

THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

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UNIVERSITY DINNER.

Last session there was some talk among both Graduates and Undergraduates as to the advisability of holding some fête, dinner or banquet to be managed and attended by both of the above mentioned classes. The subject has been revived this year and the general opinion seems to be that such a re-union would be extremely desirable. With this opinion we heartily coincide. The dinner (for all feel convinced that this would be the best form for the re-union to take) would have the effect not only of promoting good feeling among Graduates and Undergraduates and of making them acquainted with one another but would also tend to bring the University before the public in a good light. Among the Graduates of McGill may be numbered many of the foremost men in Canada in the spheres of Law, Medicine and Literature, men who reflect honour and credit not only on themselves and their Alma Mater, but also on the Dominion. In view of these facts, it seems to us that could such a gathering take place (and its possibility is by no means uncertain) it would be productive of the most beneficial results.

We may be permitted to offer a few suggestions as to the manner of carrying out the arrangements for such a gathering. Let a meeting of both Graduates and Undergraduates be called *at once*, and let efforts be made to secure a full attendance. Then committees may be formed to canvass for subscriptions &c., &c., and a date fixed upon.

If the state of the finances would warrant such a proceeding, representatives of all the Universities in Canada and of the more prominent in the United States might be invited to attend.

If all this be done and done heartily we feel confident that success must attend the effort.

Lack of space prevented us from noticing in our last number a letter we have received, which purports to express the sentiments of a large number of our students. Our correspondent censures us severely for introducing Americanisms into the hitherto unsullied pages of the GAZETTE, and inveighs strongly against the adoption of these and other barbarisms. He instances the expressions '77, '76 &c., which he is pleased to call unintelligible and barbarous signs, and he conjures us to return to the cumbersome 'third year,' 'fourth year' &c. which, to our mind, are not a whit more connotative, and not nearly as convenient. If our correspondent had taken the trouble to consult a few numbers of the old GAZETTE he would not have taxed us with introducing innovations, since these serviceable signs were regularly used by the former Editors.

As regards the words 'Sophomore,' 'Junior' and 'Senior,' it is perfectly evident that they are not destined to take root here, and we shall accordingly make no efforts to transplant such unpalatable words. A second year man actually assailed us the other day with the query: "What does Soph. mean anyhow? does it stand for Sophocles?" We may state, in palliation, that these words found their way into our columns in consequence of the frequent perusal of American exchanges, and without any design on our part of introducing them here.

We are far from desiring to substitute terms of foreign growth for the time-honoured expressions which have always been current among us. At the same time it cannot be denied that the repertory of words which we may claim as our own is exceedingly limited, and by no means adequate to our wants. If those who censure us are as clever mintmasters as they are querulous faultfinders, we may hope that our needs will be speedily remedied, and we shall be the first to adopt new terms of home growth provided they are as commodious and concise as those which we have thought it no crime to borrow.

There is one thing, however, which does not speak in favour of our correspondent. The