



UNIVERSITY
OF
TORONTO

MARCH 7, 1885

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THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

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THE 'VARSITY.

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Editorial Notes.

WE extend our sympathy to *Illini* and to the students of Illinois University whose interests this journal so ably represents. The faculty of this institution (with that peculiar facility which faculties sometimes show of doing what they should not and neglecting what they should do) have established a petty system of assigning demerit marks for trivial offences committed by the students. If the authorities of this university cannot maintain discipline by other means than such a kindergarten method as this, it is probable that their usefulness as a governing body is over. For what is true of political states is not less true of their academical counterparts—that there is no surer means of provoking disorder and rebellion than by excess of governing. The *Illini* protests strongly against the ultra-paternal solicitude of the faculty as being utterly uncalled for. The conduct of this college journal is in commendable contrast to that of the *Notre Dame Scholastic*, which publishes in every issue a "Roll of Honor" and a "List of Excellence." Bah!

THE President has recently received an interesting addition to his ethnological collection, illustrative of the singular custom prevailing among certain tribes on the Columbia River and the coasts of British Columbia and Oregon, of flattening and otherwise modifying the form of the head. One of the skulls, that of a woman of the Kosedemos tribe, inhabiting the north-west end of Vancouver's Island, is a remarkable example of the "sugar-loaf" head, such as at first glance seems scarcely human. It is from a scaffolded bier, and, never having been interred, is in fine condition. Two other skulls, one male and the other female, are from the same tribe. Two male Flathead skulls of a different type are examples of the Squamish tribe, recovered from an ancient grave-mound near the entrance of the north arm of Burrard Inlet, British Columbia. The tribe of Squamish Flathead Indians is still living in the same locality, but the practice of flattening the head during infancy is now falling generally into disuse, both on the mainland and in Vancouver Island, and good specimens of the artificially-formed skulls are rare.

PROFESSOR Hutton delivered a very interesting and scholarly lecture on Plutarch to an appreciative audience, in St. James' Square Presbyterian Church, the other evening. This is a highly commendable custom and one which we should like to see followed more widely than it is by other members of the Faculty of University College and the School of Science. But our professors should not even confine their lectures to Toronto audiences. Why should they not occasionally visit some of the smaller cities and the towns and large villages of our Province for the same purpose? With the prestige of the University behind them, their influence for good by the adoption of such a measure would be incalculable. Many youths would thereby be inspired with a desire to attend college who otherwise would never have thought of such a step, and a wider sympathy would be created with the aims and objects of that institution. Our University is a Provincial, not a Torontonion, institution merely, and it is really a duty which university professors owe to the public to awaken a deeper provincial interest in it. This can be done very effectively in the way referred to. It has been done in the case of Queen's and Victoria by Drs. Grant and Nelles. If an English precedent would be more acceptable to our professors we would mention Professors Roscoe, Huxley, Ruskin and Carpenter, who, we believe, some years since gave popular lectures to working men, for admission to which only a penny fee was charged.

THERE was manifested at the last meeting of the Modern Language Club a deep and wide-spread feeling of dissatisfaction at the lack of recognition by the University and College authorities of the writings of American authors. And not without just reason is this complaint made. For, as our correspondent "D" recently remarked, we in Canada are much interested in and influenced by this great and vigorous literature which is growing up alongside of us. Longfellow and Whittier and Hawthorne and Holmes are household names among us, and yet, strange anomaly, they are entirely ignored in a curriculum which yet can find a place for "Gammer Gurton's Needle" and "Ralph Roister Doister." There is something radically wrong here. It is a serious evil to regard English literature merely as an interesting relic of a bygone age, and to study it as a fossil or skull is studied by the ethnologist, and not as the living work of living writers, instinct with present human sympathy and heavenly aspiration. The inability or neglect which does not recognize literary merit unless it has been sanctioned by age and by English opinion is a foolish weakness in provincial intellectual character. The reasons which have caused English universities in the past to neglect American literary productions were never defensible, and every year makes them less so. No one now asks, "Who reads an American book?" since everybody reads them. They are being translated into all the languages of the civilized world. Let us then in Toronto University, the intellectual centre of Canada, assert ourselves and encourage the development of Canadian literary character by a proper appreciation of the literature most akin to it.

WE agree with Mr. Houston that great credit is due to those undergraduates who, without attendance at lectures, are yet able to get up their work so as to be able to pass the university examinations. Only persons of ability and perseverance can do this. But the credit to which they are entitled is not usually that of having received in its highest sense what is known as a

liberal education. Were these very persons to attend college, any one would soon be able to perceive a marked improvement in their intellectual character. We grant that they have received an education in self-reliance. But the result is not always admirable. We have seen persons whose self-reliance was perfectly intolerable. Such, however, is not usually the effect of university training. It broadens the mental vision and liberalizes the opinions of those who come under its influence. But the private student is too apt to imagine that the last word on every subject has been said by the particular author he has chanced to read, and further that no one else has ever so thoroughly understood that author as this particular reader. Mr. Houston speaks of the education which a non-attendant undergraduate receives while teaching or from mingling in society. If Mr. Houston were a society man he would know the utter worthlessness from an intellectual point of view of the education which is received from this source. Society, in the ordinary sense, does not develop the intellectual nature, but rather dwarfs and stunts it. Of course if the student seeks *à la* Diogenes for intellectual individuals, he will find them, but he is not nearly so likely to encounter them in ordinary society as he would be if he attended college. And as for the education received in teaching, we all know how narrow and illiberal it frequently is. From the very necessities of the case a teacher can hardly escape becoming on many points too self-sufficient and too dogmatic, especially if he has not received a university education before entering on that professional career. Notwithstanding the able arguments of our correspondent, we would still regret the adoption by the Senate of any measure which might lead future undergraduates to suppose that no special intellectual benefit was to be received from attendance at lectures and from mingling with their companions in college halls.

ON Monday evening last a meeting of the fourth year was held to consider the advisability of replacing the customary photos of the graduating classes, in the different departments, by one large picture embracing all the classes. The meeting was very much in favor of the change and measures were taken to effect it. The custom by which we are enabled to carry away with us on leaving College in something more tangible than memory's form, the features of those with whom for so long a time we have been connected, is certainly sufficiently commendable to warrant continuance, and any plan whereby not only those with whom we have come in contact in the daily round of College lectures, but also those whom we have met amid even pleasanter associations might be included, ought to be a welcome one. The idea is to have a large composition picture, each individual photographed separately, and from this single pictures taken. The estimated figure, \$2.50, would place the picture within the reach of all. It is to be hoped that the proposition will be successfully carried out.

