

COLLEGE TOPICS



Devoted to the interests of the Students in the Universities and Colleges of Toronto.

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FIRST MEETING OF VARSITY LIT

The Initial Meeting for the Easter Term shows no Diminution of Interest

THE MOCK PARLIAMENT

A Number of Clever Speeches Made—Conversat Committees Appointed

The opening meeting of the Lit, in the Easter term, gave no indication of any falling off in the interest which has characterized the proceedings of the Literary Society during the past term. It is quite possible that the Mock Parliament appealed to many a man who sat on the Government, Opposition and Third party benches. In deference to the superior claim of the Literary Society, the affairs of the country—"This fair Dominion," as it is sometimes called—were postponed, and the attention of the House was directed to what might be correctly called its own business. Dr. Wickett, in the course of his remarks, introduced the Rev. William Reeve, a member of the class of '94, and an old classmate. Mr. Reeve, who was one of the luminaries of the society in his day, came forward and made a speech which was received with all the outward marks of satisfaction. He expressed his great interest in public speaking, as well as his delight in renewing, for a brief space, his acquaintance with old Varsity.

The items of business which were dealt with by the society included the appointment of certain representatives and the hearing of the Conversat Committee's report. Mr. W. H. Alexander was appointed representative at the McGill Conversat, to be held on the 10th inst. Messrs. F. W. McKay and John McKay were elected Varsity standard-bearers in the second round of the Inter-collegiate Debate Series. The report of the Conversat Committee, which contained the list of sub-committees, received the approval of the members. The following is the list:

Chairman-President, Dr. Wickett; Secretary, F. E. Brown, '00; Treasurer, John McKay, '99.

Finance Committee—Chairman, John McKay and the chairman of the other committees.

Refreshment Committee—Chairman, '99, H. W. MacLean, J. H. F. Fisher, W. A. Groves; '00, J. F. Stewart, E. H. O. Watson; '01, N. Shennstone, A. Whelihan; '02, E. Mackenzie; S.P.S., W. Boyd.

Reception—Chairman, T. O. Russell; '99, F. W. Anderson, E. N. Armour, S. A. Dickson, V. E. Henderson, G. W. Ross; '00, D. E. Kilgour, A. N. W. Clare, P. Greig; '01, E. J. Kylie, T. H. Wood, R. B. Smith; '02, P. Biggs, A. J. Hills; S.P.S., E. Yeates, J. T. K. Burnside.

Printing—Chairman, W. H. Alexander; '99, W. A. R. Kerr, R. G. Hunter, F. D. McEntee, R. H. Paterson, A. E. Snell; '00, W. Emslie, R. Mitchell, E. P. Flintoft; '01, Ritchie; '02, M. A. Buchanan, P. A. Carson; '03, Cunningham, J. C. MacIntosh; S.P.S., E. Neelanis, T. Shanks.

Decoration—Chairman, W. F. MacKay; '99, G. Gibson, W. Douglas; '00, C. R. Fitzgerald, C. V. Dymont, E. H. Cooper, G. F. Kay; '01, E. P. Brown, H. M. Deroche, G. A. Hackney, E. F. Burton, J. E. Wetherell, C. E. Rowland; '02, Walker, Morris, McRae, R. M. Stewart, I. Woods, A. Martin.

Invitation—Chairman, R. V. Le Seuer; '99, A. MacDougall, A. L. Burch, D. MacDougall, E. A. Cleary; '00, W. G. Harrison, A. N. Mitchell, H. Lang; '01, R. A. Cassidy, A. F. Aylesworth; '02, A. W. MacKenzie; S.P.S., D. A. Ross.

Program—Chairman, J. Monds; '99, W. A. Sadler, H. E. Abraham, J. L. Hogg; '00, H. D. Graham, R. Telford; '01, G. F. MacFarland; '02, E. Hardy, W. C. Klotz; S.P.S., W. Beardmore.

