COLLEGE TOPICS.

A college newspaper published weekly during Michaelmas term in the interests of University and College students of Toronto.

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THE LITERARY SOCIETY

We have long been of the opinion that the programmes presented in the Literary and Scientific Society could be of a higher order, aye, immeasurably higher order than they are now, and have been in the past. This statement, to certain members, seems an idle one. It excites their derision, yet their is the laugh that speaks the empty mind; for such are not in a position to judge. They lack the literary training to be good judges of what a literary programme in reality is. For instance, taking no personal case, but merely a type, what can a sequestered schoolmaster in a humble and uncouth agricultural district know of what constitutes a mellow contralto voice. What do they know of good, bad or indifferent elocution? The majority of such men from the very nature of their early training, their present and past environment are wholly unqualified to attend to the business of selecting and discriminating artistically between promising talent and the indifferent variety.

On the other hand take another type, no extreme or imaginary person, but one that we meet every year in our midst. Take, we say, an artistically gifted man, one who can by his very nature tell and distinguish bumpkin audacity from intrinsic merit, innate talent from foolish trifling, one artistic from his environment and training, then place these two men together upon your Literary Society Executive, and you will soon see what we are trying to indicate.

This article is not, by any means, an attack upon our present executive. We merely wish to call the attention of our readers to a certain grave fallacy which has been stalking about, unchallenged for some time. It is, that because a man bears a high and honorable moral character, that therefore, he is constituted to judge and size up men, as to their artistic abilities. Because a man and his deeds are of good report in the ethical world, that is no criterion that he is also an excellent critic of music, a sound judge of elocution and public speaking, one who can select and perceive from a host of pretenders one promising artist. Yet my friends, this is precisely what you and I believe to judge from our actions, and we are making a mistake—for which we have to suffer. The party feeling runs so high at election times that all questions of reason and advantage are set aside. Then we do not consider what a man's gifts are for the office to which he is nominated. The one great question is, "Unionist or Old Lit?" What utter folly! Yet many at the last election did vote for others than the party which they were otherwise supporting. The result is, we have a few good men on our present executive, who are not there wholly for party reasons. We believe, and therefore advocate to the student body, the members of the Literary Society, that we hold only one meeting a month, and let that one be worthy of a university. Those we now present are unworthy many of our larger collegiate institutes. We, at least, have seen far better programmes in the ordinary High School Literary Societies throughout the province. We would advocate concentrating our effort on less programmes and having those excellent exhibitions of good taste, and artistic ability. Quality and not quantity should be our aim! We could then have more time to look after our debating interests. This is probably the most important of all our literary society training. It is a field of undergraduate endeavor that should receive very special attention. It should be a distinct department of literary work that should receive the most careful cultivation. We could hold, say, two debates monthly, year against year, or individuals against individuals. Such a society would mould and influence our opinions upon national questions of vital importance. It would also give our future lawmakers training. It could be made to stimulate our patriotism to our native land, and to our peerless Empire. It seems to us an excellent scheme.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

Now that the University Dinner is close at hand, it might not be out of place to say something about it. We hope that the committee will not try to cut the price down to a ditch-digger's daily wage, and consequently, have little niggardly bird-mouthfuls of odds and ends. We remember the last one-dollar dinner we attended. The ice-cream (and that melted to its original state, a kind of milky slush) this, we say, was served before the fowl or meat. Then came a lean leg of an athletic turkey, very muscular and bony. The plum-pudding, how well we remember, was served up in thimble moulds, these in many cases had stood in the heat and had crumbled into atoms. Oh that was a sumptuous dinner! A feast for the Gods! May we be spared, through the rest of our life, from a repetition of the same! Let the committee charge whatever a good banquet is worth, and those who can afford it will go, and those who cannot will eat heavier at their boarding-house that night, and look on. We can sympathize with the desire to have all students present., but we say that the dignity of our University must be kept up. Men should stay out and earn more money before coming here, if they are not prepared to take in the various functions. Again, we say, the dignity of our University, and our institutions must be kept up to a dignity, above a chop house, open-at-all-hours sort of dinner, where you pay for your pigs' feet and get a tooth-pick thrown in. Let us have a respectable banquet, where if a man wishes to sip a glass of wine, that he may do as he thinks best, where toleration to a fellow-student's likes and dislikes may go hand-in-hand with good fellowship.

CORRIDOR ECHOES

—The reception of the Harboard Alumni Association will be held on Friday evening, November 23, at eight o'clock in the Institute. All ex-pupils and their friends are cordially invited.

• •

—Proctor sells the Rugby watch, $1.

• •

—"Boquet" Dyment, '00, was a welcome visitor about the halls last week.

• •

—T. E. Brown, formerly of '02, will not return to Varsity this year as he has secured a lucrative position.

• •

—Proctor sells Fountain Pens, $1.75.

• •

—McGill students are endeavoring to introduce a new yell in place of the time-honored M-c-G-I-L-L.