Editorial and Contributed.

OUR HIGHER DEGREES.

OUR article which appeared a short time ago under the heading "M.A., LL.D.," has called forth a rejoinder, and in "Agricola" the present system of bestowing the higher degrees of our University finds a warm advocate. The arguments advanced against the proposed change of the Senate to the granting of the degree of LL.D., solely *honoris causa*, and in favor of the examination system as now followed, are precisely those upon which we founded our advocacy and support of the Senate's position; and, so seriously and decorously explained, as they are by "Agricola," they are worthy of further reference.

We agree with "Agricola" that to ascertain the fitness of any person for a degree, some test is necessary, and that the value of the degree depends upon the nature of the test, and the mode of its application; but we are unable to see any "logical inconsistency" in our opinion that the test applied in the conferring of the higher, or that the best or only test for the former must ne-

cessarily be the best or only desirable test for the latter. We have endeavoured to point out that the system of written examinations, on specified lines of study, while it may be the most satisfactory yet devised for the bestowal of such degrees as that of Bachelor of Arts, of Medicine, or of Law, is absurd when extended to the granting of higher degrees, and *does* reach its *reductio ad absurdum* when applied to the degree of Doctor of Laws. Our reasons for this position, apart from those given in the article above referred to, are founded upon a conviction as to the false and dangerous character of written examinations in general, and as to the desirability of keeping their use within the narrowest possible limits. Our opinion in this regard is founded as well upon the deepest conviction as on the highest authority, and we have seen nothing to weaken us in its expression, in any authority to the contrary that has been advanced. We think that our views as to this question are well known; and further reference to, or discussion of them, would be unnecessary here. And if those views are sound, if written examinations are never a thoroughly reliable criterion of fitness for degrees, and become less and less as we advance, the conclusion is not illogical that they are least reliable in their application to the highest degree of all, or what is looked upon among us as the highest.

In one or two respects "Agricola" has, at least, misunderstood us. If he attributes to us the statement that "none but persons consumed with Varsity and conceit take the degree of LL.D. under the present arrangement, and that they do not wear the degree with dignity either to themselves or to the University, he puts into our mouths words which we never uttered. Our contention has been that the tendency of "the present arrangement" is to give this degree to men who do not deserve it, and at the same time to exclude from its enjoyment those whom the University would desire to honour with a deserved and appropriate honour. We are glad to agree with "Agricola" that in our list of LL.D.'s this tendency has, in some cases, not shown its natural results. Again, it was in connection with our consideration of the degree of M.A., not that of LL.B., that we spoke of the granting of a degree on the writing of an "indifferent" thesis and the payment of a fee. We appeal to the opinion of our graduates themselves if this degree is not looked upon by most of them as almost, if not utterly valueless, and if this is not the reason why, as we have before affirmed, many of our best graduates in Arts prefer their standing as Bachelors to an empty title that they cannot value.

"Agricola" thinks that, "as regards LL.D., the possession of M.A. should be a pre-requisite in addition to the personal requirements." Why? Why not, with equal reason, make the degree of M.D. also a pre-requisite? Why should we recognize and support several faculties if we cannot keep them independent and distinct? If LL.B. were made dependent upon M.A., M.A. upon B.A.—this would only be "logical"—and B.A. left upon its present basis, we would find ourselves in possession of a series of degrees neither very liberal nor very highly appreciated.

We are anxious that the degrees of the university should be rightly bestowed, and agree with "Agricola" that an indulgence in "mere caprice" in the bestowal of our higher degrees would be most deplorable. "Agricola" fears the adoption of a system by which the possession of the degree of LL.D. does not necessarily imply that the possessor has ever been within the walls of a university. We, on the other hand, rejoice at the abandonment of a system by which that possession does imply that the possessor has been within the walls of a university, but implies nothing else.

WOMEN IN UNIVERSITIES.

SIR William Dawson and other friends of McGill College have lately taken occasion to compare the attendance of women at that institution with the attendance at University College, and to base on the comparison the inference that women desiring a university training will always prefer separate to mixed classes. Time alone can decide whether they will or not; but it is worth while in the interest of truth to call attention, even at this stage of the controversy, to the unfairness of the statements published by and for McGill.

I have before me a copy of the annual report of McGill University for 1884, signed by the Chancellor, the Hon. James Ferrier. From this document I learn that the number of women students under the Donald A. Smith endowment is "thirty in all, of whom fifteen are regular students preparing to go up for university examinations." Until I saw the report I was under the impression that these fifteen were taking the full arts course, preparatory to graduation—a very natural inference for a Toronto University man to draw from even the language I have quoted. But what are the facts? Let the report speak for itself:—

"The regulations for this special course at present extend to only the work of the first and second years of the course in arts, leading to the examinations for Senior Associate in Arts. . . . The questions as to provision for women in the third and fourth years, and as to the degree or certificate to be conferred on them in case of their proceeding to the final examinations, are still under discussion of the Faculty of Arts and the corporation."

The difference between the status of women in McGill University and College and their status in Toronto University and College is marked and important. No provision has yet been made for admitting them to the ordinary arts degrees in McGill; they have always been freely admitted to full university privileges, including graduation, in Toronto. The course attended by women in McGill College is a "special" course; the curriculum taken by women in Toronto is the ordinary curriculum of the College. The women who attend classes in the latter have not asked or been offered any special privileges, and have not been deprived of any advantages. They take the institution as they find it and select for themselves those portions of its highly optional course which commend themselves to their own judgment. While there are in McGill only fifteen women in these earlier years, the work of which is easily overtaken, there are in University College eleven women, of whom three are in their fourth year and one in her third—all taking honour courses quite up to the average in point of comprehensiveness and difficulty.

