

# THE VARSITY

*A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.*

VOL. XI.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, OCTOBER 27, 1891.

No. 4.

## Editorial Comments.



It has been decided to hold the Annual Games at Rosedale. Men grew tired of the slow time, the delays, the interruptions and the accidents that have always characterized the Games on the lawn, tired of being frowned at by the people in front who could see, and of being tramped on by the people behind who couldn't,

and though every body was sorry to leave the old lawn, and though every one felt that such a removal would partially destroy the general interest in athletics, yet it was felt to be impossible to hold the Games of this year in the old place.

We hope that the Games will soon be brought back to the lawn, but we have no grounds for the hope. The students have heard a great deal about Club Schemes, and Students' Union Schemes, and proposed cinder tracks, about Gymnasiums and Skating Rinks, about *provisions to be made for physical culture*, and some of them have heard about the Promised Land, but they are all wandering in the wilderness yet, and the only cinders they have seen have been the cinders with which the authorities periodically plug their eyes.

Still we do hope that now at last some provision will be made for athletics. We understand that the plans for the students' union are soon to be placed in the contractor's hands, and it may be that those who come after us will be satisfied—aye, fully satisfied. But they will never be satisfied unless some provision is made for outdoor athletics as well. An oval cinder track behind the University, the cost of which would be trifling, since the materials for the foundation can be so easily procured, would, we believe, fully meet the wants of students in this particular, for an athlete's paradise, like many another, is paved with cinders. Our annual games would then be held on our own track, the College would continue to be the home of athletics, and the lawn would remain the centre of athletic interest.

It is possible that if the authorities knew the wishes of the students on this point an effort would be made to satisfy them. But they do not know, and so long as athletics remain in the present unorganized condition they cannot know.

It is time that some steps were taken towards the formation of an athletic association which would permanently represent the opinions of the students on all questions of general athletic interest, and it is more than time that the murmurings of an anarchy, which it is impossible to satisfy, be succeeded by the concerted and continuous action of a strong organization.

There would be no difficulty in forming such an association, for no one cares how it is constituted so long as it is representative and provision is made for keeping it so;

and through such an organization we may hope to secure anything that the authorities are not absolutely obliged to refuse.

The annual initiation of the First Year came off last Friday. The students of the upper years united to hustle '95, and we are told that the result was entirely satisfactory. There was a time a few years ago when a large number of the students believed that any such initiatory process was wrong in principle and in spirit. Their opposition was chiefly directed against hazing, and three years ago hazing was abolished.

Now the students are practically unanimous in their opposition to hazing—Residence always excepted, for the Immortals never change—and in their support of hustling. This is a compromise and is regarded as such, for every one admits that though the methods of hazing and hustling are widely different, yet the principle is the same, and any difference in spirit is hardly capable of definition.

Yet the compromise seems to be perfectly satisfactory to the majority of the students. The hazers are satisfied with it because they are relieved from upholding a custom which was no longer entirely popular and of continuing practices which were beginning to be dangerous, and the anti-hazers are satisfied because by supporting one custom they hope to escape the charge of having helped to destroy another, and so they make atonement for the rabid radicalism of their junior years by the clinging conservatism of their senior.

There are still a few scattered individuals, however, who, stubbornly tenacious of their old principles, resolutely refuse to compromise. They are not united, and rarely unless challenged express their beliefs; but their conviction is still whole and stern and solitary, they keep to the spirit of the covenant.

The University College Glee Club was founded in November, 1879. It has furnished a portion of the programme of almost every public debate, and its members frequently assist at the regular weekly meetings of the Literary and Scientific Society. The Club always appears at the annual *Conversazione*, and has given many concerts in the city and throughout the Province.

In 1882 the Club assisted in the performance of "Antigone." At the *Conversazione* of 1885 the Club produced for the first time in Canada Max Bruch's cantata "Frithyof," with full orchestral accompaniment. In 1886 the Club rendered Köschat's "Holiday Scenes in Karmthia." In 1889, after the great fire, the Club came to the assistance of the Society by giving a successful concert at the Pavilion.

The University College Song Book was brought out under the auspices of the Club.