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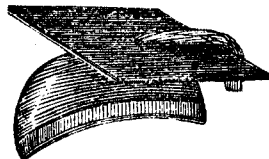
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# THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. 1. No. 4.

October 30, 1880.

Price 5 cts.

## A PRETENTIOUS PAPER.

We have been induced to publish, in another column, a communication from 'A Graduate' by reason of the opportunity it affords to define our position more clearly. Such a definition is necessarily uncertain when made prospectively, and is under a tacit claim to be emended as soon as a retrospect is possible. With this purpose in mind we shall offer a few comments on the 'Graduate's,' epistle.

In the first sentence the incorrect assumption that the 'Varsity is a College paper considerably diminishes the relevancy of the succeeding remarks. A distinction, with an appreciable difference, between *College* and *University* journalism has been already maintained in these pages, and the declaration to adhere to the highest standard required by the latter, has met with the approval of men in all the different grades of University standing. In a paper so characterized, "the admixture of fun and sound common sense" is undoubtedly desirable; but also, inasmuch as, from the middle ages downwards, Universities have, to so large an extent, been the bearers and representatives of higher rational culture, a University organ should reflect more or less this mission and trust. Men do not come to Universities to acquire what is ordinarily understood by the term common sense; they are supposed to possess it already and to make use of it in striving after this higher culture. A "modest sheet of College gossip," however suitable in other institutions, would not correspond to the most arid conception of a University paper; and hence a "metamorphosis" was deemed necessary. The title "A Weekly Review of Education," was given whilst bearing in mind what has so often been insisted on by BUCKLE and others—that education is not books. The part examination papers play in University training is, from more than one point of view, comparatively insignificant. The social, religious and intellectual surroundings constitute the vital essence of University education far more than the bare exactions of the curriculum. Yet, to the 'Graduate,' a Review of Education, even when published in a University, only suggests the reproduction of examination papers. The baldness of the statement marks ignorance of the close relation existing between a systematic, sustained kind of study, and the gradual elevation of tone and feeling among those who live together for high and pure ends. The founders of the 'Varsity' have been guided in their course in a great measure by those who *have* so lived, who still retain a nominal connexion with their *Alma Mater*, and do her honor.

The 'Graduate' proceeds by informing us, very unnecessarily, of the competence of the "authorities," and of the cordial intercourse which should subsist between instructors and instructed. Language of this hortatory style is rightly expected from persons who are revered for the large experience they have acquired; but, from a young man, newly-pledged in academical rank, it savors of the pretentiousness which he patriotically endeavors to pin to the 'Varsity. To complete the metaphor, he only manages to prick himself badly. For instance, to carry out the injunction that the columns of a 'College' paper should always be open to, "essays and articles arising out of College studies," would render such a paper dull, past man's wit to tell of. Dissertations on the Absolute or the Past Participle would not, we venture to think, possess the attraction, which attaches to University Freedom and other subjects of more general interest, and, in all likelihood, would turn sour even the 'Graduate's' admixture of fun and common sense. The whole of his apparently- maiden criticism suffers starvation on the score of the latter quality, and it is refreshing to meet with one indisputably-correct statement. Few, who are in the slightest degree familiar with the Universities of the country, will dissent from the view expressed in regard to the absence of *esprit de corps* among Canadian Undergraduates. A coarse indifference to the sunny aspects of academic life seems to thrive amid an almost Calvinistic antipathy towards any ameliorating influence tending to infuse unity of feeling and the sense of a common purpose. But we are convinced our attitude hitherto does not warrant the least suspicion that we are unconscious of this void, and that it was high time for the Graduate to enlighten us as to the great object of a paper like the 'Varsity. Impatience is condonable when a would-be mentor manifests *his* sentiment of public spirit by flippant animadversions

against the tone of an enterprise yet in its inception. The right tone will be imparted in proportion as the undertaking becomes part and parcel of the community. The process involves time and perseverance through a series of trials, of which the smallest is the premature and anonymous carping of a few individuals.

To our own protest, it is incumbent on us to add one on behalf of the "numerous" class of University men, which is asserted to teem with conceit, parsimony and pedantry. The 'Varsity, in the opinion of the assessor, may be pretentious in maintaining these charges to be untrue and unprovoked, but in this case, at any rate, the pretentiousness will be shared with the whole body of Undergraduates.

