

## Rouge et Noir.

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TRINITY COLLEGE.

Contributions and literary matter of all kinds solicited from the Alumni and friends of the University.

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TRINITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.  
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EDITORIAL. Egoism has, in the main, but little more claim to be excluded from the range of boredom, than any other development of that social bane. Absolute necessity is the only extenuating plea; and that necessity we have to urge, in excuse for this brief reference to ourselves. A change has been made in the conduct of this publication, of such importance that it must not escape mention. The initial number, as all will recall, appeared as a private enterprise, but with the design that it should at some time assume representative functions. Already has the purpose of its founders been carried out, and *Rouge et Noir* has been formally adopted as the College paper, by unanimous vote of the residents. To represent their views is of course one of its main objects, but the encouraging support that has been received from without leads us to hope that it will gradually become, to a great extent, the organ of all the Alumni. Our first number has, on the whole, met with a very favourable reception, and we take this opportunity to express our thanks to all our friends, adding a hope that their interest in our efforts may not decline. It will, no doubt, be gratifying to them to learn that the publication is now founded on the firm basis of a constitution, which makes the residents as a whole its sponsors, and so will ensure its continuance, since it is now freed from the risk of collapse ever attendant upon private enterprises of this character.

There is one point on which we are particularly solicitous, and that is, that there be no misconception as to whose views are expressed in this paper. To prevent a possible error, and to fore-

stall a probable misrepresentation, we would state explicitly that no article in *Rouge et Noir* is, and no article will be, in any way inspired by the authorities of the College. While it is within certain bounds representative, it is in no degree official. In order to give no colour to an erroneous impression on this point, we have concluded, in spite of some slight adverse criticism, to retain the same name as before; at least until a better, of a similar character, be suggested. In fact, we do not think it advisable to so stamp the name TRINITY on the paper as to make it appear an authoritative publication.

THE College Library is said to contain some five thousand volumes. We cannot state from personal experience its quantity or their quality. Numerous donations to its shelves have been generously made by older institutions and liberally-minded friends; subscriptions in its aid have been from time to time made; and now, we seriously ask, for whose benefit? Possibly for the residents, certainly not for the University at large. To a visitor, its existence is a secret; to the students, it is known as the Provost's lecture room. Even the latter have a very restricted access to its shelves. There appears to be no known librarian, no recognized source of procuring admittance, but by hunting up the "gyp" who tends the library fire. Surely the result of so much generosity and so many valuable legacies should be more accessible. Does such a necessity as a catalogue exist? We can't tell.

THAT a College, presenting such inducements to matriculants and indigent seekers after University education as Trinity, should be advertised in no other way than by the attacks of her enemies, is a justifiable subject of wonder; but another point, in connection with the system of management, seems still more ill-advised. We refer to the sale of calendars. There could be no possible unfitness in an institution of world-wide reputation pursuing such a course. Oxford and Cambridge might well set a value on detailed information respecting themselves; but that Trinity, a purely sectarian institution, of recent birth, and in a new country, should do the same, is inexplicable. What is required is extensive advertising on all sides, and the first step to be taken, is to remove this foolish tariff on the chief means of setting forth the claims of the College to the public.

## UNIVERSITY CONSOLIDATION.

A writer in the *Dominion Churchman*, in criticising our first issue, appears to have misconstrued the spirit of the article on "A National University." Its author was not advocating a course that would be detrimental to Trinity, or have any other tendency than the furtherance of her welfare, and not hers only, but that of the educational interests of the whole Province; and this latter should receive no small share of our consideration. We cannot see how the consummation of the proposed plan of union would, in any degree, be at Trinity's expense, or be aught else than a benefit to her, in common with all the other factors of the resulting University. For there is no design to give to the present University of Toronto any preponderance of influence, and neither in justice nor in expediency should she demand any. The intention is consolidation with, but never absorption into, the Government institution. The advantages that would accrue from having but a single degree-granting body in the Province, are too obvious, and have been too often clearly set forth, to require or justify much comment. Of course only an approximate equality of value would result to the degrees from this consolidation, but their general value would be largely increased. Furthermore, the identity of the separate Colleges would not be disturbed, and the choice of a College would by no means be a matter of indifference to the matriculant. A uniform standard of excellence is not attributed to the different Colleges of the great English Universities, nor would it be so in this case; and it is from this very phase of the matter, that we conceive the chiefest benefit would be derived from consolidation. The very rivalry that would ensue between the Colleges for University distinctions would be a powerful incentive to individual exertion, since none could be so deficient in the requisite *esprit de corps*, as not to be zealous to stamp their own Alma Mater as leading the van in scholarship. This competitive feeling would be the life of the University; and where each member of a corporation is doing his utmost to exceed his fellows in the accomplishment of allotted duties, the result on the entire body must prove beneficial.

In this same way, a degree of the proposed University, thus bettered by the individual action of its component parts, would bear with it a reputation