I infer from the above extract that it is still an open question whether the women in McGill will attend classes with the men in the third and fourth years. They are kept separate for the first and second, but it seems to be the intention not to insist on this separation throughout—perhaps on the ground that after passing the second year both men and women have arrived at years of discretion, and may be trusted to act with decorum in each other's society. This seems a rather severe reflection on the freshmen of both sexes, but it is not more so than Sir William Dawson's reflection on himself when he says that his lectures assume "a higher tone" before a class made up of members of one sex than they do when delivered to a mixed class. If this is a correct description of his method, then I am not surprised at his unreasoning hostility to the mixed system.

W. H.

PRINCIPAL GRANT *ET AL.* vs. THE TORONTO FOOTBALL CLUBS.

SOME weeks since, in one of those periodical flights for which he has become somewhat noted, the reverend Principal of Queen's University, with a supreme indifference to the common nature of the objects of his enthusiasm, in that lavish manner peculiarly his own, overwhelmed with eulogiums transcendent even of himself, everything of Queen's, and Kingstonian. The grand "old capital"; the grander institution, its pride and joy, everything received its sticky dab. But the worthy doctor climaxed his sweetened utterances when he turned the stream of his laudations on the football eleven of that institution, and, possessed of the idea that he was speaking to incomparables, of things that the world seldom sees, the events of lifetimes that flash before us and are gone, he proceeded to tell of the cravings of Torontonians for more exhibitions of the play of the "magnificent."

Seized at that time with the laudable desire that the reverend gentleman might at least be put in possession of a few facts under the absence of which he was apparently labouring, we tremblingly and meekly ventured to do him that service, and

since the ruling opinion in Toronto was the principle he professed to follow, to inform him just what that opinion was. Alas! our good intentions were wronged, ruthlessly misinterpreted, and our statement made in fear and trembling that—that—we thought that three of the Toronto clubs were as good as Queen's, and that we had a fourth that was somewhat better, has been criticised severely. In the eyes of the editor of the *Acta Victoriana*, who ought to know, for he knows everything, our utterances were "bombast." To the editor of the *Queen's College Journal* they were "gall."

Let us investigate this "bombast" and "gall." There were in attendance at Knox College during the past football season, with one exception, the team of '83. Even Queen's will allow that here we have found one of their three equals. At the same time, if the generally prevailing opinion among Knox men and others were to be followed, who hold that ability in swimming and mud-wading ought not, properly speaking, to be considered one of the essentials by which the quality of a team is to be judged, the credit which we have just given to Queen's would not be allowed them. Nor do we think the Kingston eleven will deny that in the Toronto Club they met their equals. That the Victorians were as good as themselves the Toronto Club are the first to admit. That they could have done equally well against Queen's is indisputable. So far in all reasonableness we have made good the first part of our statement and found our three, and as yet discovered no "bombast." Now for the fourth, Queen's superior. All fair-minded individuals who witnessed the championship game between the Torontos and Queen's will not hesitate to say that what advantage there was was with the Torontos, and that the goal won by Kingston, and which made the game a draw, was the veriest "fluke." If then the Club of University College were able to place on the field a team which on two successive occasions defeated the Torontos, is it unreasonable to suppose, is it "bombast" to assert, that the general Torontonian opinion granted the University College Club the superiors of Queen's.

But this is not all. Early in the season of '84 negotiations were entered on between the Queen's and 'Varsity Clubs, the outcome of which was that Queen's agreed in black and white, that if, in the course of the settlement of the Central Association championship, it became necessary for them to journey west to Cobourg, they would come on to Toronto and meet our College Club, in consideration of our Club bearing the major part of the incident expenses. The necessity which formed the proviso arising, the Queen's Club were reminded of their promise and immediately agreed to make it good. Things went on. Instead of the final tie being located at Cobourg, Toronto was chosen. Queen's had the 'Varsity's standing offer, renewed more than once, that if they would stay over in Toronto and meet the 'Varsity team on the Monday, every cent of the extra expense would be met by the 'Varsity Club. The 'Varsity had Queen's promise, above referred to, standing from the commencement of the season, and yet, in the face of all this, the Kingston Club squirmed out of a meeting, so long arranged and agreed on, with the paltry excuse "that it was impossible for them to remain over Sunday," albeit that the correspondence of the Queen's officials in the hands of the Secretary of the 'Varsity Club teems with protestations of a burning desire to meet the 'Varsity, of which the following are specimens: "It would afford us much pleasure indeed to match our strength with you on the Campus;" "to meet this year is a thing much to be desired." But we have not finished yet. Prior to the commencement of the Toronto-Kingston game the captain of the Queen's Club, with the full agreement of the whole eleven, proposed to the Torontos that, on account of the wet weather, the game should be postponed to the following Monday, and thus the desire to escape from a shower of rain, in the opinion of the Kingston men, was sufficient to override their desire to return to Kingston on that Saturday evening—something which their excessive eagerness (?) to meet the 'Varsity was not able to do. In only one way can such action be explained.

With the above before him, we would advise the Editor of the *Queen's College Journal* to pause in future before he hazards the stirring up anything of so unsavoury as the foregoing array of facts.

M.A., LL.D.—AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

IT is a mere truism to say that we are all interested in seeing that the degrees of the university should be rightly bestowed. A University degree in its original and proper acceptation implies that the recipient has done work in the University, of which the degree is as it were the earmark. To ascertain the fitness of any person for a degree some test is necessary, and of course the virtue of the degree depends upon the nature of the test and the mode of its application. All universities concur that the test of the lower degrees should be a certain prescribed course of study, with or without evidence at college, and attendance upon lectures, and the passing of certain examinations. If the standard of examination is high and rigidly and uniformly enforced, the degree is valuable; otherwise it is worth little or nothing. But as to the higher degrees a different usage has grown up, and they are for the most part conferred by mere caprice, so that the possession of the degree of M.A. or LL.D. does not necessarily imply that the possessor has ever been within the walls of a university. A worn out dominie or a bumptious medico is just as likely to be dubbed LL.D. as the man who has devoted his life to the study of Law, in fact, the less a man knows about Law the more likely is he to be made a Doctor of Law; *lucus a non lucendo*. As to the degree of D.D., unhappily, perhaps the less said the better. Surely this is a system which ought not to be allowed to continue. If the principle is a correct one that the degrees of B.A., LL.B., and B.D. should only be conferred for work actually done in the University and tested by the University, then what reason is there, in the nature of things, why a different rule, or no rule at all, should be applied in the case of the higher degrees?

