

# VAR-SITY

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## THE VARSITY.

THE VARSITY is published in the University of Toronto every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.  
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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.  
Contributions when not accepted will be returned if accompanied with a stamp for that purpose.

## Topics of the Hour.

The tenth popular concert took place in the Pavilion on Monday evening, and was very fairly attended. The solo vocalist was Miss Annie Howden, of Millbrook, Ont., who possesses a very sweet soprano voice, clear and true. She won a most pronounced success, and was recalled after each number. She sang "L'Extase" (Arditi), and "Orpheus with his Lute" (Sullivan), the latter being very prettily sung. Fraulein Kitty Berger played some excellent solos on the Zither. This instrument, however, is more suited to a drawing-room than to a large concert hall, and consequently the charming effects produced by Miss Berger were entirely lost by the majority of the audience. The Quartette Club played a

"Minuet and Trio," composed especially for them by Dr. Strathy, of this city, and the "Andante and Finale" from a quartette by Rheinberger. Both were favorably received, but were not specially attractive. Herr Corell played two short pieces by Popper—"Widmung" and a "Mazurka."

The members of the Modern Language Club are about to address a memorial to the University Senate, praying that their department be placed on an equal footing with others in regard to the scholarships granted by that body. The Club will not commit itself to approval of the principle of scholarships, but modern language men rightly think that so long as rewards of this nature are given, no unfair discrimination should be made against their department. No one who is competent to express an opinion will now seriously contend that modern language study requires less mental ability and application than classics or mathematics, yet each of the latter subjects has two scholarships allotted to it of \$130 and \$100 respectively, whereas modern languages receive only one scholarship of \$100. This is in the first year. At matriculation a discrimination is made against modern languages to the extent of \$20, and in both examinations the other subjects count higher in determining the scholarship for general proficiency. This is an obvious injustice and it should soon be righted.

We admire the courage and self-denial of the citizen soldiers of Canada who composed the expeditionary force to the North-West last year. But at that time we referred to the war as a great national tragedy. Subsequent revelations of the disgraceful mismanagement of affairs in these territories approved the statement. War, indeed, seemed to be almost a necessity at the time, but it was a pitiful necessity at the best. It was a crying shame against the whole Canadian people that it was a necessity. While politicians and people were fighting over trivial and contemptible party issues, our fellow-countrymen were being wronged and their repeated appeals for simple justice were neglected. But now that the war is over and reparation being made to the injured people, we should not do anything to glorify or perpetuate the memory of the sad affair. Seen in this light, the application to the Imperial Parliament for war medals was a mistake. We are not Jingoese nor the sons of Jingoese. As a nation sackcloth would be more becoming to us than medals. And even if rewards were to be given, Canadians fighting for Canada should look to Canada alone for recognition of their services.

North America promises to be the grand ethnological theatre of the world. Many of the great stocks of the human race are present in sufficient numbers to make the conflict exceedingly interesting for the scientific observer. The Indian question is practically solved, as the final extinction of this much abused race seems to be not far distant. In the south there is the negro problem, which is now engaging the serious attention of many thoughtful Americans. The people of the United States have wisely or unwisely declined

the further complication of an unrestricted Mongolian influx. Canada contributes her share in the French question. A recent writer to the *Mail* foreshadows important consequences from the rapidity of increase of the French-Canadians. The effects of climate and physical conditions are said to be noticeable in the states of the Pacific Slope, where a new native type is rapidly developing. Whether amid the diversity of nationalities the wonderful vitality of the Anglo-Saxon will ultimately prevail in the native American to-be, or whether a maximum of absorption has already or soon will be reached, are questions which will be definitely settled in the near future. The province of the statesman is to remove all artificial obstructions to the fusion of races, and to allow the great processes of nature to have free play, trusting implicitly to the survival of the fittest.

A community lives by production. Capital and labour are the requisites of production. But it by no means follows that those who chance to hold capital are, or ever have been, producers. Many of the Irish landlords, for example, never produced an ounce of food or a single article of necessity or convenience. They simply inherited capital obtained by spoliation of the real producers. The legality of the spoliation does not affect the morality of the case. There have been times when might was right, and there is more than a tradition of this state of affairs yet existing. The railroad and street car monopolists of the United States and Canada are actual producers in a very limited sense. And even where capitalists are in reality producers, they have too long by dint of this very possession of capital been enabled to take to themselves too large a share of the joint production of capital and labour. They have been able to starve labour into submission. But labour is organizing everywhere. The moral sentiment of the general community is awakening, and demands for a fairer division of products receive the hearty sympathy of the general public. So long as the Knights of Labour abstain from the foolish and unnecessary destruction of property, which formerly characterized strikes, and so long as they exert their influence over their fellows by persuasion and not by intimidation, they will receive the strong moral support of all good citizens. Mayor Howland cannot be too highly commended for his noble action in behalf of the citizens and the locked-out employees of the Street Railway Company. His letter to President Smith is the most vigorous and outspoken protest against tyrannic monopoly ever written by a Mayor of Toronto.

