

constituency the less chance is there for this desirable diversity, the greater opportunity is there for hobbyists to acquire complete control, to the injury of the whole body and of themselves. We agree thoroughly with Mr. Skaife that "the very numerical weakness of a faculty makes it more dependent for advancement on the general prosperity of the University;" he seems to imagine that our article was directed against the Science Faculty, while the fact is we wrote, as we then believed and as we still believe, in its best interests.

We are not in a position to inform Mr. Skaife of the nationality of the author of the article referred to, but he probably would feel neither insulted nor slandered to be called both a "Home Ruler" and an "Irishman"; but we in our turn are anxious to know "by what series of mental gymnastics" Mr. Skaife arrives at the conclusion that this gentleman is of Irish extraction? We wrote that the proposed change "would have the appearance of countenancing the fact of divided and antagonistic interests," which the whole tenor of the article goes to prove would be created by this very change itself, but which do not now really exist.

Mr. Skaife next informs us that the promoters of the change have looked well to the effects of the success of their efforts, have, like good engineers, examined the ground upon which their agility is going to land them. It is a pity that he did not incorporate some of the reasons given in the petition of which he speaks, and which are to be so powerful with the Governors, in his letter, for we fail to see in it one single valid objection to the argument of our article; as a criticism on style it is exceedingly good, and on the whole is not a little amusing.

And now our correspondent is astonished at another of our "assumptions," viz, that it would be no evil to have the Science representative elected by the medical graduates. If Mr. Skaife will persist in taking out single sentences in our article and warping their meaning to suit his purpose, we have neither the time nor the inclination to follow his peculiar style of argument. Our contention is that the Representative Fellows should each and all be voted for by the whole body of graduates; Mr. Skaife surely cannot have misunderstood our position: if he did misunderstand it, we fear there is not "enough of the pristine undergraduate vigor" left in him to assist him through an ordinary passage in English with even ordinary *promptitude*, not to mention *despatch*.

When Mr. Skaife has done with witticism he indulges in declarations. First in order he tells us that the majority of Science men repudiate the present

system as being contrary to common sense and justice. Well, on the other hand, a respectable minority of Science men, the great majority of the Medical, Arts and Law men and, as we are credibly informed, some of the Professors do not regard it as contrary to common sense, and see no injustice in it. If Mr. Skaife looks before he leaps, we are bound to say we see little evidence of any very careful ocular investigation before he speaks. How, he asks, could a medical graduate speak with authority as to what was wanted in the Science Faculty? Who, we ask, has ever proposed that a medical graduate should ever be placed in such a position as would necessitate his speaking with authority upon what was wanted in the Science Faculty? The present system elects Science men as Science representatives, and we insist there should be no change. No special policy is ever enunciated by the candidates who present themselves for election, and therefore we say that a Science man selected on his general reputation for ability and fitness by the voice of the whole body of the *alumni* is much more likely to be a useful man than is one who would in many cases be the representative of a mere clique. He would represent the University better and would be in just as good a position to speak authoritatively of the needs of his own Faculty.

Unfortunately for the promoters of this scheme representation by number has much to do with the present movement; and now since Mr. Skaife has so much confidence in the grit of himself and his friends, we shall be very much surprised if the graduates in Medicine, Arts and Law do not develop enough of the same commodity to preserve the University as far as possible against the dangers which this agitation involves.

The letter closes with a reference to what Mr. Skaife calls a "curious admission" on our part. The admission is to the effect that if we can do no better we shall take care to retain for ourselves a choice between two evils. This may appear a "curious admission" to those who work for present success, regardless of consequences; but we doubt not, it will be regarded by the best friends of the University as a wise precaution.

HARVARD.

The GAZETTE tenders very sincere congratulations to Harvard on the completion of her 250th year. Her sons have already done great things for their country, and for mankind; but, doubtless, with the prestige which age and increased resources afford, her glory is but begun. The anniversary celebration just held, appears to have been a very enjoyable affair. We give a short description by one who took part:—