Business disposed of, the opening session of the Tenth Parliament of Canada was in order. Mr. Reeve consented to fill the Speaker's chair, which he did with great credit to himself and to the satisfaction of all parties. The mace, which was constructed of a heterogeneous collection of door-knobs, etc., was laid reverently upon the table, and John Patterson took his seat as Clerk of the House. On either side of the table were the leaders and supporters of the two great parties, while at the foot—below the salt, as it were—the Third party, Patrons, and Prohibitionists were arrayed. One of the most interesting figures on the front benches of the Government was the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. W. H. MacNair, who sat self-confessed as a tiller of the soil. Among his personal characteristics was a huge carpet bag, showing conclusively that he was a man with ancestors. He scorned convention by flaunting in the face of the Opposition a red bandana handkerchief, while the absence of a necktie confirmed his bucolic appearance.

The speech from the throne, which con-

tained among many useful measures, several reflections upon the late Government, constituted the opening ceremony. Messrs. MacKay and Allen, of the first year, were the mover and seconder, and confirmed the general impression regarding the freshman year as "one of the best." In the course of their remarks, they gave evidence of that necessary endowment of a capable politician—a vein of sarcasm. Their efforts having been duly applauded by their side of the House, the Hon. John Monds, delivered himself of a very scathing commentary on the policy of the Government, which, to him, appeared to be summed up in the word disgraceful. The Ministry, seeing what was coming, bent their backs into a bicycle hump and proceeded to take copious notes. The Honorable, the leader of the Opposition, was particularly incensed at the policy of the Government in encouraging the Canadian Commissioners in extravagance by granting them a reinforcement in the matter of expenses.

Mr. Keith, the leader of the great Third party, supplemented the onslaughts of the previous speaker by a very vigorous speech. Mr. Keith inveighed against the provision of a smoking-room, which would become the haunt of men of light character, such as composed the Government. He couldn't see the advantage of either phonographs or megaphones. The Government, who had been all this while on the tenter-hooks of apprehension, raised cheer upon cheer when the speaker in closing declared his intention of supporting the Government. The Premier, Sir Harold Fisher, K.C.B., followed precedent and overwhelmed his opponents with disdainful remarks. He entered into a defence of the various points of policy, and claimed the ability to speak more nonsense in half the time than any other man could.

Mr. Alexander condoled with the Government on its slow coach government, and made an unsuccessful attempt to win his way into the good graces of the Third party.

W. J. Donovan, one of the possibilities for the leadership of the Third party at some future date, threw out veiled charges of hoodluming. Exception was taken by the Premier to the use of such a disreputable word, but the speaker ruled in favor of the orator. Colin Victor Dymont, F.R.S., Lord High Decorator to Her Majesty, came in for the hot shot of Mr. Donovan. Well was it for the latter that Mr. Dymont was not present to speak in defence of his appointment. The whole Third party would have been taken from the House of Parliament—a cinder, a huge clinker. In the absence of the Lord High Decorator, the Minister of Agriculture took up cudgels for his colleague, to the considerable amusement of the members. If one had closed one's eyes during the speech of the Minister of Railways and Canals, the Hon. C. Garvey, it would have been difficult to believe that the scene was elsewhere than the House of Commons at Ottawa.

Tommy Russell, the people's Tommy, spoke about skeletons and menu-cards, and deprecated smoking-rooms, and vindicated athletics. At this period a diversion was created by the leader of a faction, which had hitherto been regarded as demerit. This was the famous A. H. McLeod, the leader of the Patrons, and the successor of John Haycock. Mr. McLeod's speech was very amusing. He has been taking lessons from the Postmaster-General in phrase-making, and he proceeded to brand the Government "as a baser than which there has not been." He proceeded to expose the Minister of Agriculture as a fake; whereupon ensued the famous potato scene, which reminded one so much of Burke's dagger scene in the British House of Commons. This Patron of Patrons claimed that eleven-ninths of the population of Canada is agricultural in its interests. He therefore promised that when, not if, he should be returned to power, the millennium would be in order.