The Canadian snow-shoeing or tobogganing costume commends itself not only to the lovers of these sports, but also to our people in general. It is comfortable, inexpensive, pleasing to the eye, and altogether a far more suitable every-day winter dress for men and women of this latitude than the conventional old-world habiliments. We welcome this sign of Canadian individuality, and hope that the blanket suits may come into more general use. There is a point, however, where objection may arise. If the tyrant, fashion, should ever attempt to declare that snow-shoeing or tobogganing cannot be respectably done unless one wears such and such a dress, then it will be time to revolt. This is no idle fear as such matters go. The evil is illustrated in the folly of parties to which a socially indispensable requisite is a suit of clothes of a certain pattern and color. In this age and this country such usages seem absurd. There should be the most perfect freedom in these matters. Let us be individuals and not tailors' clothes-horses. It is claimed that this usage of society is based on æsthetic considerations. But variety and individuality are the highest conditions of art. Let those wear the swallow-tail and the immaculate gloves and tie who wish to do so, but they must not require others to do the same, nor must the others feel under any compulsion to conform to the preferences of the aforesaid immaculates. We are told that not a few students stay away from our annual conversaziones because

they think that they cannot dress well enough for such an occasion. If such be the case our friends make a great mistake. What they require most is not white kids, but a spirit of more vigorous and more independent manliness. For what University man judges his fellow by his coat now-a-days! If judgment is ever passed on such a basis, it is rather against than in favour of the wearers of fashion-plate patterns. There is no doubt that in our University a man is judged on character in general, and not on conformity to trivial conventionalities.

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## Leading Article.

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### THE PRESENT CRISIS.

"A deputation consisting of Rev. Dr. Caven, Dr. Sheraton, Dr. Castle, the Rev. Father Vincent, and President Wilson, waited on Hon. O. Mowat and Hon. G. W. Ross in respect to University matters yesterday."—*Daily Globe*, March 9.

The above short news item at once arrested the attention of those who are aware of the present critical situation of affairs in our Provincial University. Taken in connection with a recent manifestation of clerical influence, it was immediately felt that this concerted action of Dr. Wilson and the heads of the theological colleges had some especial significance.

The fears of our friends were justified. The facts are more ominous than the conjectures. There can be no doubt that an organized attempt is being made by the above gentlemen to utterly thwart the wishes of the graduates of the University of Toronto and to maintain the control which they themselves have acquired in the affairs of the University and University College. The object of the clerical deputation was to oppose the requisition which was recently made by Convocation of the Minister of Education for the increase of graduate representation on the Senate.

This is but one of many indications of threatening evil to our University. We venture to say that the interests of higher liberal education in this Province were never in more serious peril than at the present moment.

Ours is a national University and College, built and maintained by the people and for the people. The management of these institutions is the greatest of provincial trusts and should be held in the main by our own graduates, whether they be appointed or elected for that purpose. They represent the people in their relations to liberal education more widely and more truly than any other class can possibly do. Attached by the strongest ties to their *Alma Mater* and loyal to the spirit and the institutions of their native country, with no selfish ends to serve and with the highest ideals of an education that shall be truly liberal—surely the welfare of our University could not be in safer hands than theirs!

In so far as graduates have been admitted to the government of this institution, they have nobly discharged this trust. The advances which we have made, and the proud position we now occupy at the head of Canadian Universities, are due to their energy and devotion.

But now what do we see? An entirely foreign element has been introduced into the Senate, and no sooner are they in than they begin to make themselves mischievously active. They are not in unison with the aims and objects of our graduates. They combine to baffle and defeat the plans of the best friends of our university.

It is a matter for very serious regret that Dr. Wilson has joined this movement. He has never shown that degree of sympathy with our own graduates which he should have done. But now he comes out openly and joins their opponents. He virtually declares his positive distrust of our alumni and throws himself into the arms

of strangers. Dr. Wilson will find that he has made a great mistake. Neither the president nor any other member of the faculty of University College can afford to defy graduate opinion. If he and some others had been wise they would have learnt that lesson long ago.

As for the other members of the deputation, it must be said that their action in this matter is in very bad taste and plainly reprehensible. In any vital sense they are not members of our university at all. They and the institutions they represent derive considerable prestige and general advantage from their present nominal connection with us. If our graduates had opposed the affiliation movement, as they had a perfect right to do, it could never have been consummated. And now the persons who have been admitted to the honours and privileges of a connection with the University of Toronto, turn round and attempt to get the control of the institution entirely into their own hands.

Graduates, the danger is a serious one. It is true your opponents are few in number *but they are on the ground*, while you are scattered all over the Province. They are a solid body united by a special interest, but you are individuals without effective organization and with distinct individual opinions. Your work is done publicly, and whatever weaknesses there may be in it are fully exposed to your opponents. Their operations are conducted in private, and it is only by the slightest chance you hear of what is being contemplated until it is done and beyond remedy.

There is no time to lose. The designs of this new party in our university politics must be checked at once and forever. We cannot permit our Provincial University to be degraded into the position of a mere ornament and appendage of the affiliated institutions.

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## Literature.

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### THE SLIDE.

The tedious steps ascended now—  
The polished ash, with curling prow,  
All covered o'er with cushions gay,  
Entrancing, charms all fear away:  
A shout! a shove! and down we go  
Skimming over ice and snow;  
Underneath a brilliant sky,  
Swifter far than swallows fly,  
Passing whirling drift and tree,  
Bounding, leaping, in its glee,  
On and on, like startled doe,  
Deftly steered by nimble toe,  
Over icy hill and heath,  
In the whistling whirlwind's teeth.  
The fleet toboggan rushes still,  
Heeding not the quickening thrill,  
The stifled sigh, or tender nerve;  
Without a spill, without a curve,  
Until its brief career we shift,  
And breathless plunge against the drift.

Oh fie! ye murmurers who lament  
The steady climb and long ascent!  
A star-lit sky and frosty air,  
And (best of all) a lady fair,  
Should charm the labour all away,  
And heavy heart make light and gay.

### IN A TRINIDAD FOREST.

"CHACUN POUR SOL."

(Continued from last week.)

Now, for a short time, we will look at another curious plant, also a parasite.