There is a logical inconsistency here; and no doubt it was the feeling of this logical inconsistency that influenced the Senate of the Toronto University in laying down the present curriculum for M.A., M.D., and LL.D. If it is right and proper that candidates for B.A., M.B., and LL.B. should manifest their fitness for these degrees by passing certain examinations, it is hard to see how the application of the same system to the degrees of M.A. and M.D. should be absurd, and to the degree of LL.D. a *reductio ad absurdum*. It has been said that none but persons consumed with vanity and conceit take the degree of LL.D. under the present arrangement, and that they do not wear the degree with dignity either to themselves or to the University. It is hardly fair to charge all who have thought it a laudable ambition to try to win the highest degree our Alma Mater confers with vanity and want of dignity, but admitting it to be true that some are guilty in that respect, can the same not be said of some who have taken the degree of B.A.? Ought therefore the present mode to be abolished, and all degrees conferred *honoris causa*? A recent writer in the 'VARSITY has said that all that is required for a higher degree is the payment of a fee and the writing of an *indifferent* thesis. Why *indifferent*? A few years ago the examiners in law rejected, for several years in succession, candidates for LL.D. whose theses were not approved because they were indifferent. If a different practice now prevails, then it may not uncharitably be said that the examiners have misconceived their functions, and the sooner the Senate issues more precise instructions tending to a more wholesome severity in the matter the better for all concerned. The higher degrees, and especially the degree of LL.D., should be hedged round with difficulties, and no suspicion of laxity in conferring them should be allowed to be entertained for a moment. As regards LL.D., the possessing of M.A. should be a pre-requisite, in addition to the present requirements; and the single examination for LL.B. should be abolished. It has always seemed unfair that a person, by passing a single examination in a few books, should be put on the same level with others who have patiently toiled through a four years' course. There are many who look with uneasiness upon the proposal to do away with the exaction of actual work for any degree, and it is to be hoped that the Senate will exercise the utmost caution in making any change, if change is deemed advisable.

AGRICOLA.

OF A HARP-MELODY THAT PASSED AWAY.

(Translated from *Porkeles and Porkelessa*: by Joh. Scherr.)

A MIDNIGHT of spring lay warm and dewy upon the great city and hushed by degrees the roaring clatter of the streets. One after another the thousand noises, whose accord counterfeits the thunder of the cataract, died away. The artificially and violently-lengthened day yielded her rights at last to night. A million human beings disposed themselves to sleep. Only vice maddened and burned behind thick-curtained windows, and crime crept after its prey in the shadow of endless lines of houses. In the giant dome above, dark blue and without a cloud, glittered the myriad stars, outshone by the dim glory of the late-rising moon.

The "sun of the sleepless" throws her silver beams full on the tender green of the young leaves in the great garden behind the Porkeles mansion, passes over the flower beds caressingly, buries itself in the blossoming lilac tree beside the house wall, and, sated with the sharp fragrance, mounts to an open window in the first story, looking in curiously.

Within, in the maiden chamber, all is still—still even than the stillness of sleep. One could hear the whisper of the leaves, moved by the soft night wind, coming up from the garden.

The moon-beams, rippling in through the open window, mingled with the softened light of a silver lamp that stood between vases of flowers on a table, draped with black velvet, in the middle of the room.

A startling contrast is made to this black by the glimmering white of the bed beside the wall. The curtains are drawn up and to one side and show the sleeper resting beneath a white silk coverlet, drawn up to the chin. Only the graceful head is seen, with the waxen features and fast-shut lips and eyes.

Gertrude Violet sleeps—sleeps that sleep that knows no awakening. In the morning hours of the past day she died after what seemed a really insignificant illness of a few days. Her death had been as gentle as her life.

Outside in the corridor a soft step is heard. The door opens noiselessly and Zerline Zebulunoff enters. In her trailing white night-dress she crosses the death chamber to place upon the table the gold candlestick with its burning taper that she holds in her hand. She is bare-headed. The black abundance of her loosened hair flows round her shoulders. Upon her lovely face rests the calm of marble, a calm light is also in her great dark eyes.

Standing close beside the bed, she looks at the dead girl attentively, as if from the lofty standpoint of science. As she gazes on the dead her thoughts gradually clothe themselves in soft murmurs:

"What mere poet was it wrote that verse:

"An elfen spirit in a maiden's form,
From nature's altar one pure spark"—

Well, the spark has gone out—gone out or trodden out, it comes to the same thing. She was a harmless, good little thing, could hurt no one, as they say, and so it was but fitting that her death should be a painless one. No agonizing struggle, but a gentle falling asleep into the great Nothingness. Science can be sympathetic, and is so, too, under certain circumstances. She thanked me from her heart for my sisterly pains about her sick-bed, and the praise was well deserved. I am a deft nurse. The whole death scene was really affecting. I was almost moved at myself if it had not curiously happened that the look of the harmless girl suddenly reminded me of the look of a harmless rabbit I vivisected one day at Geneva, alone, to demonstrate to my mad old friend Bacunin *ad oculos* how firm was my eye and how sure was my hand."

She went to the window, leaned out and drank in with delight the perfume of the May night. She let her eyes sink into the gleaming change of the army of stars above her and murmured, "A poet of the stamp of Byron or Pusckin might imagine all those were tears dropping from the eyes of a god-colossus, shed perhaps for the dead woman of such 'mocking births of dirt and fire,' as our stupid globe and we stupid men upon it. Bah!"

She comes back into the room, takes her candlestick from the table and turns to go.

But before she goes she lets the light of her taper fall full on the face of the dead woman "resting in the jurisdiction of eternal silence," and says softly to herself, "A withered violet. A harp-strain passed away. What more? Nitschewo."

BOHEMIEN.

BEAUTÉ DE DIABLE.

What is our soul worth? Much? If so, how much?

Let us be honest,—half content we rest

Not to have faced the pro and con and guessed,
Blindly or no, the issue— The soul, or such

We call soul, what is't worth? A kiss? A touch

Of woman's hand or of her sweet, sweet breast?

Fool! fool! you cry. Yet there the sunbeams rest

Upon her beauty and brown richness. Is't too much?