*We again feel compelled to call attention to the prefectorial attitude of the "Notre Dame Scholastic." The following is taken from the issue of October 23:—"Remember the sound advice given you on Sunday last by Rev. Father Walsh, and you'll (sic) blush to even think of doing what is prohibited by the disciplinary regulations of the University." The circumstances under which University and College papers are established, prohibit (if, of course, established by Students) the editors from sermonizing on infractions of discipline. A principle is here at stake, the glaring violation of which demands to be instantly and unreservedly condemned, and we earnestly request the University and College press in Canada and the United States to join with us in so doing.*

TWENTY-FIVE dollars measures, for the nonce, the profligate expenditure of a number of gentlemen, who are collectively and grandiloquently styled the Finance Committee of the Debating Society. This sum is to be applied to refurbishing up the President's private room, and represents about one-third of the amount in reality needed for the purpose. It should be pressed upon the Society, or rather upon its financiers, that the President's duties are manifold, at times arduous, and to give him quarters, from which an Irish landlord would not take the trouble to evict a Land Leaguer, looks like an advertisement of niggardliness.

## CONVOCATION MEMBERSHIP.

The University Act (Revised Statutes of Ontario, chap. 210, sec. 12), provides that the Convocation of the University shall consist of (1), All graduates in Law; (2), All graduates in Medicine; (3), All Masters of Arts; (4), All Masters in Surgery; (5), All Doctors of Science; and (6), All Bachelors of Arts and of Science of three years' standing. The same statute (sec. 64, sub-sec. 7), confers on Convocation "the power of requiring a fee to be paid by members as a condition of being placed on the register of members."

At the meeting of Convocation in June, a Committee was appointed to form a set of Rules and Regulations. The Report of that Committee came up for consideration at the adjourned meeting on Friday evening last, and a long and somewhat acrimonious discussion took place on the section recommending the imposition of a membership fee of one dollar a year, under the authority of the above sub-section of the University Act. In spite of the earnest protest of a very large minority of the meeting, and of their pleading for a postponement of so important a question, the report was declared adopted, and, unless something is done at the adjourned meeting on the 26th of November, to render the provision for the payment of fees inoperative, the membership of Convocation will for the next year be confined to those who pay the required fee. It is only fair to add that, at the meeting on Friday night, there were comparatively few graduates not resident in Toronto, and that, of those who were there, one or two stated that they had not received any intimation that the question of membership fees would come up for consideration.

As the matter must come up at the next meeting of Convocation, it is important that the issues involved should be clearly understood before a final decision is arrived at, and I therefore take the liberty of stating my view of it in the 'Varsity, leaving others to do the same, if they please. I am entirely opposed to the imposition of any fee whatsoever, at the present time, and for the following reasons:

1. It seems uncertain whether Convocation has the right to strike off the register the name of any member now on it for the non-payment of his fee, and, if a fee is to be imposed at all, it should be made compulsory on every member to pay it.

2. Convocation is a statutory body and not a voluntary organization, and is, in this respect, as much a public body as the Senate, is. It is, in my opinion, just as important a body as the Senate, in its relation to the University, and therefore, I hold that the trifling expenditure connected with its proceedings should be paid out of the "University Income Fund," just as the Senate's Expenses are paid.

3. I hold this view all the more strongly because I believe that the imposition at the present time of a fee has to be paid under penalty of loss of membership would have the effect of knocking out of Convocation what flickering life has been recently infused into it. This body was created nearly eight years ago, and, during the first seven of these years, nothing was done to justify its existence. It has now, to all appearance, commenced to live, but the attendance at its meetings is still far too small. What effect will the imposition of a fee have on that attendance?

4. There are, I believe, over 1200 names now on the register of Convocation of those who are entitled to vote for elective members of the Senate. The votes cast at Senate elections for any one candidate never amount to more than one-third of the whole number, and seldom to more than from one-sixth to one-fourth. Many who now vote would be certain, from inadvertence alone, to lose their franchise for the non-payment of their fees, and they would never think it worth while to renew the connection thus offensively served. The effect would be to confine the voting to the few who paid, and payment would be, to a large extent, the result of the personal solicitation of candidates for election.