Up a tree trunk zig-zags the fleshy green stem of the vanilla orchis, throwing out at each angle a fleshy, oval leaf and a root which is flattened against the bark of its host. The lower part of the stem has decayed, but it plainly has grown from the ground. Now here is a life history just the converse of that of the matapalo. The seed of the vanilla germinates in the soil. The plant turns to a tree, up which it climbs, and when sufficiently advanced is totally independent of its earthy root, which decays. The plant now feeds only upon the sap of its host and the gases of the atmosphere. Both of these parasites attain their object, namely, a place where sun-food and air can be obtained freely, but by what different routes! The first is at first parasitic and then becomes independent, while the other is born independent but develops into a regular "sucker."

As you slash your way through the bush you are suddenly brought up with a jerk, and, turning round, find your coat caught in the tips, luckily only the tips, of a series of natural fish hooks strung on a green whip-lash three feet long, as fine as a piece of whip-cord and as strong. As your companion helps you out, he will tell you, perhaps, the old story which gives this plant its common name—"Valga mi Inglese" (Desmoncus).

During the good old times of Raleigh and the buccaneers, a party of Raleigh's men attacked a Spanish fort on the Caroni river. The Spaniards abandoned their guns and ran for their lives through the bush, when one of them was caught in the hooks of this Desmoncus, and, imagining that he was held by one of the terrible "Inglese," he shouted in terror "Valga mi Inglese"—"Take ransom for me, Englishman"—a name it still bears among the Spanish Creoles. It is a palm, as is seen from its little fox-brushes of flowers and bunches of coral-red fruit, but how different to the rest of the palm species! These, with the exception of the Desmonci of the Western Continent and the Calami of the Eastern, have all strong, well-developed stems and a terminal crown of fronds. These valgas, however, have found it more profitable to climb. The thin prickly stem gives out at intervals a pinnate leaf of the true palm type, the mid rib of which is enormously prolonged beyond the leaf and carries at its tip, as we have seen, a series of re-curved hooks, which are merely pinnae altered to suit the climbing habit of the plant. A pest of the forest is this same Desmoncus, but not so terrible as that climber which mantles the dark crowns of those melastomas with masses of softest green. This is the Scleria flagellum, the "razor grass" of the Creoles, a cousin in the olden time of that broad-leaved sedge occasionally seen in Canadian gardens. It has developed also into a true high climber, having found it easier to lean on somebody else than to stand on its own legs. Its stem is triangular, beset with sharp, siliceous spines, which look down towards the ground. Its leaves are long, sabre-shaped and curved, and are armed like the stem with sharp spines that cut through clothes and skin and flesh if handled roughly.

Its life history is interesting, and is about as follows:—The seed germinates at the foot of a tree. As soon as the stem is too weak to support itself it gently leans against its neighbour and climbs by friction. It runs up into the tree, where it branches until it completely covers its host, which is generally strangled by its ungrateful neighbour.

A little further on we come across another scleria, the "vine bamboo," not so pretty as its cousin, the razor grass, but more suggestive, since it apparently has not yet made up its mind whether it will be a climbing or an arborescent grass. Meanwhile, in apparent hesitation, it tries awkwardly to stand upright

upon a stem utterly unable to support its weight, and so tumbles helplessly into the nearest bush, whence it tries once more to rise, only to fall again into the lower boughs of a tree over which it finally sprawls, dangling its racemes of heads. Some day, no doubt, the grass will decide the matter: When it has proved by the accumulated evidence of generations the truth and usefulness of the proverb "Never do for yourself what you can get another to do for you," it will cease stiffening its stem with silica—will, perhaps, use this material as does its lawful cousin, the razor grass, and, taking everybody's arm without asking, will develop into a true high climber, choking and strangling its patrons as soon as it has attained the mastery, taking for its motto my text—"Everybody for himself," &c.

I have taken these five suggestive plants from widely different families as striking examples of the various methods by which plants apparently weak and helpless manage to take care of themselves by taking upon themselves habits foreign to the families to which they belong.

C. B.

### CONFUSION IN EUCLID.

There appears in the last number of the VARSITY a communication from Mr. T. P. Hall, of Woodstock, in which he charges Euclid with confusion of geometric principles, Mr. Hall's position being briefly that the *problems* should be discarded on account of their being unnecessary to the demonstration of the theorems, and on account of the utter impossibility of constructing the ideally perfect lines, circles, &c., which the theory seems to require. The examination of the justness of this conclusion seems to resolve itself into (1) an enquiry into what may have been influential reasons with Euclid for inserting the problems, and (2) an enquiry whether Euclid's reason for their introduction still has weight.

1. A moment's consideration, combined with a little knowledge of the history of mathematics, will make it evident that Euclid's treatise was, at the time it was written or arranged, intended to be an eminently practical work, and that the problems must have been considered the most valuable part of it. The science of numbers was in its infancy, and arithmetical operations that are now familiar to every child were unknown. Thus, if it were necessary to determine what must be the length of the side of a square field that its area might be equal to a triangular one, the method was not to find the area of the triangular field and extract the square root of the number representing it, for the process of extracting the square root of a number was unknown. The plan followed must have been to describe a triangle similar to the given one, describe as in Book II. a square equal to it, and measure the length of its side. The celebrated Delian problem well illustrates this point. Euclid, therefore, had a clear eye on the needs of his times when he made problems occupy so important a place in his elements.

2. But has not the advance in mathematical science made it possible now to dispense with the problems? So far as the preceding reason for their insertion is concerned it has; but for other reasons the presence of the problems is still necessary. Mr. Hall may think it a very reasonable thing to call upon a boy to admit that some square exists equal to a given rectilinear figure, but if the boy is to understand clearly what he is doing in making such admission he must have a distinct notion of the continuous growth of quantity,—a notion that lies at the foundation of the infinitesimal calculus,—for he must see, or be made to see, that squares exist of all possible sizes, that as the size grows the area grows by infinitely small accretions. I think Euclid's method much simpler.

Again, it often happens that we would not feel ourselves justified in assuming that a given combination of lines and curves can exist in given positions or relations with respect to each other, until the problem which has for its object such construction has been solved.