Mr. E. J. Kylie, '01, arose from the ranks of the Opposition and very ably added his quota of criticism of the Government's policy. A vote of want of confidence was here taken by the Government, and was amply sustained. Albeit, they were not yet rid of the clamorous importunities of the proletariat; for Mr. A. L. Burch, of the Patrons of Industry, asked, in tones of agony, for food. Food was given him in the shape of a large tuber, which he proceeded to peel and devour. His appetite appeased, it is felt that the fortunes of the present Government rest upon a surer and more stable basis.

A meeting of the Hockey Club was held last Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of arranging various matches, and selecting a manager for the second team.

It is requested that those members of the graduating class who have not yet sat for the class photo will do so as soon as possible. The date limit has been set at March 13th.

The Literary Society of Parkdale Collegiate Institute has fallen into line and established a course of lectures. Among the lecturers are Prof. Maurice Hutton, Prof. Oswald Rigby, Prof. Cody, Chancellor Burwash and W. Sanford Evans, M.A. A fee of fifty cents for the whole course has been charged, while the single admission has been fixed at fifteen cents.

NEW STUDENT CLUB FORMED AT VARSITY

Its Object will be to Arrange for the Hallowe'en Demonstration Each Year

REPORT OF ITS MEETING

The Organization will also Work for the Promotion of Public Speaking in its Various Branches.

For over a year or more a number of the students of the city have discussed the possibility of giving a students' entertainment at Hallowe'en to replace the annual demonstration at the theatre. Last year a committee was appointed by the University Literary Society to investigate the plan, and, if the venture was considered feasible, to decide what form the entertainment should take. This committee, which was not appointed until late in March, soon found that it was too late in the year to prepare an entertainment that would prove suitable for the occasion. It was decided therefore to postpone the matter until this year. At the meeting held last spring it was unanimously agreed that the annual turnout of all the students of the city on Hallowe'en afforded an excellent opportunity to the students to provide an entertainment of their own. It was thought also that the innovation would not only introduce a novel and interesting aspect to that occasion, but indeed would be gladly welcomed, since a noticeable desire for "something new" has been observed the past few years among many students of the city.

One of the most encouraging features of such a celebration as has been suggested is the fact that the affair would be an assured financial success.

With these observations in mind, a number of students held a meeting last month for the purpose of forming an organization to carry out the plan for next October. This meeting was largely attended and considerable enthusiasm was displayed. Representatives from the different schools were present, and all stated that their colleges would gladly join in the proposed celebration. It was decided that a club should be formed for the purpose, and a nominating committee was thereupon appointed to elect officers for the same. During the course of the meeting a lengthy discussion was held regarding the form of entertainment that should be provided for the occasion in question. Every form of entertainment was thoroughly discussed, and it was found that the majority of those present favored the production of an original comedy depicting modern college life. This proposal was favored for many reasons. The style of such a comedy would be quite unusual, and an extensive field was thought to be open for the introduction of the many interesting incidents of College life. Such a production would appeal strongly to the student and would indeed prove an attraction to the general public. But perhaps the most significant argument in favor of such a piece is the fact that two of Varsity's most prominent graduates are deeply interested in the project, and are now engaged in the task of constructing a play along the lines mentioned.

It is fully realized what a great undertaking this is, and both of the graduates have asked until Feb. 1st to decide whether the plan is within the range of possibility. Meanwhile they are working assiduously at the piece, and it is quite likely that something suitable will be constructed. Both of these graduates are widely known in the world of literature, and it is at all possible to build up a play in the extremely short time that they have, there is not the least doubt that they will accomplish it.

The formation of this club has a two-fold object, and the second is in many respects even more important than the first. This is the arrangement to be made to provide the members of the club with every opportunity for the promotion of public speaking in all its branches. It is proposed that the club shall engage a capable tutor, who shall form classes in oratory, elocution and special voice culture. In this way everyone who is interested in the work may secure tuition at a nominal cost. The advantages of public speaking are unquestionably manifold, and it shall be the object therefore of the club to further this work to the highest degree of possible success.