5. The amount of money required by Convocation for the payment of expenses is so insignificant that a much smaller fee than one dollar would suffice if all were to pay. But all would not pay, and there is no reason to believe that the revenue raised in this way would be sufficient to meet even the small outlay which is connected into such a bugbear. A more certain source of revenue would be an occasional subscription like the very successful one taken up at the June meeting.

6. If it be said that the University income fund cannot bear any more additions to the expenditure, I reply that Convocation, if it becomes an active and influential body, can do much for the improvement of the University finances, but if it remains as dead as it has heretofore been, those finances must continue in a crippled condition. The Legislature is not likely to do anything, and with this fact staring us in the face, it would be the height of folly to take, at the present juncture, any rash step which would be likely to prove a bar to the usefulness of Convocation.

In conclusion, let me appeal to my fellow-graduates, not only to give this matter some attention, but to attend the meeting on the 26th of November, and help to find the best possible settlement of a troublesome question.

M. A.

#### OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

Initiation,  
Communication,  
Declaration (or),  
Rustication.

\* \*

I am the most hard-worked of our hard-worked staff, the most abused and the least rewarded for my conscientious labor. So I stand in need of 'pick-me-ups' and the best one I have had yet comes from a decidedly unexpected quarter, the *Evangelical Churchman*:—

"THE VARSITY.—We give a hearty welcome to this new weekly, the organ of our Provincial University. It has a sphere of its own, which it promises to occupy worthily and successfully. It makes its first appearance very seasonably at the inauguration of a new regime, and we wish for it a grand career in educating a sound public opinion in regard to the position which a Provincial University should occupy.

ON the evening of Saturday before last the President of the Debating Society gave a dinner at the National Club, to that eminently useful body of men known as the General Committee of the Society. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to with perhaps more than the usual enthusiasm, as it doubtless occurred to every one present that the entertainment bore the character of an innovation. I do not remember any occasions on which the geniality of former Presidents extended so far as to regale either the General or the Special Committees. At the next election the candidates for the position Mr. Manley now holds, will probably hint that the capital precedent he was the first to give should be followed.

(Scene, the Dean's lecture-room, at ten o'clock prayers.)—Professor: "I'm in—"  
(Dreaming Residence freshman, interrupting:.) "Cost yer five more to draw your cards."—*Columbia Spectator*.

I HAVE had another talk with my friend of the Residence. It seems that my remarks of last week have served as the breeze, to kindle into flame, the long, smouldering embers of discontent. Last Saturday evening a meeting was held, and a Committee appointed to wait on the President, and ask whether he would be willing to receive a petition. On his consenting, a petition was drawn up and presented to him, for submission to the first meeting of Council. Its chief requests are that the Steward be put on a fixed salary, and that all his accounts be submitted to, and audited by the Dean, that comfortable baths be fitted up in each house, and that the room rent be reduced. The other improvements, such as better maintenance, better attendance, better light, &c. will naturally follow, when the steward has no longer any object in reducing all comforts as nearly as possible to a minus quantity. Certainly those requests are not extravagant. The Residents do not demand luxuries, all they ask for are necessities. While improvements have been made in the main building, and large sums expended in altering and refitting lecture rooms, the Residence has been left to the wear and tear of twenty years. Up till now, improvement has not gone beyond the munificent addition of a crazy chair to each room, and a few fenders that have the appearance of being ingeniously constructed out of superannuated bird-cages. Under these circumstances, the expenditure of a few hundred dollars in complying with the Residents' position would hardly be amiss. And now that it is before the Council, I expect to see part, at least, of their grievances, remedied by the beginning of the Easter term, when it is to be hoped the steward, instead of being a contractor, will become a servant in the pay of the college.

\* \*

UNFORTUNATELY the ostensibly-compulsory drill, frightened from its first meeting last Wednesday night many members of the Natural Science Association. They fled from this field of action to seize the opportunity to compete for the Company range prizes. The President, Mr. W. B. McMurrich, on taking the chair for the first time, thanked the Association for electing him to his present office. He took it as an especial compliment to himself, having been so long separated from the Institution. His presence among its members would enable him to be benefitted by the acquisition of much Scientific information. Owing to the gallantry of the uniformed analysts and the absence of several graduates, the inaugural address will not be delivered till next Thursday evening.