Thus would we care to assume that a circle exists passing through two given points and touching another given circle until the position of the former circle had been shewn, *i.e.*, until, in effect, the problem had been solved.

But, furthermore, the solutions of many problems suggest and demonstrate valuable theorems. Thus in attempting to find a point from which the tangents to two given circles are equal, we may shew that there is an infinite number of such points, and that their locus is a straight line.

Objections certainly can be urged against Euclid's treatment of the subject, but Mr. Hall has not hit upon one. Notwithstanding, his letter is an exceedingly interesting one, and evidences independence of thought.

X. Y.

### THE FLOWER'S DEATH

A simple little flower,  
At the sun's hot power,  
Droops its weary head.  
Having done its duty,  
Having lived in beauty,  
Calmly it lies dead.

Dead! and the bees still humming,  
Dead! and the bees still coming,  
Coming all the time.  
There is absence of gloom,  
There is plentiful bloom,  
The sun is sublime.

The spinning wheel ceases,  
The linen, in creases,  
Lies on the floor.  
And covered with wood-bine,  
And bathed in the sunshine,  
The old farm door

Swings softly to and fro.  
Wild roses toss and blow  
In the summer breeze.  
Birds are sweetly singing,  
Leaves are rustling, swinging,  
In the old oak trees.

The white linen, shining,  
Fold on fold, is twining,  
Tangling round the girl.  
The white glossy glimmer,  
Folding in smooth shimmer,  
Round the centre pearl.

The tired hands are listless,  
The weary eyes are mistless,  
No more tears to shed.  
The rosy lips have faded,  
The drooping face is shaded,  
By the golden head.

The lovely face, still sweet,  
As shadows swift and fleet,  
Shade its sweetness.  
The last smile was shone,  
The last smile has gone,  
All is completeness.

The simple life is over,  
And as fragrant clover  
Blooms, droops, is dead.  
This dear fragrant flower  
Withers at even's hour;  
Margaret is dead

Toronto, March 8th, 1886.

E. A. D.

## AN INCIDENT.

But a day ago I was walking through the suburbs hand in hand with a child. We were perfectly oblivious of anything else but each other's company. She was looking up into my face, prattling away about some sleighing adventures she'd had with a bosom friend, and punctuating her sentences with little skips which ever and anon I helped with a lift from my stronger arm. I, on my part, was gazing downward with quiet contentment on her soft mobile features and into her frank blue eyes—prettiest of pictures set in a soft frame of fur. I went with my whole soul bowed in worship of her infantine beauty and innocence. At times it seemed as if I held an angel by the hand, and I felt reverently glad that she did not leave me.

Whether encouraged by my looks of contentment and admiration, or perhaps by some subtler sympathy, the child grew more confidential and communicative, and prattled away about this thing and that, in the soft, purring music of her voice. But all this while she spoke to me words she knew not—of a heart-bursting longing for something perfect and pure, far away—a cheering call from the great Creator borne up to me on the music of heavenly choirs. At times such transfiguration came over the child's face as made me feel in the presence of the Holy of Holies. And I've often thought since that perhaps it *was* no dream of mine—but a sacred reality.

Then again come the doubts that forever mars the ideal. As we turned a corner, we had to step aside to let another couple pass—a workman and little girl. Both were shabbily and scantily clad. We had passed some like them before, as I dimly remember, in the region of factories. But what now drove a dagger far into my soul was to see the poor shivering child as we passed, reach out her chill hand and lightly touch the comfortable, warm cape of my companion. The action was simple, and yet the thrill of its shock I dare never forget. It seemed as if in one instant all memories of our world's sorrow discharged themselves through that little cold finger. The comfortable isolation of selfish enjoyment was broken, and again I stood face to face with the great, real problem of the needless misery of my fellows. The sight was such as drains the heart of its tears and puts upon strongest manhood a burthen of sympathy, beneath which it faints in a weariness almost of death.

For the rest of our walk I did not cease to look upon the sweet, pure face of my companion, but it was with the eyes of one who watches a fair lily-bud floating upon a dark, sad river.

GUEUX.

## Editor's Table.

We have received from Messrs. Harper and Brothers, New York, the following books: "The Wanderings of Ulysses," translated from the German of Professor C. Witt, by Frances Young-husband; "Malthus and His Work," by James Bonar, M. A., Balliol College, Oxford, and "George Eliot's Life," edited by J. W. Cross.

The first of these, "The Wanderings of Ulysses," is an admirable account of the wanderings of the hero of the Odyssey. It is written in a popular and entertaining style, and will serve equally well as a story book, or as a regular reading and lesson book. It is translated into good English prose.

Mr. James Bonar, in "Malthus and His Work," gives a biographical account of the author of the famous essay on "Population." He also examines critically, but judiciously and in a sym-

pathetic spirit, his economic theories. The book is an interesting one to the student of political economy, and will doubtless do much to dispel much of the popular misconceptions which exist concerning Malthus and Malthusianism.