Sweet face, wild-eyed and wan, with its eclipse

Of hair wind-tossed, eyes and mouth the lair

Of tremulous passion, crimson-coloured lips;

Sweet, O my soul, how sweet a death it were

To drift upon the coral of those lips,

Or tangle in the meshes of that hair.

THE SUMMER BREEZE.

I.

Blow, summer breeze,
Wild fragrance bearing,
Take with thee every sweetest thought to her to-night;
Blow softly,
Wake her not,
Her face is wearing
A smile whose presence makes her chamber seem more bright.

II.

O, summer breeze,
Thy soft caressing,
And gentle whisperings will move her more than mine;
Go thou, and
With thee take
Heaven's choicest blessing,
And waft it to her on those airy wings of thine.

III.

Go, summer breeze,
For thy returning,
Fresh with her answer on thy lips, I will abide;
I'll rest till
Morning, and then
Slumber spurning,
My window, at thy coming, I will open wide.

FREDERIC B. HODGINS.

University and College News.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—Last night's meeting was one of more than ordinary interest. The audience was large, the essay and readings pleasing and instructive, and the debate on a question of exciting importance ably treated. The opening orders of business brought out the *Conversazione* Committee's report, and a communication from the College Council, sanctioning, among other things, the constitutional change abolishing the prizes in speaking and reading. A communication was also read from Mr. William Houston asking to be allowed to contribute towards making up the deficit from the *conversazione*.

Mr. F. F. McPherson was the essayist of the evening. His subject was "Universities, past and present." Readings were given by Messrs. Needler and Cronyn.

The subject of debate was, "That in the event of prohibition, liquor dealers should receive compensation." On the affirmative Messrs. McCulloch, Keeler and Kent, and on the negative Messrs. McGirr, Hardy and Garvin spoke. The arguments brought into service on both sides were in a great measure the stock arguments in the current agitation. The affirmative dwelt particularly on the question of proprietary rights involved and the parallel instance in the slave trade abolition. The negative found fault with the foregoing parallel, denying the analogy, arguing in this connection that the sentiment which had its result in giving freedom to slaves arose suddenly and without warning, while the sentiment in favour of prohibition was the growth of years, making the liquor trade a speculation subject to caprice. The President gave an elaborate and interesting summing up, in which he clearly defined the distinction between divine and human laws. The decision, being left to the meeting, was given in the affirmative.

In the junior division, the second Vice-President presiding, the subject was discussed on the affirmative by Messrs. McDonnell, McPherson and Marshall; on the negative by Messrs. Crooks, Campbell and Cronyn. Here the debate was won by the negative.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.—The regular bi-monthly meeting was held on the 3rd instant, the President, Professor R. Ramsay Wright, in the chair. Mr. H. R. Wood, B.A., contributed a short paper on the "Blowpipe Reactions of a few Minerals." "The Osteology of the Frog's Skull" was the subject of a short descriptive lecture by Mr. Frank T. Shutt. A paper entitled "Excretory Organs of the Invertebrata" was read by Mr. Dewar. A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Ellis for his further donation of plants to the herbarium of the Association. At the next meeting, held on 17th inst., the nominations for offices for 1885-6 will be made.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—For some time the need of a means for the interchange of opinions on various points of mutual interest which

come up in their work has been forcing itself on the consideration of the students of the Engineering Department of the School of Practical Science. Especially has this been felt in the present year, when the number of students taking this course has been so largely increased. Accordingly, with the able assistance and co-operation of Professor Galbraith, the Engineering Society has been organized, with the following stated objects in view: (a) the encouragement of original research in the science of Engineering; (b) the dissemination among its members and the preservation of the results of such research; (c) the cultivation of a spirit of mutual assistance in the practice of the profession of Engineering; (d) to bring about at some future time a closer union of Canadian Engineers. The officers for the current year are: Pres., Prof. J. Galbraith; Sec.-Treas., T. K. Thomson; 3rd year representative, B. A. Ludgate, 2nd year, J. R. Gordon, 1st year, J. C. Burns.

The first meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, at 2.15 p.m., in the School of Practical Science. After routine business Mr. H. J. Bowman read a paper on the system of land survey in the North-West, in which he gave a concise description of the methods adopted by surveyors in the government employ. At the next meeting the subject will be continued by Mr. Hermon, who will enter into details which Mr. Bowman had not time to give. An animated discussion of the subject by the members of the Society followed the reading of the paper. Mr. B. A. Ludgate then gave two solutions of a problem in railway curves. His first solution, an original one, was discussed for some time in a manner which showed its completeness and accuracy. The meeting was, in every respect, a success, and warrants the promoters of the Society in predicting for it a useful and prosperous career. The first regular meeting will be held on Tuesday next, when officers for the coming year will be nominated. Ex-students will receive full information concerning the Society on application to the Secretary.

THE MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY met on Tuesday evening, Professor Galbraith in the chair. The principal feature of the programme was a lecture on Vision by Mr. J. H. McGeary. After describing briefly the anatomy of the eye, he dwelt at some length upon the relation existing between the retinal picture and the mental conception of the object. He also showed how binocular vision enables us under ordinary circumstances to form correct notions of the distance, size, and shape of objects, referring in this connection to the Stereoscope and Pseudoscope. The lecture was illustrated by a model of the human eye and several optical instruments. Mr. J. C. Stuart gave the solution of a problem, and the Society adjourned. We should be pleased to see larger numbers of first and second year men in the Honor department of Mathematics at the Society's meetings.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.—At the English meeting on Monday afternoon, Mr. C. Whetman, B.A., occupied the chair. Mr. F. H. Sykes read an essay on "How Boston became the literary centre of the United States." The essayist showed that the peculiarly English character of most American literature is the natural result of the English character of New England people; how the literary men of this people, gathered in Boston, forming the famous "Saturn Club" of which Longfellow, Holmes, Emerson, Lovell, &c., were members; how these writers not only have created imperishable literature, but have given to subsequent authors a moral guidance of an invaluable kind. Mr. J. E. Jones, read a selection from one of Washington Irving's novels. This was followed by a discussion on American prose literature. Mr. Squair, B.A., read selections to prove that American literature has a distinctive character from the English; that the Americans have opened new literary fields in regard to style and manner of treatment of their subjects. Mr. Stevenson, B.A., held that the writings of Mark Twain should be discouraged, owing to their tendency to irreverence without at the same time having any counterbalancing good. Mr. Keys made some interesting remarks from an ethnological standpoint, accounting for the peculiar character of the American. Messrs. Whetman, B.A., Sykes, Rowan, Chamberlain and McPherson, also spoke on the subject.