#### 'THE GRAND REMONSTRANCE.'

To the President and members of the Council of University College,

GENTLEMEN,—

The resident undergraduates beg to submit to you the following statement of facts and expression of their desires:—

(1) The control of University College, including its Residence, being vested, by statute, in the President and Council, it is presumed that they have power to deal with all matters incidental to the management of the Residence and relating to the remuneration of its Steward.

(2) Your petitioners, in referring to an article on Residence affairs, which appeared in the College paper of the 23rd inst., wish it to be understood that the statements therein made are not new ideas and are not exaggerations of facts.

(3) The Steward should not be liable to the temptation of making profit at the expense of the Residents' comforts, which is the natural result of the present system.

(4) It is not in the matter of board alone that your petitioners desire improvement. They request that better care be taken of their rooms, that comfortable bath-rooms, (the present two being practically useless), be fitted up in each house, and that the existing high rent of rooms be reduced.

(5) Your petitioners regret to have to refer to Upper Canada and Knox Colleges as institutions in which Residence regulations and comforts are far superior to those existing here. The obvious remedy for the main part of the evil is the adoption of the plan which has been followed at Upper Canada College for several years, the chief features of which are, firstly: that the Steward is a responsible man and on a fixed salary; secondly: that he is under the immediate control of the Head of Residence, to whom all accounts are submitted, and by whom they are audited. For the details and successful working of this plan, we beg to refer to Mr. Maitland, of Upper Canada College, who has expressed his willingness to give all the information in his power.

(6) Above all, the expense of living in Residence, where alone true college life can be enjoyed, should be reduced to the minimum of expense, and raised to the maximum of comfort and health, consistent with those principles of moderation, economy and discipline, which should exist in all institutions of the kind.

The above, we beg leave to state, has the hearty support of every one in Residence.

Your petitioners, therefore, pray that all enquiries may be made, accounts be investigated, and steps taken to remedy the above-mentioned grievances, and that the existing system be entirely remodelled.

#### THE THEATRES.

The Toronto dailies are in the habit of publishing notes on musical and dramatic performances, which the public is supposed to regard as criticisms. But then, readers are pretty well aware that the remarks of these newspapers are certainly not prompted by any very high spirit of criticism, but are often both dishonest and untrustworthy. The theatre and music hall are generally 'done' by any spare reporter who happens to be free for the evening, and his standing instructions are to praise everything that advertises well. Whether the performer is Lawrence Barrett or Billy Rice, his efforts are noticed in almost the same strain and receive the same ladleful of indiscriminate praise. Our dailies are, in most particulars, very creditable newspapers, and it is to be hoped that they will soon have the good sense to secure the services of competent dramatic critics whose notices will be more than an echo of the advertising columns.

The present week has witnessed an event of some importance in the dramatic world. A lady who enjoys a world-wide reputation as a reader, and, as such, has justly won for herself admirers in every city on the continent, has returned to the stage after many years' absence from it, and made her *debut* in Toronto. Whether she has acted wisely or not, yet remains to be seen. As a lady reader she was *facile princeps*; as an actress she has never shone, and a dozen years' absence from the stage is not a good preparation for becoming a star. We have seen her this week in three different characters. The newspapers, as usual, have been lavish in their praise, and, although it has been again misplaced, she is a much worthier object of adulation than those who have often received it. Mrs. Scott-Siddons' readings of *Juliet* and *Rosalind* could not in justice be called successes. The first was but a cold representation of the warm-blooded daughter of Capulet. *Rosalind*, we are told, is her favorite character, and yet, in this, her failure was even more complete. Her acting was stiff and stagey, her utterance harsh and too rapid, and she contrived to throw a certain *quasi-grandeur* into the part which was an innovation, neither correct nor desirable. In tragic parts she succeeds tolerably well, but she should practice love-making a little more. One fact was patent to the audience in both these plays,—it was neither *Juliet* nor *Rosalind* they saw before them, but Mrs. Scott-Siddons. As a reader this lady made her reputation, and, although she may choose to go upon the stage, she will still remain merely an excellent reader in costume.

#### SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

Whatever view may be taken of utilitarian education, whether we believe or not the theory of school training which maintains that a boy ought, in the process of learning his lessons, to acquire those general faculties or qualities which go far to insure his success in after life, there can be no question that the general qualities which promise success in any walk of life are precisely those which are the essential requisites of success in scientific research, and they are, therefore, peculiarly nurtured and strengthened by scientific work.