The "Life of George Eliot," related in her Letters and Journals, and edited by her husband, J. W. Cross, reveal the woman as she lived, thought and wrote. They are a remarkable record of a wonderfully gifted woman. Her letters show her to have been affectionate and true in all the varied relations of her life. She was patient under the burden of continuous ill-health and the strain of an unusually severe mental activity. She was conscientious to a degree. Her disregard for conventional usage during her earlier life—as shown by her relations with Mr. Lewes—and her subsequent compliance with it—as evidenced by her formal marriage to Mr. Cross—is still inexplicable, her own letter on the subject being vague and unsatisfying. The only explanation one can suggest is that she regarded Life, and its varied relations, in their purely philosophical aspect; and that during the earlier period of life she endeavoured with all the zeal—and certainly with more than the usual amount of courage—to live up to her philosophy. Her journals make frequent mention of her intimate acquaintance with many famous men and women. Huxley, Herbert Spencer, Harriet Martineau, Dickens, Delane (of *The Times*), Anthony Trollope, Robert Browning, Bagehot and many others are constantly referred to as personal friends. George Eliot's literary appetite was voracious, and her capacity unlimited. She was well read in almost every department of English literature, and was especially conversant with the language, literature, and philosophy of Germany. Her criticisms of authors and their writings, as well as of men and things in general, though frank and outspoken, are never captious or spiteful. One never finds in her journals those miserably bilious and contemptuously patronizing references to friends and entertainers which are such a characteristic feature of the literary Remains of the Sage of Chelsea. With all her faults, George Eliot cannot be charged with the sins of hypocrisy and uncharitableness. These Letters and Journals are an intensely interesting record of a useful and brilliant life, spent in an earnest endeavour to do good, nevertheless neutralized in its effect by an adherence to a system of philosophy, foreign to the spirit of English morality.

We hope that it is not altogether too late to extend to the students of our sister university of Montreal our heartiest congratulations upon the most successful completion of their song book. Its merits are many in number, but the greatest of these is its national character. It is not only a song book, but a Canadian song book. French-Canadian and English-Canadian songs are mingled with that happy harmony which the book will help to maintain between French-Canadian and English-Canadian students. The appearance of the book, too, at this time is evidence that little by little we are beginning to value more highly all that tends to encourage a national feeling, and in this, song is a wonderfully powerful factor. It shows, too, that we are beginning to realize the fallacy of the hitherto too general belief that the poor colonists have to look to foreign countries for everything, if we would have it good. It would be a blessing if our students were to apply to its pages and enrich our altogether too scanty stock of college music. The Modern Language Club will find in it nearly all the songs they sing: *Vive la Canadienne*, *Le Brigadier*, *A la Claire Fontaine*, *Malbrouck*, and many others. Until we have a song-book of our own, that is, until we have aroused musical enthusiasm enough to compile one of any value, the best thing we can do is to draw from the pages of the McGill College Song-Book. It costs only one dollar, and may be bought at I. Suckling & Sons, 107 Yonge Street. It will be sure to be very popular among our students.

## University and College News.

### THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE AND THE UNIVERSITY.

On Tuesday last Mr. Balfour moved for a Return to the House of the names and salaries of the officers of the University of Toronto, at the date of the order; also the names and salaries of the professors, lecturers, tutors, fellows, and officers of University College at the same date—specifying in each case the subject taught or the office held, and giving the amount of the remuneration for each, when more duties than one are discharged by the same person; also for a return showing the total number of students in University College at the date of the order; the number of female students at the same date; and also the number of students attending lectures in each of the following subjects:—Greek, Latin, Mathematics, Physics, History, Ethnology, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hebrew, Chaldee, Syriac, Logic, Mental and Moral Science, Biology, Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology. We have good reason for supposing that when this report comes before the House, the recent creation of a chair in Oriental Languages in University College will be discussed along with various other details of interest in the management of the affairs of this institution. The particular matter referred to will certainly bear looking into.

### READINGS FROM BROWNING.

Dr. Wilson, at the request of several students, has recently given a series of readings from the poems of Robert Browning. The second took place last Saturday morning in the east lecture room. At both meetings the attendance was very good—about fifty students having been present on each occasion. At the first lecture Dr. Wilson referred to Browning's special characteristics as a poet, and pointed out his wonderful objective power. He stated that he quite agreed with the opinion of Archdeacon Farrar, who held that Browning, in this respect, was second only to Shakespeare. Tennyson, he continued, in his poems, reflects himself chiefly, and uses his characters as mere mouthpieces for the expression of his own thoughts and ideas. Browning, on the other hand, endeavors to make his characters do and say what human beings would do and say under the circumstances in which he supposes them to be placed. His own views are invariably subordinated to those which the nature of his characters and surrounding circumstances would most certainly suggest. This is an important point in the consideration of Browning's poems, which are never necessarily the reflex of his own inner consciousness. Dr. Wilson read the following selections: "My Last Duchess," "The Last Ride Together," "Evelyn Hope," "Fra Lippo Lippi," "Bishop Bloughram's Apology," "Porphyria's Lover," "Cleon," "Home Thoughts," "The Italian in England," "Up at the Villa." These, the lecturer said, very fairly represented the wide scope and wonderful versatility of Browning's genius. It is to be hoped that Dr. Wilson's kindness in giving these readings may be rewarded in the way he himself suggested, by the awakening of greater interest amongst students in the writings of Robert Browning.

### THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

On Tuesday afternoon, at a regular meeting of the above society, which was presided over by Prof. Galbraith, Mr. McCulloch read an interesting as well as instructive paper entitled "Limes, Mortars and Cements." He first described their chemical constituents and preparation, and illustrated by diagrams all the different kinds of intermittent and perpetual kilns. He explained the injurious effects of sea-water on Mortars and how it might be remedied by adding a small proportion of quicklime, also the most practical

methods of testing the tensile and crushing strength of the material.

He exhausted the subject of Natural and Artificial cements, dwelt to some length on concrete and beton, and pointed out how advantageously concrete might be used for sewers. During the discussion which ensued Prof. Galbraith kindly gave the society the benefit of his extensive experience. The question "That will prevent block pavements being upheaved by the frost," which was laid over at the last meeting was reopened, and after the cause of such rising had been clearly demonstrated, many practical hints were thrown out for the avoidance of such obstruction to traffic.

The officers for the coming year were then nominated.

### NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The association met Tuesday evening in the School of Science, Mr. Frank T. Shutt in the chair. Dr. Carveth gave a lecture on "Some Common Human Parasites," showing that with the exception of a few cases as that of the deadly Echinococcus, so fatal to the Esquimaux and Icelanders, they did comparatively no harm to their hosts. An excellent paper on the Vertebrate Ear, by Mr. Dewar followed, in which he traced the development of this organ, and showed its homologies with that of some invertebrate forms. Mr. Wait in a short and interesting report, dealt with the peculiar creature Myzostoma, describing its anatomy and development, and giving reasons for its being classified with the chaeto-poda. After the regular programme he showed some specimens of a parasitic plant found encysted in a nerve ganglion of a cray fish.

### HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

A numerous meeting of this society was held in the physical lecture room, on Tuesday afternoon of this week, the president, W. Houston, M.A., in the chair.

At the request of a number of persons who were willing to take the financial and other risks involved in bringing Mr. Henry George to lecture in Toronto, the association unanimously resolved to take the lecture under its auspices, and its members will no doubt do what they can to make the affair a success.

A resolution was unanimously adopted instructing the general committee to prepare a program for next session, or as much of it as they can cover, and publish the subjects with the names of the essayists in the last number of the VARSITY for this session.

The subject for discussion was "Wealth and Value," and the time was chiefly taken up with a prelection on it by W. A. Douglass, B.A., a well-known member of the Institute of Accountants, who was present by special invitation. His address was a purely extempore one, and was illustrated by diagrams and classifications on the blackboard. He began by pointing out the great importance of the science, which has wealth for its subject matter, and expressing his regret and surprise that so little attention is paid to it in Canadian colleges and universities. He went on to show the defective character of the definition of wealth given in the great majority of works on political economy, and argued in favor of Lavaley's view that wealth should be regarded as including all "beneficent satisfactions." To limit the scope of the term "wealth" so as to make it include only things that have exchangeable value is to land the investigator of economic phenomena in a *reductio ad absurdum*. He explained and illustrated, from his own point of view, the relation of "wealth" to "value," and pointed out that the distinctions he was drawing were of practical and not merely theoretical importance.

After the lecture was concluded, Mr. Douglass answered a number of questions put to him by Messrs. Squair, Logie, McMillan and others. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to the lecturer by the association, and the meeting was brought to a close by the announcement from the chair, that T. C. L. Armstrong, M.A., one

of the university examiners for the year, would give a paper next Tuesday evening on one aspect of "Socialism."

The time of meeting has been fixed at a quarter to five, in order to enable as many as possible of the students to hear the paper, which will begin about five.

#### KNOX COLLEGE NOTES.

The annual meeting of the Metaphysical and Literary Society was held last Friday evening. The reports read showed the society to be in a prosperous condition. The principal business of the evening was the election of officers. A good general committee was elected, president, C. W. Gordon.

The editors and managers for the Knox College *Monthly* were also appointed. The retiring staff intend making the April number a special one. One of the best articles in the last *Monthly* was "Biology and Theology," by W. Dewar.

The Students' Missionary Society held its monthly meeting on Wednesday evening. Eighteen fields were taken up by the society, four of the fields being in Manitoba and the North-West.

Mr. Studd addressed the students after tea on Monday. His meetings have been much appreciated by all the students who attended them.

The theological examinations begin on the 30th.

of the world and the people in it, their customs and what they are doing from day to day. Such knowledge is not to be obtained in any society in connection with the college if it be not in the Literary (I drop the word scientific) Society. My observation of the men of the past ten years has led me to believe that it is not the book worm or medalist that has come to the front in life, but rather the member of the Literary Society who stood first in debate, who learned to amend a constitution, or to manage an election contest, and who made its bargains with shrewd men of business in the city. Let the coming professor or specialist stick to his special subject, let him join every association that can cram him full of the knowledge from which he directly expects to reap his livelihood, let him fold himself in his gown, and never leave the shadow of the college tower, but let the coming man of the world, who must know men in order to prove a peer among them, seek every chance of so doing, while pursuing his college course. The society was founded to offer him such an opportunity, and with many suggested accessories, particularly anything of the nature of a club, the life of the Literary Society should be one of vigor. In its arena, should be brought to play on matters of the outside world, that fineness of thought and calculation that is being acquired by the mental training involved in the study of the different departments, and every student who fails to take advantage of it, will find that he has been an enemy to himself, and that his college career has to a large extent been in vain.

Faithfully yours,

FRED. F. MANLEY.

### Communications.

#### THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the VARSITY :

SIR,—It does not require a very keen perception on the part of a casual observer, much less of one who takes an active interest in the above society, to notice its present gradual decay. As an ex-officer of the society, I should like to make one effort to urge upon the undergraduates of the college, the necessity of successfully carrying on the most valuable of its adjuncts, and upon the college council the advisability of assisting in every way. The society's present sleepy condition is in a large measure the result of the council's continued action in vetoing the discussion of Canadian party politics among its debates. Where free discussion is choked, death soon puts an end to a precarious existence, and the society has not been an exception to this rule. I shall not discuss the *pros* and *cons* of this subject, but surely the council might, without danger, leave the choice of material for debating purposes to the approval of those, who, from time to time, fill the position of presiding officer of the society. As regards the high feeling that might be engendered by such discussions, I would simply remark that the society had better perish from excitement and strife, than die the death of the sloth,—from the former, two off-shoots might come, from the latter, none.