Y.M.C.A.—The usual weekly prayer meeting was held on Thursday. Leader, Mr. W. M. Walker. Subject: "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law." Gal. v. 22, 23. Summary: Men ask how they can become holy, how become possessed of these graces. They cannot be obtained from the Church. The holy and just law of God cannot impart them. It can only lay down a standard to which we must conform. From no earthly source can these graces be derived. They are obtained by being led by the Holy Spirit to Christ. Only by keeping close to Him can we be filled with His fullness. As the old saint, when some pretended Christ came to him, asked to see the nail prints and the spear points, so we expect to see these fruits in the Christian's life. And from that life—Christ's life in us—

they flow as naturally as effect from cause. Without that life they cannot be produced. The bringing forth of fruit implies growth. In the individual Christian life this growth should be constant and manifest. The word "fruit" in the text is singular. So these various graces are in reality one, in that they are the outcome of the same "everlasting life." We are taught in these verses that Christ's religion is a life, not a mere belief in a creed. The influence of that religion should be felt in our every deed and purpose. It is a life, too, that is not possessed by men naturally. The fruit of the natural heart is described as all sorts of evil. This life is the result of the operation of God's Spirit. "Ye must be born again." As life it is susceptible of development—must be developed or cease to be. Its development depends on the individual's constantly dwelling under the influence of God's Spirit, just as the flower's bloom depends on showers and sunshine. "Consider the lilies how they grow." The possibility of a Christian's bearing fruit is conditioned by his abiding in Christ as the branch does in the vine. "I am the Vine, ye are the branches." The Holy Spirit is given by God to those who ask. "If ye, being evil, know how to give good things to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father give His Spirit to them that ask Him?" All these graces are the expansions of the one grace of love to God and man. The "peace" here spoken of can only be possessed by those in whom all the parts of their nature are working harmoniously. The Spirit produces this harmony by giving authority to the spiritual part of our nature. Under His control there is harmony and therefore peace, as in a well-governed state.

We had the pleasure of acknowledging \$1,954 towards our new building in last week's issue of the VARSITY. During the week we have received the following additions: Robert Baldwin, Esq., \$100; Hon. O. Mowat, \$50; J. M. Gibson, \$25. \$10 each from the following: Rev. F. W. Kerr, A. W. Daniels, G. M. Wrong, B. A., E. C. Acheson, E. F. Blake, W. Graham, A. E. Doherty, J. A. Duff. \$5 each from the following: Rev. D. Tait, T. R. O'Meara, G. Boyd, W. E. Burritt, F. J. Lynch, Herbert Gaviller, H. Steele, J. Chewett, J. A. Macdonald, T. A. Gibson, A. W. Mainland, J. O. Miller, Robt. McKay. G. Paterson and J. E. Brown, \$12; Rev. Jno. Neil, \$8. This makes a total of \$2,310. The students are again reminded that unusual liberality is necessary to carry through the project on hand. Let those that have not already subscribed do so during the coming week, in order to complete at an early date the canvass among the undergraduates.

KNOX COLLEGE.—The election of officers for the Metaphysical and Literary Society took place last night with the following result:—President, J. McKay, B.A.; 1st Vice, W. Farquharson, B.A.; 2nd Vice, S. S. Craig; Critic, J. McGillivray, B.A.; Rec. Sec., D. G. McQueen, B.A.; Cor. Sec., A. M. Haig, B.A.; Sec. Committees, A. W. Campbell, B.A.; Curator, W. A. Bradley; Councillors, D. S. McPherson, B.A., J. McMillan, T. Logie. For the staff of the *Knox College Monthly*, the following gentlemen were elected:—Business Manager, R. J. N. Glassford; Assistant Manager and Sec. Treas. C. A. Webster. Editors.—R. Haddow, B.A., J. L. Campbell, B.A., R. C. Tibb, B.A., C. W. Gordon, B.A., T. W. Hardie, B.A., A. J. McLeod. After hearing the valedictory from Mr. R. McNair, 1st Vice-Pres., the proceedings were appropriately closed by singing, "Auld Lang Syne."

Drift.

Another evil is the lack of care in the selection of examiners. Examinations are not the end-all and be-all of education: but properly conducted they do much to guide the student into proper channels of study, as well as test his knowledge. The complaint now made is that young and inexperienced men are chosen for these responsible positions—and the outcome is often disastrous and disheartening. Teachers will endorse this statement—we know whereof we affirm. The thoughts of almost every mathematical teacher will irresistibly wander back to the last matriculation examination. Every graduate who reads these lines will recall to mind instances of permanent injustice being meted out to bright and prominent students by incompetent examiners. If the examiners would bear in mind that *their* knowledge is not being tested, some improvement might take place: but it is to expect figs from thistles to expect good papers from men either inexperienced or incompetent.—W. J. ROBERTSON, in *The Educational Weekly*.

Ah, woe is me through all my days,
Wisdom and wealth I both have got,
And fame and name and great men's praise;
But Love, ah Love! I have it not.

There was a time when life was new—
But far away and half forgot—
I only know her eyes were blue,
But Love—I fear, I knew it not.

We did not wed for lack of gold;
And she is dead and I am old.
All things have come since then to me
Save Love, ah, Love! and Arcady.

—Airs from *Arcady*, by H. C. BUNNER.

"Government is simply a committee of management, having no intrinsic authority; its laws have no value or sacredness other than that given by ethical sanction, and where this is withheld they may be rightfully broken. The function of government is simply to carry on those co-operations which have been unanimously entered into. Its citizens, like the members of other incorporated bodies, are bound to submit to the will of a majority in all matters concerning the fulfillment of the objects for which they are organized, but in no others. Any attempt to exercise control beyond those limits, or to coerce the individual on matters not coming within the scope of authority specified, is tyranny more unfounded than the divine right of kings; and no more justifiable than for a despot backed by an armed force to do likewise. To the assertion that it is more just for a majority than for a minority to have its way may be opposed the rejoinder that in the absence of an express agreement, the supremacy of a majority over a minority, does not exist at all."—HERBERT SPENCER, in *The Popular Science Monthly*.

