

» QUEEN'S »

UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

VOL. XXIV.

KINGSTON, CANADA, MARCH 13TH, 1897.

No. 9.

Queen's University Journal.

Published by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University in Twelve Fortnightly Numbers, during the Academic Year.

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THE Mock Parliament is no more. For the last three weeks its place has been taken by something much more like a real parliament, so that many of the uninitiated lost themselves in its "labyrinth of intricacies." The attendance at these meetings has suggested some reflections on our responsibility as members of a student community.

It is a notorious fact that the ordinary meetings of the Alma Mater Society are attended by only a small percentage of the students, the majority taking little interest in its proceedings. Yet every student retains his right to vote, and on particular occasions the careless and uninterested ones may be brought out. Here the door is open to the influence of the demagogue. It may seem strange that such a character should have any place among college men. But the fact is patent to all. Large sections of the University can be rallied on a sectional cry and be brought out to vote on questions regarding which they are to a large extent, if not totally, ignorant. There can be little doubt that many members of the Society, from all faculties of the University, voted during the recent upheaval without having an adequate knowledge of what they were voting on. Such a state of affairs is dangerous to the life of any community. Naturally the unprincipled men can be most easily persuaded to vote without full knowledge of what they are doing. What is the result? When any question of principle comes up those who are determined to win at any

cost can easily persuade the least scrupulous of these non-attendants to come to their support. On the other hand, the more stable and thoughtful ones are not willing to vote in the dark, and do not easily accept the judgment of others. Hence there is constant danger of the regular supporters of the Society, the men who do its work from the beginning to the end of the year, being voted down on questions of importance by the unstable element of uninterested students; while it requires the greatest exertion of a most unpleasant kind to rally the more solid part of the University to the support of those who stand on principle.

It is exactly this state of affairs which renders corruption in politics so easy, and if we, the educated men of the land, are to be true to our citizenship, we must begin as students by being true to our duties as members of the college community. This means that we shall attend as regularly as possible the meetings of our one University Society, the A.M.S., and thus be prepared to vote intelligently on all questions that arise. The time will not be lost. The training in extempore speaking and in the conduct of public business will more than pay for such a use of Saturday evenings; while the habit thus formed of taking an interest in, and exercising an influence upon, the affairs of the community will be invaluable to ourselves and to our country for all time to come.

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The commonest things in life have rich stores of good for those who seek good. Letter-writing is a very common practice and one so full of benefits that the wonder is we are not all good writers. It must be because we do not seek to get out of it the good that is in it. Emerson, in grappling with the problem, how to make inspiration consecutive, refers to letter-writing as one of the modes of inspiration. "When we have ceased for a long time to have any of the fulness of thought that once made a diary a joy as well as a necessity, and have come to believe that an image or a happy turn of expression is no longer at our command, in writing a letter to a friend we may find that we rise to thought and to a cordial power of expression that costs no effort,