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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

LITERARY STANDARDS.

We offer to our readers in this issue the first of a series of articles on the leading Universities of both the old world and the new, which we hope to publish successively in the numbers of the FORTNIGHTLY yet to appear.

The different gentlemen who have been approached by the editors on the subject have kindly expressed their willingness to contribute to this series, which thus promises to be both entertaining and instructive, and the articles as contributed will be based largely if not altogether on the writer's personal experience at the various educational institutions which they describe.

The articles themselves, as will appear on perusal, are of a comparative as well as of a descriptive nature, and the teaching methods of the various universities in their different Faculties will be carefully compared with our own, in so far as the natural differences of country and foundation will permit. McGill is indeed fortunate in having representatives of these famous foreign universities as members of her teaching staff, many of whom have, in addition to their outside qualifications, laid the foundations of their subsequently

attained specialized knowledge in the halls of our own university, and under the able tuition of those who still so competently fill the positions they have long upheld.

As contributions to the FORTNIGHTLY, these articles are also possessed of the highest value, as they must naturally tend to raise the literary standard of our journal, and this elevation is one of the things that all having the best interests of the University at heart must welcome as adding to the importance and influence of the paper, not alone in the immediate college world where it circulates most largely, but also in other educational centres where it finds its way as an exchange.

The editors sincerely hope that their efforts in this direction will be appreciated by the University men in general, and that their enthusiasm for College journalism will increase as the literary worth of the contributions becomes more pronounced. We in McGill are now in a position to rise above the mere chronicling of the happening of local events, coupled with trivial personals; and although this department should certainly not be neglected, but on the contrary should be cleverly and properly represented, still, the main portion of this, as of every other paper that aspires to any definite degree of importance in its own proper sphere, should in our opinion be devoted to the publication of articles of a sufficiently great literary merit to justify to the outside world, who may care to interest themselves in such matters, the undoubtedly high opinion which they already hold of the general culture and attainments of the students of this great educational institution of the Canadian metropolis. The work of contribution and selection certainly requires the expenditure of a great deal of both time and care; but when we see what has already been accomplished by our sister universities—or, as politicians may dictate, *cousin* universities—across the border line, notably in Harvard, with whose journals and journalists we have come into personal contact, there seems no justifiable reason why such excellence should not at least be attempted by the students of our own Canadian universities.

This long dissertation may appear to be put in an over-serious strain, and yet surely the thought has long ere this occurred to many others interested. As has been said before, the work of a college is in a large measure judged by its press, and if this be truly the case, then all elevation of standard, every advance toward literary excellence must be favorably regarded as approaching that position of general efficiency and importance which we all must heartily desire and which each should do his utmost to heighten and foster.