Very striking is the analogy between the difficulties one meets with in actual life, and those which beset the chemist in his attempt to solve a chemical problem, and between the intellectual resources necessary in each case to overcome the difficulty.

What philosophers call "the problem of life" cannot, with any degree of truth, be compared to a mathematical theorem, deduced by a long train of reasoning from axioms and definitions, still less with the construing of a Greek play or the construction of Latin verse; but it may justly be compared to a long series of experiments through which the investigator gropes his way, with broken light and faltering steps, now losing his way, now finding it again, and arriving in the end at a happy issue only by dint of perseverance, of a keen application of mind, of conscientious exactitude and cautious judgment.

One of the most common mental views is the habit of looking without perceiving, of stupid staring without comprehending. This fault is by no means confined to the uneducated, it is far too common among men whom the world credits with a liberal education; but these seer-nosings are hardly to blame, for they have never been trained to see. Neither classics nor mathematics—though essential factions in the early part of a thorough scientific education—have the power of teaching the student the difficult art of accurate observation; such a power comes from the study of the physical and natural sciences only. To beget this accuracy is indeed their peculiar province, by virtue of which they claim to have a share in moulding the minds of the young.

There are very few among those who have taken a practical science course, who have not noticed this impediment either in themselves or their fellow-workers; who have not occasionally been wilfully inaccurate,

lazy or careless, allowing brown to pass as black, grey as white, and six and three as *nearly* ten; and whose attention has not finally been aroused by failure, to see written in large scrawling letters over all their labored work, that black is black only, as much as white is white, and that six and three make *nine*.

Perhaps the student's longest struggle is with the tendency which ever prompts to see what he wishes to see,—for human nature is very similar on both sides of the laboratory walls. It appears to him, for instance, that a certain series of experiments would end in establishing certain results. Beginning with this hope, he may, at first, find nature pliable enough, but, after a time, little clouds of suspicion arise, and he goes over the work again, the fear of having blundered causes him to see with keener eye, and the suspicion becoming absolute distrust, he finds his linked facts break up in absolute confusion.

Dangers of this kind are always hovering over one who aims at proficiency in any of the departments of natural science, and experience shows they can be avoided only by a steadfast watchfulness, carried on until the forced attitude of attention becomes a natural habit; and the question with him is not, What ought it to be? not, What can I make it be? but simply, What is it? He is thus taught, as he can be taught by no other means, through the painful exactitude of nature's ways, not only that there is such a thing as truth, and that it is within the grasp of man, but that by it alone can the nature of things be measured.

We may then place the qualities necessary for success in scientific enquiry, under the two heads of attention, and what may be called sincerity in the mind. They are qualities which do not belong naturally to the mind; they need, if not to be planted in all minds, at least to be cultivated in all. These mental qualities may be acquired in after life, but only in the repressive and painful school of experience; but the punishments of this school are, when inflicted at all, too severe and depressing in their influence on the average mind to produce the highest results. The punishment of science on the other hand though light, is quick and sure, seldom missing its mark. It is just this frequent repetition of little chiding blows that makes science so valuable, as an intellectual training. Characters cannot be beaten into shape by a few heavy blows; it is only by light taps and almost imperceptible touches, repeated day after day, that the careless, impulsive boy is moulded into the sober, watchful, sincere and successful man.

In dwelling thus, somewhat at length, on the intellectual qualities and the temperament most likely to be engendered by the pursuit of science, I may have wearied the reader, though I have by no means exhausted the subject. Practical science in its progress, is fast wrapping itself around our individual lives, and working itself so thoroughly into our national existence, that it would be difficult indeed to exaggerate the importance and value of a sound, practical science education.

There has been, until recently, in Canada, and even in the Senate of our University, a fear expressed that those dangerous rivals, the sciences, would prove too strong for the older studies, if placed on an equal footing with them, and that the light of classical lore would be quenched in the flood of utilitarian knowledge. Though this is complimentary to the growing strength of science, it is hardly just either to the tendency of scientific work, or the intrinsic value of the classics. The educationists of to-day are gradually waking up to the fact, that,—to borrow a metaphor from Chemistry—the molecule education is not composed solely of one atom of classics, united to one atom of mathematics.

