

1. It seems uncertain whether Convocation has the right to strike off the register the name of any member now on it for the non-payment of his fee, and, if a fee is to be imposed at all, it should be made compulsory on every member to pay it.

2. Convocation is a statutory body and not a voluntary organization, and is, in this respect, as much a public body as the Senate, is. It is, in my opinion, just as important a body as the Senate, in its relation to the University, and therefore, I hold that the trifling expenditure connected with its proceedings should be paid out of the "University Income Fund," just as the Senate's Expenses are paid.

3. I hold this view all the more strongly because I believe that the imposition at the present time of a fee has to be paid under penalty of loss of membership would have the effect of knocking out of Convocation what flickering life has been recently infused into it. This body was created nearly eight years ago, and, during the first seven of these years, nothing was done to justify its existence. It has now, to all appearance, commenced to live, but the attendance at its meetings is still far too small. What effect will the imposition of a fee have on that attendance?

4. There are, I believe, over 1200 names now on the register of Convocation of those who are entitled to vote for elective members of the Senate. The votes cast at Senate elections for any one candidate never amount to more than one-third of the whole number, and seldom to more than from one-sixth to one-fourth. Many who now vote would be certain, from inadvertence alone, to lose their franchise for the non-payment of their fees, and they would never think it worth while to renew the connection thus offensively served. The effect would be to confine the voting to the few who paid, and payment would be, to a large extent, the result of the personal solicitation of candidates for election.

5. The amount of money required by Convocation for the payment of expenses is so insignificant that a much smaller fee than one dollar would suffice if all were to pay. But all would not pay, and there is no reason to believe that the revenue raised in this way would be sufficient to meet even the small outlay which is connected into such a bugbear. A more certain source of revenue would be an occasional subscription like the very successful one taken up at the June meeting.

6. If it be said that the University income fund cannot bear any more additions to the expenditure, I reply that Convocation, if it becomes an active and influential body, can do much for the improvement of the University finances, but if it remains as dead as it has heretofore been, those finances must continue in a crippled condition. The Legislature is not likely to do anything, and with this fact staring us in the face, it would be the height of folly to take, at the present juncture, any rash step which would be likely to prove a bar to the usefulness of Convocation.

In conclusion, let me appeal to my fellow-graduates, not only to give this matter some attention, but to attend the meeting on the 26th of November, and help to find the best possible settlement of a troublesome question.

M. A.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

Initiation,
Communication,
Declaration (or),
Rustication.

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I am the most hard-worked of our hard-worked staff, the most abused and the least rewarded for my conscientious labor. So I stand in need of 'pick-me-ups' and the best one I have had yet comes from a decidedly unexpected quarter, the *Evangelical Churchman*:—

"THE VARSITY.—We give a hearty welcome to this new weekly, the organ of our Provincial University. It has a sphere of its own, which it promises to occupy worthily and successfully. It makes its first appearance very seasonably at the inauguration of a new regime, and we wish for it a grand career in educating a sound public opinion in regard to the position which a Provincial University should occupy.

ON the evening of Saturday before last the President of the Debating Society gave a dinner at the National Club, to that eminently useful body of men known as the General Committee of the Society. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to with perhaps more than the usual enthusiasm, as it doubtless occurred to every one present that the entertainment bore the character of an innovation. I do not remember any occasions on which the geniality of former Presidents extended so far as to regale either the General or the Special Committees. At the next election the candidates for the position Mr. Manley now holds, will probably hint that the capital precedent he was the first to give should be followed.

(Scene, the Dean's lecture-room, at ten o'clock prayers.)—Professor: "I'm in—"
(Dreaming Residence freshman, interrupting:.) "Cost yer five more to draw your cards."—*Columbia Spectator*.

I HAVE had another talk with my friend of the Residence. It seems that my remarks of last week have served as the breeze, to kindle into flame, the long, smouldering embers of discontent. Last Saturday evening a meeting was held, and a Committee appointed to wait on the President, and ask whether he would be willing to receive a petition. On his consenting, a petition was drawn up and presented to him, for submission to the first meeting of Council. Its chief requests are that the Steward be put on a fixed salary, and that all his accounts be submitted to, and audited by the Dean, that comfortable baths be fitted up in each house, and that the room rent be reduced. The other improvements, such as better maintenance, better attendance, better light, &c. will naturally follow, when the steward has no longer any object in reducing all comforts as nearly as possible to a minus quantity. Certainly those requests are not extravagant. The Residents do not demand luxuries, all they ask for are necessities. While improvements have been made in the main building, and large sums expended in altering and refitting lecture rooms, the Residence has been left to the wear and tear of twenty years. Up till now, improvement has not gone beyond the munificent addition of a crazy chair to each room, and a few fenders that have the appearance of being ingeniously constructed out of superannuated bird-cages. Under these circumstances, the expenditure of a few hundred dollars in complying with the Residents' position would hardly be amiss. And now that it is before the Council, I expect to see part, at least, of their grievances, remedied by the beginning of the Easter term, when it is to be hoped the steward, instead of being a contractor, will become a servant in the pay of the college.

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UNFORTUNATELY the ostensibly-compulsory drill, frightened from its first meeting last Wednesday night many members of the Natural Science Association. They fled from this field of action to seize the opportunity to compete for the Company range prizes. The President, Mr. W. B. McMurrich, on taking the chair for the first time, thanked the Association for electing him to his present office. He took it as an especial compliment to himself, having been so long separated from the Institution. His presence among its members would enable him to be benefitted by the acquisition of much Scientific information. Owing to the gallantry of the uniformed analysts and the absence of several graduates, the inaugural address will not be delivered till next Thursday evening.

'THE GRAND REMONSTRANCE.'

To the President and members of the Council of University College,

GENTLEMEN,—

The resident undergraduates beg to submit to you the following statement of facts and expression of their desires:—

(1) The control of University College, including its Residence, being vested, by statute, in the President and Council, it is presumed that they have power to deal with all matters incidental to the management of the Residence and relating to the remuneration of its Steward.

(2) Your petitioners, in referring to an article on Residence affairs, which appeared in the College paper of the 23rd inst., wish it to be understood that the statements therein made are not new ideas and are not exaggerations of facts.

(3) The Steward should not be liable to the temptation of making profit at the expense of the Residents' comforts, which is the natural result of the present system.

(4) It is not in the matter of board alone that your petitioners desire improvement. They request that better care be taken of their rooms, that comfortable bath-rooms, (the present two being practically useless), be fitted up in each house, and that the existing high rent of rooms be reduced.

(5) Your petitioners regret to have to refer to Upper Canada and Knox Colleges as institutions in which Residence regulations and comforts are far superior to those existing here. The obvious remedy for the main part of the evil is the adoption of the plan which has been followed at Upper Canada College for several years, the chief features of which are, firstly: that the Steward is a responsible man and on a fixed salary; secondly: that he is under the immediate control of the Head of Residence, to whom all accounts are submitted, and by whom they are audited. For the details and successful working of this plan, we beg to refer to Mr. Maitland, of Upper Canada College, who has expressed his willingness to give all the information in his power.

(6) Above all, the expense of living in Residence, where alone true college life can be enjoyed, should be reduced to the minimum of expense, and raised to the maximum of comfort and health, consistent with those principles of moderation, economy and discipline, which should exist in all institutions of the kind.

The above, we beg leave to state, has the hearty support of every one in Residence.