• •

—We have received the first number of "The Mitre," a monthly magazine of literature, university thoughts and events, published by the students of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, P.Q. It is a very creditable publication, but like the "McGill Outlook," it could learn many things from our esteemed contemporary, "The Varsity," under the able management of Messrs. Robertson and Wilcox.

• •

—Proctor's optician is at your service.

• •

—Drop into Burgess' drug store, 278 Yonge street (corner of Alice) and try his perfume. He has a specialty in shaving soap which many of you could use to advantage.

• •

—"This, this is misery—the last, the worst that man can feel." D.L.C., '02, Statics.

• •

Proctor repairs watches, 344 Yonge street.

• •

W. C. Good, '00, is to be seen around the corridors again. He is pursuing post-graduate work.

• •

C. L. Gould, treasurer of the class of '02, is wearing a very sober face these days. He is trying to make both ends meet after Friday night. Pay up boys.

• •

Mr. Freddie Potvin returned on Saturday with a smile.

• •

Everyone reports a most enjoyable time at the third-year reception.

• •

Varsity, the weekly journal of student art and literature, was well represented at the football match in the rain on Saturday. Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Wood went tandem.

• •

It has been a matter of some wonder to us to know whether Col. Peters' remarks to the Queen's Own student soldiers with long locks applied to the gentleman who conducts the Rotunda column, where occasional alleged jokes appear. It's to bad to destroy curls, even in a soldier.

• •

It was a sore touch for Brothers Cassidy and Irwin to loose the debate to their juniors. Just think of being worsted by juniors! Terrible! However, we hope this will not serve to dampen the gentlemen's ambition altogther. "The race is not to the swift, neither is the battle to the strong."

• •

We are tickled to death to find that someone on the staff of the Mail and Empire can see a joke when we make one. In the Saturday edition one of our spurr-of-the-moment jokes is repeated verbatim. I wonder if we could do it again without thinking.

• •

Department of Medicine, lecture, histology. Can anyone tell us why Gallie wishes to change seats with Wilson or why Wilson doesn't want to change?

• •

There was a young lady tremendyous,
Who got in a lawsuit stupendyous,
She'd promised to wed;
But she backed out instead,
For she felt just too awf'lly offendyous.

• •

A reception, intimated in another part of this paper, is to be given to Miss Barrows, at which the Men's Literary Society will embrace the Women's in expressions of welcome.

• •

Mr. R. J. Hamilton is deeply interested in good choir music.

• •

Green peas for the stomach,
Green fields for the poet.
Green freshies for haying,
And green backs to go it.

• •

My new hat cost me twenty-five,
So, papa, ope yur purse;
Poor papa drops the sum required—
Likewise a silent curse.

• •

Charles Lamb, the famous essayist, took a "wee drapple" betimes. He took a few more drops than usual one night. While returning home he passed a house where a party was in progress. Looking through the windows from whence the light streamed he saw the company, and, remembering only a snatch of one of his friend's, Wordsworth's poems, which runs:

Party in a parlor, cram'd just as in life
they were cram'd,
Some drinking tea, some sipping
punch,
All silent—and all damn'd.

Charles cried out to the revellers within at the top of his voice. "Hie, there! you damn'd party in a parlor! Hie, there! you damn'd party in a parlor!"

I saw her bright eyes beaming,
Out of the silken throng;
I saw her bright eyes beaming,
They help'd my heart along.

My heart, it leap'd to greet them,
My heart betimes half dead;
And the blood leap'd up from my bosom—
That blood that is rubiest red.

And my cheek bespake my passion,
My eye had another light;
My soul was one flame of passion—
And I pop'd the question right.

—Ourn.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

An open meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society was held on Friday afternoon, with Prof. Squair presiding. He called upon Mr. Anderson, the lecturer of the evening, who delivered a lecture on "Photography, Past and Present." After a sketch of the history and development of photography, involving a description of the daguerrotype and the wet and dry plate processes, Mr. Anderson outlined some of the present aspects of the subject. In particular he explained the orthochromatic method and the three methods of color-photography. A very interesting lecture was brought to a close by an invitation to the audience to inspect a collection of photographs illustrating the different phases of the art.

DINING HALL NOTES.

The men who happen to sit at the tables near the door pray that the authorities put a compressed air apparatus on that door, and meanwhile everyone entering the Hall or making his exit close the door. Two panes of glass fell out of one of the old-time stained glass windows. Two men sitting under had a narrow escape.

About 1,300 tickets were taken in last week, about 2,000 this.

Several umbrellas, rubbers and canes have been taken from the clothes room of the Dining Hall. We give warning to diners to be on the lookout.

The authorities have placed boxes around the walls where napkins may be kept. Each man has a place for his napkin. He may get a number in the Dean's office. This is a good move.

THE RETURN OF ODYSSEUS.

