

THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. V.

TORONTO, November 29, 1884.

No. 6.

Editorial Notes.

Yesterday was Professor Young's 66th birthday. We are sure that we voice the sentiments of all those who know the genial Professor of Mental Philosophy when we very cordially wish him many happy returns of the day.

In the Report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel we find the following reference, amongst others, to Trinity College: "The Institution has attained a widely-recognized position of honor and usefulness, and promises to be the great centre of religion and learning in Western Canada." If "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," what must be the feelings of those who are, and have been, waiting for the fulfilment of the prophecy contained in the sentence which we have italicized?

While Messrs. Proctor and Brandram performed their parts fairly well in connection with the scientific and literary course which has just been concluded, the same cannot be said of their manager. In advertising the course this gentleman, Mr. J. F. Thomson by name, for some reason did not allow his own name to appear, but gave great prominence to the facts that the course was to be held in "Convocation Hall, Toronto University, under the patronage of the president and members of the Literary Society." Events go to show, indeed, that the main use which this enterprising manager had for the Literary Society and the authorities of the College, was for advertising purposes. At any rate the professors and students of University College received but shabby treatment in the hall from the individual who had so judiciously advertised them as his patrons. It is probably safe to say that this somewhat noted impressario will scarcely be allowed in the future to further his own ends so effectually by trading on the reputation of the University and the Literary Society.

Mr. Proctor has, we feel assured, delivered his last lecture to a Toronto audience. He came here with a great flourish of trumpets, but never were expectations so wretchedly disappointed. The lecture on the "Solar System" was a dismal failure. It contained nothing new; nothing which could not have been learned from the most elementary text-book on astronomy, with the aid of a primary geography. It was delivered with an overweening air of superiority which is not, we are glad to say, characteristic of the foremost scientists of the day. The second lecture, on the "Pyramids," was a little better than the first; probably because the lecturer thought his audience might possibly know a little more of the subject than they did of astronomy, and therefore that he must exert himself slightly more. But both lectures were disappointing in the extreme, and we venture to predict that Mr. Proctor will not have the assurance to appear before a Toronto audience again until he can get up something which is worth 75c. and \$1.00 to hear. Mr. Brandram's readings are in progress as we go

to press. We hope they will be more successful than the Proctor fizzles.

Prof. Morrison, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.A.S., of the National University, Washington, will, it is said, be one of the examiners in Mathematics this year. Dr. Morrison has of late been frequently mentioned among honor men in Mathematics, both graduates and undergraduates, as a possible examiner, and we are sure that no appointment could be made more likely to restore confidence in the examinations in that department. Dr. Morrison has had a wide experience as a teacher, as an author, and as an examiner. In conjunction with Professor Newcombe he has prepared a series of Mathematical text-books for American colleges, and in the prefaces of the Analytic Geometry and the Trigonometry, a great portion of the work is credited to him. A work on the Differential and Integral Calculus, by the same authors, is soon to appear. The work on "The Development of the Perturbative Function of Planetary Motion, &c.," a copy of which is in the Library, is one of the most difficult mathematical works published, and it obtained for the Dr. the high distinction of election to a Fellowship in the Royal Astronomical Society. We hope that the Senate will confer the proposed appointment, and that Dr. Morrison will be willing to serve his Alma Mater in that capacity.

There are many anomalies connected with University College. Perhaps the most extraordinary is the retention of the Agricultural Department. This apocryphal institution is annually advertised in our College Calendar, and an elaborate syllabus of the course of instruction therein published. It may surprise some of our readers to learn that there is no such department in practical operation in University College. No student has offered himself for years and years. And yet we industriously circulate a prospectus for a course which has no existence, and give its professor—Emeritus, we suppose—a seat in the College Council, while there is not a single representative of the whole Modern Language Department in that body. Surely it is time that such a ridiculous state of affairs was altered, and justice done to one of the most important courses in University College. While we are discussing this point it may be well to look at the constitution of that august body, the College Council. There are three representatives of the different branches of science—Mineralogy and Geology, Natural History, and Chemistry. There are two representatives of the Mathematical Department—its professor and the Dean of Residence. There is one for Classics, one for History (the President), one for Agriculture (*sic*), and none for Modern Languages! Further comment is unnecessary, but we have felt it our duty to state these facts plainly once for all.

For several years a system of democratic government has been in force in several colleges of the United States, notably at Amherst and Bowdoin. All breaches of College rules are dealt with by a committee called a senate or jury, this committee being chosen from among the students themselves. In general the system has worked very well. Self-control has been developed in the students, and the faculties have been relieved from the