The nomination committee chosen at the meeting last term, met Friday evening and elected the following officers. President, J. G. Merrick, B.A., Osgoode Hall; vice-president, W. A. R. Kerr; treasurer, F. E. Brophy; secretary, F. D. McEntee. This committee decided also to ask the Literary Society, at its next meeting, to appoint a representative.

This body of officers does not represent the various colleges, but is composed of men who are interested in the club, and are wil-

ling to work in order to bring success to its undertaking. At a later date it is expected that a board will be elected representing all the colleges.

For the present the initiation fee by the club will be very small, and it is hoped that everyone who is interested in the undertaking will send in his name at an early date.

A meeting of the club will be held at University College, Friday afternoon at half past four.

THIS YEAR'S CONVERSAT

Several New Features to be Introduced—Feb. 10th is the Date

Although, as yet in a somewhat chaotic condition, the arrangement for the Conversat will soon take a definite form. There are all sorts of plans in the air, which will in the course of a week or so, either resolve themselves into realities or be altogether dissipated. The most definite thing known is the date, which has been fixed for Feb. 10th. The evening will be divided into three parts, opening with a reception. This will be followed by a promenade concert, and will last until about 11 o'clock, after which the dancing will commence.

Definite arrangements have been made with Madame Trebelli, the famous singer, who will constitute the main attraction of the concert program. The remainder of this part of the program will be rendered by the best available talent. A new feature this year is the appointment of a committee of graduates to provide for the reception of graduates, many of whom are every whit in need of entertainment as the average outsider. The committee appointed for this purpose is composed of the following gentlemen:—Chairman, Dean DeLury; secretary, T. A. Hunt; treasurer, J. G. Merrick; committee, Messrs. James Brebner (the registrar), Lorne MacDougall, of Ottawa; W. M. Martin, of Hamilton; W. M. Boulbee, of Toronto, and O. M. Biggar, of Toronto. It will be the province of this committee to look to it that all graduates present are received by the Faculty and are cordially welcomed and entertained on the night of Feb. 10th. A strenuous endeavor will be made to make the price of the tickets as reasonable as possible. It is hoped that a rate of \$1 will be secured, which will be the same for members of the Faculty, graduates and undergraduates. A distinction will be made in the case of outsiders, who will, in all probability, be assessed at a higher rate. As was stated in the Michaelmas term, it is the purpose of the committee to make this affair essentially a student's function. A further intention is to have it take the form of a social reception rather than a ball. There is no reason whatever why the event should not surpass in point of numbers, as well as social and financial success, all the previous conversats held. It rests with the undergraduates to make it what they choose.

GRENVILLE KLEISER'S CONCERT TO STUDENTS

This Annual Entertainment Will Be Given in Association Hall Monday Evening

The annual "Grenville Kleiser" entertainment, given for the students of the city, will be held this year in Association Hall, next Monday evening.

Each year Mr. Kleiser has given an "evening" to the students, and the occasion has always been a very enjoyable one. Among the recent readings by Mr. Kleiser were "David Copperfield" and "Our American Cousin." This year he will present a miscellaneous program, and a glance at a few of the numbers will suggest the treat that is in store for those who are present next Monday evening.

The program will include the following: "The Grave-diggers scene from Hamlet," a dramatic selection entitled "The Boy Orator of Zepata City," a laughable sketch, "Obliging His Landlady." This latter piece will be particularly appreciated by the boys domiciled in boarding houses. Another funny number will be an experience Mr. Kleiser had in Switzerland with a whistler. Eugene Field's well-known piece, "John Smith," will also be given, together with a number of other bright readings. Mr. Kleiser will be assisted by two or three well-known musical artists.

In order to meet the necessary expense of securing the hall, a small admission fee, as heretofore, will be charged to the students.