IN THE TWILIGHT—A FANTASY.

* * * * *

O my life, have we not had seasons
That only said, Live and rejoice?
That asked not for causes and reasons,
But made us all feeling and voice?
When we went with the winds in their blowing,
When nature and we were peers,
And we seemed to share in the flowing
Of the inexhaustible years?
Have we not from the earth drawn juices
Too fine for earth's sordid uses?
Have I heard, have I seen,
All I feel and I know?
Doth my heart overween?
Or could it have been
Long ago?

—JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

I am no believer in that narrow scientific and technological training which now and again we hear extolled. A practical and too often a mere vulgar money making utility seems to be its natural outcome. On the contrary the whole experience and observation of my life lead me to look with greater admiration, and an envy ever increasing, on the broadened culture which is the true aim of the university.—CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, JR.

I have called the contrivance known as English grammar absurd, and the study of it a useless study; and I verily and soberly believe both these assertions to be true. I believe that the effect of the study of English grammar, so called, is to cramp the free action of the mind; to bewilder and confuse where it does not enfeeble and formalize; to pervert the perception of the true excellence of English speech; and, in brief, to substitute the sham of a dead form for the reality of a living spirit. Where words have no varying forms indicative of their various relations, a grammar which is dependent upon those relations is obviously impossible. And it is only such a grammar that admits of those requirements of agreement and government and what not which have been imposed upon the English by mistaken scholars. It is such a grammar that has weighed down our poor, beparsed English-speaking people, so that when their freedom was proclaimed a few years ago, and a man in whom some of them put some trust dared to tell them that they might fling off their incubus in the name of great common sense, from every country where English is spoken there came back to him cries of relief and utterances of hearty thanks, which have not yet quite died away.—RICHARD GRANT WHITE.

Editor's Table.

The *Keynote*, the leading musical journal in America, contains a report of the musical portion of our conversation, from which we quote the following: "At the University last week, Max Bruch's *Frithjof* was given, together with a most attractive programme of a miscellaneous character. . . . The orchestral beauties of the score were ably interpreted, and the admirable plan and conception of the work excited considerable enthusiasm among the large and brilliant audience. It was a matter of surprise that the club (which must be largely composed of role singers) were able to do their share of the work with so much vigor and confidence."

BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY.—The following books have been received in the Library since the 19th ult. :—

- "Catalogue of Early English Printed Books in the British Museum." 3 vols.
- do. Greek Coins in do.
- "Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections." 5th Series. vol. 9.
- "Studies in Wordsworth." By H. N. Hudson.
- "Whitaker's Almanac," 1885.
- "Die Karawane." By W. Hauff, ed. Schottman.
- "Laws of Discursive Thought." By Jas. M'Losh (Logic).
- "New Text-Book of Geology." By J. D. Dana. 4th ed.
- "Primer of French Literature." By Geo. Santsbhrig (Clar. Pr. Ser.), 2nd edition.
- "Early Man in Europe." By Chas. Rau.
- "Milton's Tractate on Education." With Introd. Notes by Oscar Brown- ing. Pitt Press Ser.
- "Some Thoughts on Education." By John Locke. With Introd. Note, by R. H. Quick.
- "Studies in Roman Law." By Lord Mackenzie. Ed. by John Kirkpatrick.

Communications.

UNIVERSITY CONFEDERATION.

To the Editor of THE 'VARSITY.

I was certainly gratified upon reading your recent Editorial in regard to the prospective Consolidation or Federation of the Universities and Colleges in these Maritime Provinces. The statement which you there in made in regard to the college at Sackville, is quite as applicable to each of the six colleges of these provinces; until within a very few years "there has never been any University work worthy of the name done in them." No one of them has in its possession the following essential requisites for thorough University work:

1. Faculties of Arts, Medicine, Applied Science and Law.
2. An adequate equipment of Libraries, Laboratories, Museum and Scientific Apparatus.
3. Professors of liberal culture and special training, with departments so specialized that they may be able to keep fully abreast of a nineteenth century progress.

In consequence of this the thoughtful men of all denominations in these provinces have been led to the conclusion that, if our Maritime Colleges are to be something more than mere preparatory schools for the Universities of the Upper Provinces and the neighbouring Republic, there must necessarily be a consolidation of our Collegiate Educational interests. Your readers are doubtless aware of the steps that have already been taken to pave the way for this desirable consummation. The "formidable objections" against Acadia University entering into such a Union, which were urged in your last issue by Mr. C. W. Williams, seem to me unwarranted and misleading.

1. Your readers in these provinces will be surprised to learn that "the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces transferred their theological interests to McMaster Hall, because they foresaw this consolidation contest and were determined to preserve their denominational Arts College in its individuality and in increased efficiency." The fact is that they had the good sense to perceive that their theological course at Acadia was, in comparison with what a theological course ought to be, a complete

farce, and that, if they as a denomination were to compete successfully with the Theological Seminaries of the United States, they must consolidate their interest in Canada. Moreover, a second weighty consideration was that Acadia College was so in need of funds that it could not afford to secure the services of the most efficient class of instructors, and that by giving up its theological department it could more easily meet current expenses. So certainly was this the case, that, when Dr. Rand was recently appointed to the chair of Didactics in that institution, it was publicly stated that the College was so embarrassed financially that it could not afford to have an additional professor, and Dr. Rand's appointment was only ratified when several of his personal friends became responsible for his salary.

2. Even though "the majority of Acadia's friends consider themselves justified in opposing the principles which underlie State or Provincial Universities," yet many of them already discern that Acadia with its teaching staff of six, and those six poorly paid, cannot perform efficient university work, and that if our best students are to be retained at home they must consolidate their Arts Faculty with those of the other colleges in these provinces, a policy which they have already advantageously pursued in regard to their theological department.

3. The supposition, that even if "King's and Mt. Allison unite with Dalhousie, this will strengthen rather than weaken Acadia, as she will then receive the support of all of the many who, in the Maritime Provinces, are firm believers in denominational arts colleges," is manifestly absurd. Even if all other advantages were equal, would Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians send their sons and daughters to a Baptist College from the fact that they were in favor of denominational institutions of learning? Much less then would they do this when these denominations had consolidated their secular educational interests in some central university town, where, side by side with schools of Arts, Medicine, Applied Science and Law, they had reared their Theological Halls and Seminaries.

