

THE VARSITY.

that he was about to bully or be bullied he need not have been there. It needs no great power of common-sense logic to make it evident that no meeting could have been arranged when one body was to look for degrading treatment, and the other to the contemptible business of inflicting it. It was a trial of strength between equals. One side is commonly the more numerous, the other the better disciplined. It was a compact entered into in absolute free-will.

Again, if men who hustle each other are necessarily roughs and hoodlums, the evil spirit enters into them with amazing unanimity. If it is a manifestation of mere crazy idiocy, they are all bitten at once by the same tarantula, which the laws of chance render extremely improbable. Supposing, then, that college men do not hustle because of any temporary wickedness or lunacy, how shall this remarkable university custom be explained?

It has the best of explanations. It goes down to the roots of the Anglo Saxon temperament. With this nation there is a divinity of dauntless nerve and rooty biceps, which needs no Walt Whitman for its apostle. Pluck and strength will always be worshipped. They will test men as long as English is spoken. Watt's line which says "the mind's the standard of the man" is a half-lie. The plug and the bookworm feel its untruth even more keenly than the athlete. I do not wish to exalt the pugilist and the base-ball pitcher, but the instinct which led those Trinity men to lock their arms and bear down upon each other, contending from the pure love of opposition, is the same instinct which has won a thousand victories for our race. That cheerful endurance of cuts and bruises for "the stern joy that warriors feel" is the same quality which overthrows both barbaric fury and civilized discipline. That sweet smile you marked on every face in that hot melee is the same smile which "lesser tribes without the Law" do not love. Understand too, that this is no school of violence and brute strength. The war goes to the brave as often as to the strong. Fists are never used. To lose one's temper is to stamp one's self as a cad. There is no spite or malice; all is the hot grapple and mighty wrench of imperturbable good-nature. Are those who stood outside and piously exclaimed against the strife a better type than those who fought each other till the matter was settled, then shook hands and sang the same tumultuous choruses?

Those who are wise beyond their years, and love long-tailed coats better than the free life of youth, tell us that this custom is a sign of our growing imbecility and decadence, that we are acting childishly, and far below our dignity. We can only say that history tells us that the same spirit which stirred those students of the middle ages, and sent forth "gown" against "town" in uproarious warfare in the large times of Oxford's immortal youth, sent those men over all Europe preaching a boldness and freedom, a pride of the individual's independent capability, and a power of action, which gave us the Renaissance and the Reformation. Are these fierce little battles the manifestation of uncombed barbarism and vulgar boorishness? Then we may well join the unco guid and deprecate the Round Table, holding up its knights to contempt and scorn. For, verily, a tourney was but a hustle in harness, and in such things we are shocked to find even King Arthur delighting. Truly he was the prototype of hustle-leaders. Yet, can we be quite sure that he was anything but a gentleman? And is there not excuse for thinking the slender-fingered lordling of the five o'clock tea, not altogether superior to that rough and unruly man, Launcelot of the Lake?

Let us give up these mealy-mouthed sentiments. Far from being alien to culture, there is no true culture which is not rooted in a complete manhood. The love of warring in debate is no more manly than the joy of giving battle

with the hands. It is not just that men should pay dearly for trying their strength against each other. If property is destroyed it should be paid for. But that students should be treated like degraded creatures because of the mere fact of their having let loose the Anglo-Saxon spirit for a time is neither wise nor right. As well punish and imprison undergraduates for breaking each other's ribs on the foot-ball field. The Trinity medical authorities appear to understand these things.

A. E. McFARLANE.

THE NEW SONG BOOK.

Last spring at the annual meeting of the University of Toronto Glee Club, the question of the advisability of publishing a New Song Book was brought up and discussed, and the unanimous opinion of the club was that a new collection of college songs would prove most acceptable, if indeed there were not an absolute necessity for one.

In view of this opinion, a special committee was appointed, which in its report to the club heartily endorsed the idea and presented some very favorable offers for publication from prominent musical firms in the city. With this encouragement the club appointed a committee which was to be the executive of the Song Book Committee and which was to have representatives appointed from the various organizations of the University whether musical or otherwise, and in this way to insure a general interest in the undertaking. In this the committee was very fortunate, and almost all such organizations promptly appointed representatives, so that the complete committee is as follows: Hon. Chairman, President Loudon, M.A., LL.D.; Chairman, W. R. P. Parker, B.A., LL.B.; Secretary-Treasurer, J. L. R. Parsons, '97; Executive, G. H. Black, '98, J. R. Meredith, '99, J. D. Ruthven, '99; Rep. from Faculty, Profs. Wright, Mavor, Hutton; Rep. from Graduates, Messrs. J. E. Jones, J. D. Spence, R. Gibson, R. K. Barker, A. B. Watt; Rep. from Glee Club, Messrs. Carder, Armour, Bilton, Moore, Race; Rep. from Ladies' Glee Club, Misses M. Stovel and B. Rosenstadt; Rep. from Banjo Club, Messrs. Montgomery and Macdonald; Rep. from S.P.S., Messrs. Smallpiece and Boyd; Rep. from Class '98, Messrs. Harper, Merrit and Miss H. Johnston; Rep. from Class '99, Messrs. Ross and Stratton and Miss Anderson; Rep. from '00, Messrs. Cooper and Coyne and Miss Hughes.

The duty of this committee is clear, to select and publish the best collection of college songs which it is possible to obtain, a collection which is to bear the proud name of the University of Toronto.

The first step the committee took was to offer a prize of \$25 for the best topical University of Toronto song (words and music), and another prize of \$15 for the best setting of college words to some existing melody, both to be submitted for competition. This competition, which closes on November 1st, has received general attention from the musical public, and already a large number of songs have been submitted, many of which are from graduates and undergraduates of the University.

The executive, to which the greater part of the work falls, has fairly commenced the difficult duty of selecting the music, and meets every Tuesday evening in George Black's room in Residence for this purpose. The work, it is expected, will be ready for the press early in the new year.

On Sunday afternoon, the Year Bible classes of the Y.M.C.A. were organized, and Secretary Barron is very much pleased at the large numbers that attended. The students of the Senior and Junior years will attend Rev. Principal Sheraton's in Wycliffe College. The president of the Association, R. W. Craw, will conduct the sophomore class, while the genial secretary will have charge of the freshmen himself.