

Poet's Corner.

NIGHT ON THE PLAINS.

The dying day is bathed in sunset smiles;
Bright jewelled night, fast follows in her train
With floods of light, illuming far the plains,
That fade where eye no farther can discern.
The heavens high to dewy earth low bend,
The silver sun and all the starry host
Soft whispers breathe upon the evening wind;
While flowers wild, and all the living green,
With gems are decked, as diamonds of the sky.

Infinite light her rosy chariot wheels,
And from afar out throws her golden beams.
But when the full-orbed queen her beauty hides,
Or glancing from her throne, soon seeks the west,
Electric showers, the plains of heaven o'er spread
In clouds of mellow light, that ever changing
From the earth do spring, and hastening, roll
In endless rounds, concentrating in the dome.
Or shooting forth long training bands of fire,
Like falling stars a trackless pathway leave.
As veil on lovely maiden's brow, but dims
The lustre of her eyes, so through the running
Rays aglow, the eyes of night peep out,
All glistening as with tears bedewed.

How beautiful is night! glad visaged night,
That writes in smiles the angels' thoughts,
Or woos the weary wanderer to rest.
In radiant streams our fancy bathes her wings,
And flies beyond the reach of mortal sight:
There seeks the shadows that we see, to find
Both whence they come, and whither waning go.
Now has the blush of rainbow light grown dim,
And night in softest slumber, silence holds.

—ROLAND.

Communications.

OUR DINNER HOUR.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—In this age of ruthless iconoclasm and pitiless progress in matters civil, religious and secular, there is one subject which, as far as I know, has escaped observation. To this I would respectfully ask your attention for a few moments. It is a matter upon which I would like to hear some expression of undergraduate opinion. Is there then, I would ask, or has there ever been, any undergraduate, to whom our two o'clock dinner hour has not been a source of considerable annoyance and vexation? Students, who prior to their entering the halls of University College have been accustomed to taking dinner regularly at twelve o'clock, are now compelled to torture themselves till two, or snatch their meals as best they can before that time. Now the physical injury consequent on such irregularity is apparent to all, and not least to those who, perforce, are the victims of it. Again it is a serious drawback to study. To be a good student one of the first requisites is method. Under the present system this is sadly disregarded, entailing a corresponding loss of valuable time and energy.

One day a student dines at one, the next at twelve, a third at two; and what wonder is it that lectures at the last-named hour are frequently waived in favor of the promptings of the inner man? But it may be asked, 'Why not dine every day at two?'

Well, there are several reasons. Nine out of every ten of us, I presume, have from our infancy upwards been accustomed to taking our dinner at noon. Tradesmen, artisans, merchants, business and professional men, almost without exception, follow this custom. During our course at the public and high schools we followed the same division of time, and, what is more, formed our habits and hours of study thereby.

But when we come up to University College, the copestone, forsooth, of our noble educational system, we are suddenly compelled to give up this senseless regularity, or take the pleasing alternative of mortifying the flesh by a prolonged daily fast. Now, outside of Residence, some few make two their regular dinner hour, but the vast majority do not. And it may be here remarked, in this majority are included the great bulk of all undergraduates. By us unfortunate dissenters, then, a cold dinner has to be thankfully received, and too often swallowed 'miserabile dictu,' with the accompanying sauce of an eloquent little lecture on the irregularities and delinquencies of students in general. Nor is it any wonder, Mr. Editor, that house-keepers thus complain, for it is no small inconvenience to them, to have their different student boarders dropping in from twelve to two.

But to return, there might be some semblance of excuse for having our mid-day at two o'clock, if lectures were concluded each day at that hour.

But such is not the case. Lectures continue every day up till five o'clock. Now, it may be argued, why not breakfast later, and thus avoid the pangs of hunger that a two o'clock dinner otherwise curtails? Well, to breakfast late means to many to rise late, and without entering into a discussion as to the merits of late or early rising with regard to students, I would simply repeat what has been said before, that our habits, on that point, have been formed before coming here, and we are not likely to change them for the four years we are here. Again, since University College is the 'topmost rung of our educational ladder,' if two o'clock, the appointed dinner hour there, be found to be beneficial, it ought to be introduced into the lower rungs as well or else discarded altogether.

To my mind there is no valid reason whatever for maintaining such an anomalous state of things. The two o'clock dinner hour is simply a stumbling-block, and undergraduates ought to make some combined effort to rid themselves of this onerous relic of effete tradition.

With many thanks for space, I remain,

Yours truly, S. J. S.

University College, March 5th, 1884.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—In speaking of some vandalism, as you call it, I see you refer to the position of the offender. Is that the cause of the offence? If not, your correspondent must have a very small mind to connect his position with the misdemeanour. I have nothing to say in regard to the offence, only that it would be much better if the injured ones had the moral courage to reprimand the offender, instead of putting it in the 'Varsity. Surely you must remember, of greater offences committed by some who do not hold menial positions, but who pursue intellectual studies. I hope you do not connect their depredations with their intellectual position. Kindly insert in the 'Varsity and oblige,

Yours, &c.,

B.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—I desire to call your attention to a rather strange occurrence which I noticed a few days ago. While standing in the vestibule of the College, about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, I noticed a couple of lady visitors approach the janitor and respectfully ask permission to see the building. To my astonishment and regret they were turned away with an observation that the building would be open at 2 o'clock. The janitor no doubt only obeyed his instructions, but it seems to me his position under the circumstances was no enviable one, and I would respectfully submit to the President the propriety of allowing him to admit visitors during the ordinary College hour. By strangers, who for the most part are only in the city for a day, the forenoon would obviously be chosen for visiting places of public interest, of which the University is by far the most attractive.

To say nothing of the disappointment incurred after coming no inconsiderable distance from the main part of the city, I will simply observe that it is small comfort to be told that visitors will be admitted at the hour you contemplate leaving the city. By taking some action in this matter the President would, I am sure, not inconvenience either himself or his assistants, and would confer an appreciable boon on the public.

J. W. R.