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THE *'Varsity*, in its last two numbers, has been dealing editorially with the Principal's remarks anent matriculation standards in Ontario, and we congratulate "our esteemed contemp." upon its courage. We wish that we could extend the same congratulations to the University College Senate. We would like to remind the latter of a little scene at the Skaian gate of Troy some thirty centuries since, wherein a certain gentleman named Hector replied to his wife's advice to avoid the conflict, by saying:

"I should blush

If, like a coward, I could shun the fight."

They will forgive us for not quoting in the original when we assure them that the fault lies with our printer, who has the bad taste to have no Greek type on hand. The beauty of the quotation is not, however, limited by language.

* * *

Now, as concerns the position taken by the *'Varsity*, we may add that we agree with almost all that they have

said. The two questions raised by the Principal have been correctly stated by them:

1st. Is the matriculation standard in Ontario what it should be? and

2nd. If not, who is to blame?

To the first question they answer with the Principal— unquestionably no.

To the second they quote him as saying, "The University of Toronto is to blame." This is the truth, O *'Varsity*! but not the whole truth. Dr. Grant laid the blame of the present condition of things upon the Education Department *and* the University of Toronto. We are very glad to see the *'Varsity* once again agree with the Principal. Toronto and Queen's, then, are a unit upon two points:

1st. The matriculation standard is not what it should be.

2nd. The Education Department is to blame for the present condition of things.

* * *

We hope, now, that Mr. Ross will see clearly just how he stands in the matter. Queen's holds him responsible for neglect of duty in permitting the matriculation standard to remain so low; the University of Toronto does the same, and under these circumstances we fail to see how the present condition of things can longer continue. It looks very much as if the hand of the Minister of Education was being forced in the affair; but, since the two parties most interested are agreed in denouncing his "masterly inactivity," we doubt not that he will see fit to alter his course at once. One thing is certain. The country knows now that the two greatest Universities in the province are dissatisfied with the Education Department. They demand improvement. The Minister refuses to let them improve. And the Minister is the head of the "most progressive Education Department on the continent." Will the Hon. G. W. Ross rise and explain?

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To sum up the whole matter, the *'Varsity* agrees with the Principal that the matriculation examination is not what it should be. It agrees with him, also, we assume, that Queen's is not to blame for this. It again agrees with him that the Department of Education is to blame. But it sees from his narrative of a ten years' conflict that he thinks the Senate of Toronto is also to blame, and it stoutly denies this soft impeachment. The difference between it and the Principal is thus narrowed to one point, and with regard to this we shall ask two questions,