Now to impress on the men of the college the great necessity of keeping up the old institution. I know well that competition on the part of the other societies has much to do with the present condition of the Literary Society, nor is it to be wondered at, that a student will bestow greater energy on anything that may help him nearer the top of the class lists. Suppose he arrives at the top, is he going to prove a greater success in life than his competitor half-way down? The history of the university answers in the negative. It is not the gold medal that enables a lawyer to touch the hearts of a jury, a silver one is quite as potent. Nor is it first-class honors in metaphysics that binds the preacher to his flock. Then what is wanted? A knowledge

To the Editor of the VARSITY :

SIR,—A few words on the Literary Society. Mr. Young's letter in last week's VARSITY, sketched part of a plan by which I would like to see the work of the Literary Society done next year. Any one who has attended the English meetings of the Modern Language Club must have come away assured that such meetings were a success; and, moreover, that they belonged properly to a Literary Society. At the Longfellow meeting Dr. Wilson was in the chair. Readings from this poet's works and essays, prepared during the summer vacation, were given. A graduate gives an essay on Hiawatha, and passes around photographic views of the Red Pipe Stone Quarry. Dr. Wilson, amid many valuable remarks, intersperses an account of his meeting with O. W. Holmes, Longfellow, Emerson, and other celebrities, and initiates us into the mysteries of a "torchlight procession" consumed in his honor. Again, knowing Prof. Hutton to be an admirer of Mrs. Browning's poetry, he is invited to take the chair at the Browning meeting; and over 100 undergraduates go to Moss Hall to hear him. I am aware it showed a degenerate disregard of the prescribed "dumb forgetfulness" of an orthodox, irreprehensible student who considers bench-tilting and incipient rowdiness as the only decently unpedantic occupation of a Literary Society for that Club to adjourn at the regular hour, and then for nearly all its members to stop to listen to the conversation on Carlyle. But if pedantic and priggish it is, pleasant, and above all, profitable. Everyone knows what enthusiasm is created in an author's writings by hearing them familiarly and naturally discussed. Let us do the work in English, done by the Modern Language Club. True, they have voted to continue this work themselves, but this was on account of the unsympathetic attitude which the Literary Society has hitherto displayed to all literary work. They have no other objection for not confining themselves entirely to the study of foreign languages and literature. Let the M. L. Club's committee arrange a series of English meetings to be held every third Friday during the next year.

Let the Political Science Association's committee arrange for next year to contribute a similar series of meetings, on the most popular of its subjects, every third Friday. On the other Friday let the Science Association give us, in essays, material for conversation and reflection, on the most familiar and popular scientific

questions. In default of enough scientific subjects of general interest we could have a formal debate.

The Literary and Scientific Society would be a general, popular, public meeting, held every third week, by each of the minor societies. The plans for these meetings, made by the committees of the minor societies, would be subject to the revision of the General Literary Society committee to ensure that only subjects of general interest would be discussed at the general meeting.

This would give each special association some sympathy in the work done by the others; would furnish topics for discussion and conversation, and we know speaking and debating is acquired largely by talking on thoughtful subjects outside of all societies. A large society is mainly useful because it provides material for discussion outside of its walls. Co-educationists, those residing at a distance, and many others too, would willingly see the hour changed to 4 p.m.

The chair would be filled each evening by the leading men of our city who have shown an interest in science, political economy, or English, as the case may be, and who would be selected by the committee on account of the likelihood of their giving us interesting remarks on the evening's discussion. Let our society be a means of bringing us into contact with these men.

J. A. FERGUSON.

#### A DREAM OF ATLANTIS.

To the Editor of the VARSITY :

My grandmother has often told me, that when a dream repeats itself the third time, there must be some truth in it. The force of this remark has been brought home to me quite recently. A few days since I had a very curious dream, which was almost a perfect reproduction of the visions which used to disturb my slumbers, while pursuing my studies in modern languages in old University College.

While visiting Toronto a short time ago, I had frequent conversations with a large number of the present undergraduates of the University, and upon relating to them my strange dream, they assured me, almost without exception, that it was indeed a "Dream which was not all a dream." And so, at their urgent request, I have decided to disclose it to the readers of the VARSITY, that they may have an opportunity of comparing it with reality.

During my slumbers after an evening of dissipation, I thought I was wafted far away, in some strange fashion, upon the bosom of a beautiful ocean; I was finally cast away upon the shore of what seemed to be a well-inhabited country. Upon making enquiry I learned that it was really the long-lost Atlantis. I was in a perfect ecstasy of delight, and immediately set out on a tour of exploration. Being of a literary bent of mind I hastened first to visit its institutions of learning. I was pleased to find that the people of the island possessed an excellent University. In this institution, they assured me, were concentrated the greatest minds of the land. This was a fact so well established that it was treason to question it.

I soon fell into an interesting conversation with a young man who seemed to be well acquainted with the college and university. It seems it had been noticed that the lectures, in one of the most important branches, were being avoided by the students, whereupon the governing body appointed the lecturer in this department to the position of examiner in the university, and thus compelled attendance at his lectures with the alternative of annihilation in the annual examinations.

"But," I asked, "should one be compelled to listen to what does not interest him?"

"Why, certainly," he said, "as these same lectures have been delivered for many, many years, and what was good enough for the past age is equally good for the present."

"But why have the students thus allowed their time to be wasted for so many years without complaining?" I enquired.

"Oh, they have been complaining constantly," he answered. "Up to the present men have gone out from the college with only the most elementary knowledge of the subject. But now, since the method of examination has been changed, the matter has assumed an entirely different aspect."

"In which departments do you find the complaints most frequent?" I asked.

"Well, strange to say, in our college the language of Atlantis itself seems to be very inefficiently taught. The students in this branch complain that their lecturer is sadly lacking in energy; that his style is absolutely wearisome; that a large portion of every lecture hour is occupied with compliments or other irrelevant matters; that an energetic lecturer would easily accomplish the usual hour's work in a quarter of the time, and, in short, that methodical working is quite foreign to the lecture room."

"The chief charges, however," he continued, "are brought against the lecturer in a very important department of the Teutonic stock of languages. The students in this branch are becoming more and more disgusted each year, yet, from a feeling of courtesy, they have delayed disclosing the state of affairs, till they have become almost as indifferent as the lecturer."