The annual "At Home" of the Women's Literary Society will be held on Saturday, 4th February. The thanks of the society are due to the Athletic Association for the use of the Gymnasium for that evening. It is proposed to hold a reception followed by a short literary program. Refreshments will be served in the Reading Room throughout the evening and it is hoped that permission may be obtained to end the "At Home" with a short dance.

BASEBALL NOW BEING DISCUSSED

A Meeting of the Club and Election of Officers for Next Season.

TEAM'S PROSPECTS FOR '99

A Number of New Players at the Different Schools—An American Tour Expected.

Although it will be at least ten weeks before the baseball men will have their innings, the prospects for the coming season are already a chief source of topic among the lovers of the game, and from all appearances the year '99 is going to be a big one in College baseball here.

At the meeting of the University of Toronto Club, held recently, the outlook for the year was fully discussed, and in drawing up the list of players it was unanimously agreed that the team this year will be the strongest that has ever represented Varsity. One of the most important matters decided upon at this meeting was the determination on the part of the directorate to begin practice earlier this year than heretofore and give the players a thorough coaching in batting, base-running and throwing. It is expected that the Armouries will be secured for this purpose. The practices will begin next week and several hours each week will be devoted to indoor work during this month, February and March. A notice of the first practice will be published in a few days, and all new candidates for the team are requested to send in their names at once.

The club will make up two teams as usual, one representing the I. team and the other the II. Each of these teams will make separate tours during the season. It will be the object of the club this year to make the II. team a strong one, so that it may act as a feeder for the I. team each succeeding year.

Arrangements are now being made for an American tour for the I. team. It is proposed to play Niagara University on the 24th of May, Buffalo or Rochester on the 26th and Cornell on Saturday, the 27th. After this date the team will play several colleges in eastern New York, and possibly Princeton and Yale, returning to Toronto for "Commencement Day" in June. When this interesting occasion is over, a second tour will be made through Western Ontario and Michigan.

The II. team tour will include a large number of the best baseball towns in the western part of the province, and will be more extensive than heretofore.

In looking over the list of available men for the I. team, the outlook for a strong team is very encouraging.

Foremost among the galaxy of stars that will dazzle and delight the fans this spring will be Parry, Sinclair, Stratton, Meredith, Armour, Glassford, Blanchard, MacDougall, H. Sinclair, Jones and a host of minor lights who will be given ample opportunity this year of displaying their knowledge of the game.

"Jack" Parry, who will be behind the bat for his fourth season, will captain the I. team, and there is no doubt that under his supervision the team will appear at its very best. "Dan" Sinclair will again hold down second, and, as usual, this will be one of the strongest spots on the team. Glassford, who is taking special work at the School of Pharmacy, is booked again for the box, and, according to latest reports, his arm is in excellent shape. The chances are that the team will be strong in the box this year, as there are several promising pitchers in the first years of the different schools. Stratton will doubtless remain in the outfield where his work is indispensable. Meredith may make a try for first.

The remaining positions will not be filled until after the usual Spring practices. Among the new men this year will probably be Davey, of the Med School, who made a name for himself in the Toronto-Trinity game last fall; Christmas, of the School of Pharmacy; McDonald, of the Dental School; Wright, of the Trinity Meds; Brereton, of the School of Science; and A. W. Mackenzie and Hills, of University College.

The following will be the officers of the club for the season:

Hon. President, Prof. Ramsay Wright, M.A.; President, Frank K. Johnston, M.A.; First Vice-President, W. A. Stratton; Second Vice-President, John R. Meredith; Captain, John R. Parry; Manager, F. D. McEntee; Curator, A. Hills.

Representatives—Fourth year arts, D. A. Sinclair; third year arts, L. E. Jones; second year arts, W. O. Watson; first year arts, A. W. Mackenzie; third and fourth year med. A. J. G. MacDougall; first and second year med., R. Davey; Victoria, A. E. Fisher; St. Michael's, W. O'Connor; S.P.S., W. Brereton; dentals, E. McDonald; Trinity med., N. Wright; pharmacy, J. Christmas.