4. The last statement made by Mr. Williams appeared to be even more absurd, viz.: "Even though Dalhousie should develop great strength in the professional departments (e.g., Law and Medicine) there need be nothing to prevent Acadia from still conferring the most valuable Arts degrees in these Provinces." "A university," said President Elliott, on Tuesday last, "must try to teach every subject that is in demand." This would be the aim of the consolidated Maritime University with which Acadia would be called upon to compete, while even at present her resources are exhausted in the endeavour to support a teaching staff of six. The Arts students of Dalhousie are at present favored with lectures from thirteen instructors, of whom each is a specialist in his own subject; so that even at the present time it is nonsensical to state the six professors at Acadia—although they deserve all praise for their conscientious devotion to their College—are in a position to do as good and efficient work as thirteen other men who are quite as enthusiastic and quite as cultured as they. What, then, would be the result to Acadia of a competition with a consolidated Maritime University, thoroughly equipped, richly endowed and under the instruction of a professional staff of at least twice the number which Dalhousie now enjoys?

The superior advantages which such a University will afford will lead all thoughtful men to lay aside selfish interests and sectional or sectarian rivalry, and surmount every obstacle in the way of consolidating our Maritime Provincial Colleges.

CHARLES H. CAHAN.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 27, 1885.

A UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM.

To the Editor of THE 'VARSITY.

DEAR SIR,—Very little interest, it seems to me, is being taken through your columns or otherwise either in the gymnasium or athletics in general. I am sure that the majority of graduates and undergraduates of the University would be pleased to see the gymnasium especially taking a higher rank and evidencing its worth as an educational factor in college life and training. It is one that should not be overlooked, and I think it probable that private enthusiasm, however much there may be, would be greatly assisted if only encouraged.

Why is it that at the leading University in the Province physical culture is at such a low ebb? There seems to be a dearth of leading spirits in the athletic field, but only, I think, in that they are silent, and suffer their athletic tastes to lie dormant—even practically, it is a pity that these tastes should exist only as sentiment.

Is there any necessity for argument as to the advantages accruing to mental by means of judicious physical culture? We know the relation

existing between body and mind, that the best condition for health of the latter is health of the former, and that the quality of thought depends upon the condition of the physical functions. When any part or parts are physically deranged or imperfect, we are extremely sympathetic—the whole suffers. Our first outlook, then, is surely to exercise ourselves physically, endeavoring to improve or supply what may be wanting, and not only that, but even if a perfection be attained, to keep ourselves in that condition by proper training. The opportunities in life will never be more suitable than now.

When I speak of training I do not mean that one should make it his aim to outdo his companions, either in inside or outside gymnastics, — he, in all probability, could not, for proficiency here as elsewhere, is allowed only to the few, and since we always have extremes, we are cautious against overdoing. And the training I would like to apply mainly to those who do not train or never have trained, have never taken any special care of their physique, or, if they have, do not now, simply for want of leadership, take any interest in this direction. It is rarely that one by himself takes regular and systematic exercise; he who does is in all probability a devoted admirer of his own biceps, and pleases himself in watching its gradual growth (this man is not to be despised, although he may have faults), all incitement to farther improvement is from himself. Man is gregarious, and what exercise is taken in a few cases by the one or two in justice to themselves, out of a knowledge of its importance, becomes, in a general participation, a source of most healthy enjoyment, and the monotonous routine which might have been, does not exist.

I write this simply with a desire that it may lead to some definite co-operation, if the sentiment exist among a sufficient number. During my first two years at the College the Games evidenced an athletic spirit; later these were abolished—I know not why—and now there is no athletic association of any kind. Should not the Gymnasium be a means for an end?

If the undergraduates could manage to arouse an athletic enthusiasm, the excitement would be a perfectly healthy one, and I feel confident in saying that the College Halls would turn out better men,—better in the possession of bodies capable of bearing them in the later stages of life in a manner much more creditable than if they had been allowed to fall into disuse, and the mind in proportion. We must not cultivate one at the expense of the other, but do justice to both, for they are here inseparable.

Could not some of our athletically inclined undergraduates take a lead in this matter?

J. F. B.

CRICKET.

To the Editor of THE 'VARSITY.

The days rapidly flying by suggest that spring will soon be here, and with it attendant sports, among which ranks supreme the glorious old game of Cricket.

Although, now that the *Conversazione* is passed and gone, hard study is engrossing the average student's thoughts, still to some fortunate ones comes back the memory of old cricket days, of "deeds of valour done," and the dusty bat is hauled out to the light of day, while in the corridors little groups are discussing the respective advantages of "break-backs" and "shooters."

Cricket in University College is indulged in by but a few of sporting spirit, who have learned the beauties of the game in their boyish days—though some be boys even now. Last year, for the first time in our annals, a purely undergraduate team donned the flannels to uphold the credit of Cricket for the old 'Varsity, and a well-organized tour was successfully carried out, the remembrance of which will be fresh in our mind.

Although success did not crown our efforts as regards victories, and the defeats by Trinity College C.C., Toronto C.C., and Guelph C.C. were severe, still great praise is due the 'Varsity team for the plucky way in which the matches were contested, and for coping with such first-class clubs. It is to be hoped that the lessons learned there will be of use in the coming season.

The serious question presents itself: where are we to go on the tour? For a tour we must have by all means. Of course, there are the annual matches with Trinity College and Upper Canada College, and matches could easily be arranged with the Toronto C.C. and East Toronto C.C. Last year we went West, and this season it would be a good idea to journey as far as Kingston, play the Military College there, and arrange games with Uxbridge, Orillia, Cobourg or Peterboro' on the way back.

Or again, a good plan would be to have a regular cricket week, and manage to have the return matches from last year played here during that time, and all of the University students who might remain after the May examinations could have the pleasure of seeing a representative team doing battle against the best clubs in Ontario.

At all events, now that a properly organized Committee exists, and the finances are in a good state,—a most desirable thing,—it is very evident that something definite will be arranged, and there are the brightest of hopes that the College boys will win more victories than during the season of '84, and do their very best for the honor of the old University.

R. G. M.

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