Being very much interested in this particular language, and observing that the name of the distinguished lecturer betrayed Teutonic origin, I obtained permission to attend a few of his lectures. I was punctual to the hour appointed for the lecture, but was surprised to find that it was necessary to wait about twenty minutes, to become sufficiently calm to be in harmony with the spirit of the learned lecturer. In the course of time he appeared, wearing a most frigid scowl, and entered upon the work of the day, which consisted of transmuting the language of Atlantis into that of this northern race. Although I thought I was perfectly familiar with both these tongues, I found it impossible to distinguish what was being said by the lecturer in either language. Yet I was informed that the unfortunate students were forced to submit to an oral examination from this gentleman annually, with the negative result which one would naturally expect in such a case. I was informed also that he read a large volume of manuscript to his class each year, in lieu of lectures, this requiring less thought and affording him an opportunity for rest after the exertions of the vacation. I refrained from attending this reading, however, on account of my profound regard for the subject which was treated in this absurd fashion.

Still in my dream, I visited several other lecture rooms, but in most of them I found a marked difference from what I had observed elsewhere. Two of the languages of the Romance stem—under one lecturer—seemed to be taught with energy, and in these great interest was evinced by the students. Systematic treatment and practical ideas seemed to hold a first place in this lecture room.

I then entered the department devoted to the ancient classics and was pleasantly surprised. Here I found *living* lecturers teaching *dead* languages, while, in the other room, I found a *dead* lecturer teaching a *living* language.

I was permitted to continue my investigations in several other departments of this institution, in most of which activity was displayed. Complaints, however, were frequent and strong against the manager of the library, on account of his lack of sociability towards the students of his own department as lecturer, and especially, on account of his cynical disposition.

I was permitted in my vision, to see many other things of great interest in Atlantis, but for the present I shall refrain from describing them.

Believe me, Dear VARSITY,

AN OLD B.A. OF 1883 (*circa*).



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Full choir. Cornet and organ accompaniment.

**Di-Varsities.**

A rising man—A balloonist.

Election colors—Black and blue.

A "ball-room"—A bowling alley.

A "smoke-stack"—A false accusation in  
euchre.

The University of Colorado is said to have  
a course in Gothic.

Tennyson is writing a new poem to be en-  
titled the "Closes of Eve." The poem pro-  
bably will be very brief.

What kind of music does an excessive  
tobacco masticator remind one of? Why,  
an over-chewer to be sure.

The \$36,000 necessary to build a divinity  
hall at Harvard has been nearly all sub-  
scribed, within a very short time.

According to the *World*, by Street-car  
Smith's new baseball rules, a man is out be-  
fore he strikes. It is to be hoped that a  
short stop will soon be put to this base hit.

"Doctor, said a despairing patient to his  
physician, "I am in a dreadful condition. I  
can neither lay nor set. What shall I do?"  
"I think you had better roost," was the reply.

Nine out of every ten college graduates in  
the United States are Republicans.—*Dal-  
housie Gazette*. Statistics show that ninety  
per cent. of college graduates are Democrats.  
—*Niagara Index*.

Yale, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Cornell,  
and Princeton are the only American colleges  
which provide fellowships for graduate stu-  
dents desiring to pursue studies beyond the  
regular academic course.

What is the point of similitude between  
the system of rectangular co-ordinate in  
mathematics and the opponents of Annexa-  
tion? Because, both resolve themselves into  
the question of "why annex" (y and x).

**A NEW-FASHIONED GIRL.**

She'd a great and varied knowledge, picked up at  
a female college, of quadratics, hydrostatics  
and pneumatics very vast.

She was stuffed with erudition as you stuff a  
leather cushion, all the ologies of the colleges  
and the knowledges of the past.

She had studied the old lexicons of Peruvians and  
Mexicans, their theology, anthropology and  
geology o'er and o'er,

She knew all the forms and features of the pre-  
historic creatures—ichthyosaurus, plesiosaur-  
us, megalosaurus and many more.

She'd describe the ancient Tuscans, and the  
Basques and the Etruscans, their griddles  
and their kettles, and the victuals that they  
gnawed.

She'd discuss, the learned charmer, the theology  
of Brahma, and the scandals of the Vandals,  
and the sandals that they trod.

She knew all the mighty giants and the master  
minds of science. all the learning that was  
turning in the burning mind of man.

But she couldn't prepare a dinner for a gaunt and  
hungry sinner, or get up a decent supper for  
her poor voracious papa, for she never was  
constructed on the old domestic plan.



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"And you," murmured the fair one, as she leaned her frizzes on his shoulder, "w-wouldn't you l-like to support me?"

He arranged it right there. How could he help it?

The captain of a Western ferry-boat found a negro aboard who hadn't the nickel to pay his fare, and he shouted to him, "Didn't I tell you before we started that you couldn't cross if you hadn't any money?" "I guess it was you," replied the darkey, "but dere was so many around the dock spittin' frowdeir front teeth and a-hollerin' at deck-hands dat I couldn't make out whether you belonged on de boat or not."

## I.

A TADPOLE lay  
In a ditch one day,  
And sadly that tadpole sighed,  
As a bullfrog gay  
On his joyous way,  
Hopped off in his manly pride.  
But a smile came over the tadpole's face,  
As he lay 'mid the rushes dim,  
And he said: "Old man, you've got dandy legs  
But you've got no tail to swim."

## II.

A Freshman lad,  
With a visage sad,  
Once stood by the college door,  
While with high hat glad,  
(And a cane he had)  
Out strutted a Sophomore.  
But a smile stole over the Freshman's face,  
And he almost laughed in glee,  
As he said: "You may stalk with your hat and cane  
But you can't be fresh like me."

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