One of the first places in which "The Return of Odysseus," the Greek play to be given in aid of the Toronto University Women's Residence Fund in December, appeared was in the Harvard Annex for Women, now known as Radcliffe College. Miss Barrows, who is preparing the Toronto students, was herself trained at Radcliffe, and is a good respresentative of that interesting type, the American college woman. As was to be expected, she finds great eagerness among the students at the university to fill the various parts required by the play. A number of excellent athletes have offered themselves, and as soon as the match with McGill is over, ending the football season, it is understood that the majority of the first Rugby team will be anxious to turn their attention to dancing, wrestling and discus hurling. "The Return of Odysseus" has already been acted under Miss Barrows' direction at Brown University, at Rochester for the Rochester University, at Grinnell University, at Minneapolis, in Chicago and at Colorado Springs. Prof. Gile, who is in charge of the department of Greek in Colorado Springs University, has written an enthusiastic letter of appreciation to Prof. Hutton, with regard to the play. In Minneapolis the president of Minnesota University came before the curtain at the conclusion of the play and publicly thanked the director for what she had been able to do for the city and the university.

CHANCELLOR DAY'S STAND.

Head of Syracuse University Approves of Thanksgiving Football.

Syracuse, Nov. 15.—It is probable that Syracuse people will be given an opportunity to see an inter-collegiate football game on University oval Thanksgiving day. This will be a novelty in this part of the country at least. The proposed game will be between the local university and the team of the Queen's College, of Kingston, which is considered the best fifteen in the Dominion. It was at first proposed to have a game with Lafayette, but it has been found out that Lafayette already has a game scheduled for that day. There has been considerable doubt as to whether Chancellor Day would permit a game to be held on Thanksgiving day. To a reporter to-day he said:

"I had supposed that if the people attended church in the morning there was no objection to their taking part in any amusement that a Christian gentleman would engage in on a week day. I understand, however, that some of the ministers object to a game on that day. Personally I see no objection to a game then. It has always been regarded as a time of merry-making, and I see no cause to change it."

The Canadians play both the English and the American game, the latter being their preference. The proposed game here, however, will have to be the American game, as the Syracuse boys do not understand the Canadian manner of serving up football.

WOMEN'S RESIDENCE AT VARSITY

Meeting to Forward the Movement Was Held Wednesday—The Officers Elected.

The annual meeting of the Women's University College Residence Association held Wednesday afternoon was largely attended by those interested in the movement for a women's residence at Toronto University.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Miss Hamilton; vice-presidents, Mrs. McCurdy, Mrs. Mason, Miss Rosebrugh, Mrs. Hutton; secretary, Miss Salter; treasurer, Mrs. Terrington; council, Mrs. Ramsay Wright, Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. Packenham, Miss Grant Macdonald, Miss Clara Benson.

After the business session, Miss Mabel Hay Barrows, who is directing the Greek play, The Return of Odysseus, which will be produced at the Grand next month, addressed the meeting. She also showed the costumes that are to be worn in the production. They are all models of the dressmakers' art, and are historically correct.

AN EVIL IMPUTATION.

The Varsity team resents very strongly the imputation made by the Kingston Whig that Varsity will not try to beat McGill here next Saturday, and so allow the Montreal team to win the championship by beating out Queen's. Any sporting editor that will make such an assertion about the Varsity team clearly does not know about what he is talking. There have never been better sports in Canada than the members of athletic teams sent out from Varsity. The blue and white are practicing hard, and McGill will be given a gallant fight for the game on Saturday. The games in the Inter-Colegiate Union have been scheduled not so much as to decide the championsip, but rather to promote a friendly feeling between the three leading Canadian colleges.

Queen's Hockey Club has elected the following officers: Hon. president, Chas. McInnes, Ph.D.; president, J. W. Merrill, M.A.; first vice-president, J. McDowall; second vice-president, Dr. Jock Harty; captain, G. S. Dalton. Arrangements will be made for a trip between Christmas and New Year's, including Chicago, Buffalo, St. Louis, Pittsburg and New York. The team will be just as strong as it was last season, and will consist of almost the same players. Hiscock will quite likely again guard the posts, Curtis will play point, and McDowall cover-point. Merrill and Dalton will again be the centres, while Walkem and Weatherhead will be the wings. Clark, of last year's R.M.C. team, will also be an addition to Queen's.

THINK ON IT, TO-DAY.

There's no more sensible, serviceable or fashionable Christmas present to give your sister, some other fellow's sister, or your wife than a nice fur garment of some description. If you want to make yourself solid "for aye" get a sealskin jacket, such as Dineen is showing, or get the next best, the popular Persian lamb. To have a garment ready in time for Christmas you must order at once. Send for fur catalogue.

T. McCrae, B.A., '91; M.B., '95, who has held more than one travelling fellowship from Johns Hopkins University, visited Toronto recently. During the absence of Dr. Osler in Europe this summer, Dr. McCrae was left in charge of his private practice in Baltimore.

THIRD YEAR RECEPTION.

A large number of guests spent an enjoyable afternoon in the East and West Halls on Friday at the third year's annual reception. Good music and refreshments were provided, and, as the reception was the first one of the season, it was well attended by the beauty and the chivalry of the University.

Mr. G. M. Clark has revived his interest in music and things musical.

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As he saw a gentleman's trunk he chanced to see.
But they put him in splints and carefully laid
The baggageman on the trunk East made.

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