said: "Both sides did well, referees themselves disagree, two of them give the decision to the speakers on the negative." Then there was cheering, and the least concerned of all appeared to be those two modest youths who now enjoy the honor of being the first to win the championship. They are to be congratulated on their noble effort. In his additional remarks, Prof. Smith virtually said he did not approve of the proposal of Dr. Wickett, in regard to raising the 25 per cent. of value given to oratory to 50 per cent., inasmuch as he favored the more impressive English style of debating with the head, rather than the United States tendency to use merely the tongue. The meeting dispersed, after the losers and victors had been cheered.

Thus ended the first year of the Union. It is healthy in its youth. May it continue so!