

course. We hope that this era of neglect and apathy is at an end. We will look anxiously for the speedy inauguration of a Students' Club, and shall do our utmost to further its interests.

The recent meeting of Convocation was one of the most harmonious and successful in the history of our University. The great result of the meeting of graduates upon the University Senate. Our graduates seem to be unanimous regarding the advisability of this measure, and there is every reason to believe that the end will be attained. An energetic committee was appointed to secure the necessary legislation. Circular letters upon the subject have been sent out to many graduates throughout the Province, and when the committee wait upon the Minister of Education their request will be seconded by a grand memorial from hundreds of University men. The advantages of the proposed changes were referred to in Mr. Kingsford's earnest letter in the *Mail* the other day. The great need of the University is, of course, more money. A large and active Senate, composed for the most part of our own graduates who have the highest interests of the University most at heart, will be more likely to obtain the required aid either from the Government or from private individuals than the present somewhat lethargic body. By such a measure also the Senate as a corporation would obtain more knowledge of affairs in connection with University College and more influence in their administration than that body seems at present to possess. In many particulars University College is managed in a way that is past finding out. This is especially true with regard to appointments on the faculty of that institution. In some cases if it cannot be said that new positions were created for persons, at all events more than once persons have been very handsomely found for the positions. And no one knows who asked for the positions or who really controls the appointments. Then, several of the most important subjects are taught in a very perfect manner. This is not the way in which the affairs of our greatest public educational institution should be carried on. It is to be hoped that one of the results of the present agitation will be to change all that,—and the change cannot begin too soon.

Pending Articles.

A PLEA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COURSE IN POLITICAL ECONOMY.

We regret to notice that the project to establish a course in Political Economy in our University has apparently received a quietus, or at any rate has been shelved for an indefinite time. And it was perhaps to be expected. It has always been the case that when a new branch of study seeks to assert its right to be admitted to the same status and consideration as its older and more favoured sisters, it will meet with many a repulse before it attains the goal.

A passing glance at the history of the liberalization of the curricula of the English and American universities reveals the fact that a long and hard-fought struggle was necessary to secure the recognition of the rights and merits of the intruder. A century ago the student was forced to make his election between the Scylla of Classics and the Charybdis of Mathematics after he had embarked on the voyage of college study. However, the Modern Languages began to clamor for admission, and although granted a place grudgingly enough, were not unnaturally regarded by the student who was so unfortunate as to have a distaste for them, as but his old enemy Scylla in a new and not less terrible form. Here, nevertheless, was a distinct advance. On whatever ground the study of the Classics or of Mathematics may be lauded as preferable to

that of the Modern Languages, it certainly could not have been of those of the superior practical utility of the former to that of the latter. We consider a man educated if we chance to hear him quote of Horace or a simile of Homer; we admire the enthusiasm of the man who makes himself conversant with the intricate problems of the higher Mathematics; but is there any one short of a zealot in either of these subjects who would not prefer having a fair acquaintance with the masterpieces of the Modern Languages, and thereby being better able to intellectually enjoy himself should he ever have the good fortune to visit the lands where these tongues have sway? For we take it that the language of those men whose works exercise the greatest influence over us are clearly entitled to the first consideration. And this was the principle clearly acted on by that great race, the Romans, who paid no attention to the writings of the Semites or to the lore of the Hindoos; but confined their linguistic studies to the literature of Greece, that is to say, to the literature of that nation to whom they were indebted for a large portion of their education in the domains of poetry, oratory, and the other sister arts. But we, on our part, have been slowly, though none the less surely, emancipating ourselves from the once greatly overweening influence of the Classics, and their place is being gradually usurped by the Modern Languages. And justly so; for does not the part played by the French and German tongues—especially by the latter—with reference to ourselves fully equal that played by the Greeks to the Romans.

But by far the most furious contest that has yet taken place between the forces of Liberalism and Conservatism in University affairs, was that between Science and Ultra-orthodoxy. How that contest terminated is notorious, and who shall say that since the claims of science have been fully recognized in every hall of learning pretending to be abreast of the time, that her influence has not been of incalculable benefit? It is no exaggeration to aver that the growth and dissemination of scientific ideas has done the lion's share of the work in differentiating bygone ages from our own.

Nevertheless, unquestionably the most practically important science of all has hitherto not only been utterly denied a bare recognition of its rights, but has even been treated with contempt on the part of some of our University authorities. We allude to the Science of Political Economy. We are at a loss to conceive how any adequate justification can be urged in extenuation of the course adopted by the Senate towards this branch of study. For is not the study of the laws which regulate the condition of society generally, and particularly those which govern commercial prosperity and depression, one of the most important that could attract the attention of any man? What branch of knowledge is there, we ask, that is of more especial moment to the community than that which treats of Free Trade and Protection, Taxation, Labor, Capital, the Land Problem, and the thousand and one other kindred questions? For every individual interested in Homeric theories or in quaternions, or in the analysis of a substance or the pedigree of a word, there are thousands most deeply concerned in the questions of Free Trade and Protection, Labor and Capital, and generally speaking, in the whole range of subjects considered by the science of Political Economy. This being the case, is it not eminently fitting that these questions should be studied in our University, which is popularly supposed, at any rate, to be the head and centre of learning in the country? Far from the average University graduate being able intelligently to discuss these questions, he is a mere pigmy in the hands of the ordinary member of a Trades Union, nay, in a large number of cases he has never even given them a thought. Any one who would verify the truth of this statement has only to attend a meeting of the Young Men's Liberal Club, when he will be surprised at the power displayed by members of the working classes in their treatment of these questions. Not long ago the Land Question was the subject of debate, and no respectable attempt was made to refute the doctrines of Henry George as ex-