

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE.

In this, the last issue that will appear during the Michaelmas Term, VARSITY desires to extend to its readers the heartiest wishes for a right Merry Christmas and the very happiest of New Years.

It is not often that the pages of a student journal are graced with an article from the pen of such a master of English as Dr. Goldwin Smith, and VARSITY feels that no slight honor has been done it in being able to number among its contributors for the year such a distinguished writer and scholar. "Lamps of Fiction" never appeared publicly before, although it was printed in a little volume prepared for private circulation. That volume is now of course out of print, and as there is probably not another copy in Canada besides that in the possession of the author, the essay will, no doubt, be new to all.

VARSITY also considers itself fortunate in securing a paper from Dr. MacVannel on Columbia University. This distinguished Toronto graduate is now a member of Columbia's faculty, and is intimately acquainted with student life at Seth. Low's University.

The four splendid half-tone engravings that appear in this, the Christmas Number, are used by the courtesy of *Torontonensis*, the Senior Year Book. The work will appear in the course of a few days, not later than Monday or Tuesday of next week. There is a profusion of elegant engravings scattered through its pages, and the editors are making a special effort to turn the attention of the students and the public to the architectural beauties of the Main Building of the University. There is also a host of information in the book, and the best samples of literary work done by the students during the past year. The attractiveness of this issue of VARSITY is undoubtedly due in large measure to the engravings, for which the management desire to thank *Torontonensis*.

Once more, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all!

Editor of VARSITY :—

I noticed in last week's issue of VARSITY two articles discussing the "rink question," and the writers of both agreed in stating that a rink is indispensable this year. As Secretary of the Athletic Association, much as I desire to cultivate a feeling of sociability between the students of both sexes, still for various reasons I consider it inadvisable to place a rink at their disposal this winter.

In building a rink we have two things to take into

consideration: first, whether or not we can make enough money out of it to clear the expenses, and second, the enjoyment it affords to the student body. Now, Mr. Editor, I contend that taking into account the present state of our finances, and the fact that the rink was both poorly patronized last year and a large sum of money was sunk in its erection, the enjoyment of the students should be considered a minor matter, to the expense incurred. As you all know there is still a considerable debt on the gymnasium building, which has to be paid off by the Athletic Association, and accordingly, we deem it our duty to be as economical as possible, until this debt is wiped out.

Last year there was a very small percentage of the students who took advantage of the rink, and we do not think that many more would make use of it this winter, especially among the lady students. Nearly all the lady students patronized it last year who would do so this winter. Nor do I think that the number of men students would be greatly increased, and even if the attendance were increased four-fold, the number would not be sufficient to cover expenses, unless the tickets were placed at an unreasonable price, and then no one would purchase them.

In one of the letters in last issue I notice the following statement, "I see no reason why Varsity should be behind Victoria and McMaster in this respect." Now, Mr. Editor, anyone, who calmly considers for one moment the comparison which is here made between these colleges, will conclude that it is not fairly drawn. Take, for instance, Victoria College. The students there have no gymnasium, and the only means they have of taking exercise in the winter is by skating, and accordingly all who have any regard for their physical welfare, patronize the rink. Whereas at Varsity we have a gymnasium, and a large proportion of the male students belong to it, and will not pay extra money to skate. No doubt some would do so, but the number would be insufficient to warrant the erection of a rink.

The writers of last week take into consideration merely the sociability of the scheme and the benefits to the students, whereas, in our minds, the expense is foremost, and considering our present position, this is what we have to think about. Accordingly, until we obtain some kind of a guarantee that we will clear our expenses, we cannot, in our present position, build a rink this winter. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for space in your paper.

Yours sincerely,

W. M. MARTIN.

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