Professor Huxley, in an able address recently delivered, answered the arguments of this class of scholars, in their capacity as Levites, in charge of the ark of culture, and monopolists of liberal education.

The educational value of classics and mathematics has had many able advocates; but it is a fact, admitted even by their strongest advocates, that the mathematics lack one thing.

Admirably rigid and exact, peculiarly powerful in accustoming the mind to clear conceptions and accurate reasoning, they lose half their hold on most students, just because they are so rigid and exact that a great gap seems fixed between their operations and the flexible uncertain occupations of everyday life.

That gap is filled by the experimental sciences, for they, while exact enough, to claim our respect, have another side, which, by its uncertainties, and experimental method of enquiry, establishes a common ground between themselves and every-day human life.

R. F. R.

'**VARSITY MEN.**—Messrs. J. A. Culham, M. A., F. W. G. Haultain, B. A., C. C. McCaul, B. A., W. A. Shortt, B. A., are studying law in the firm of Messrs. Bethune, Moss, &c.—Mr. J. McDougall, B. A., at present reading with numerous pupils, intends entering on the study of law in November.—Mr. W. K. T. Smellie is Assistant Master in the Gananoque High School.—Mr. J. W. Elliott, B. A., is a student-at-law in the office of Messrs. Pearson and Lees, of Toronto, and so is Mr. T. H. Gilmour, B. A., in the office of Messrs. Morphy & Morphy.—Mr. T. N. Marshall, B. A. has settled down to the study of law in his native hamlet, Brockville.

Messrs. J. P. McMurrich, B. A., and T. A. Haultain, M. A., are taking a course in the Trinity School of Medicine.—Mr. H. A. Fairbank, B. A., long and favorably known in University College, has annexed himself, and is studying medicine in Michigan University, Ann Arbor.—Mr. J. Balderson, the silver medallist of last year in Mathematics, is Mathematical Master in the Mount Forest High School.—Mr. W. H. Frazer, B. A. '80, the gold medallist in Modern Languages, now holds the position of Master of Modern Languages at Upper Canada College.—Mr. S. Mizner, who left University College last spring to compete for entrance from the Seminary of Wyoming to the Military Academy at West Point, and who stood first in the examination, having obtained 97 per cent. of the total of marks, was disqualified on the ground of insufficiently-long residence in Wyoming.—Mr. W. J. Loudon, B. A. '80, who obtained the gold medal in Mathematics, has wisely chosen the John Hopkins University as the place to pursue his favorite study; and Professor Silvester may be sincerely congratulated on this late acquisition.—The author of "Clinker" attends lectures in University College.

#### VARSITY SPORT.

—THE general tendency of alteration in the rules which govern the more virile athletic games is towards lessening the amount of 'unskilled labour,' to borrow a phrase from Political Economy. There is little doubt in regard to this beneficial result being effected by the modification in foot-ball, known as the 'open formation.' Of course a protest is made by the party which deems it desirable that untrained muscularity should prevail in an athletic contest; and there is opposition from the quarter where vanity concerning size of arm and hardness of leg is equalled by an inability to employ strength in a scientific manner. The extreme upholders of the ancient regulations can hardly be congratulated upon the defence undertaken in their behalf by a writer in the *Mail*, who maintains that English rules in foot-ball are to be observed because it is an English game. The fallacious inference is in keeping with the ignorance of sporting history exposed by the premise; the origin of foot-ball has long been assigned to Ireland. Another remarkable vindication loses in print the plausibility imparted by tone of voice and vigor of expression:—"I stick by the old Rugby game. Who cares in England or Canada for the effeminate attempt to spoil the fun of the glorious scrimmages." The impression produced by this style of colloquial eloquence is often deepened by an exhibition of scars and other disfigurements received in the "glorious scrimmages." Believers in the convincing power of such rant, will have their faith rudely shaken if they try to win the undergraduates back to the Rugby fold. Even the "crusading" machinery of a certain journal would be unavailing against the hardened convictions of these young men. They have lost patience with the monotonous game, the issue of which depends not so much on the practice, which maketh perfect, as upon the capability of one side to shove harder and to sustain the shove longer than their opponents. The recent match between a team of the Toronto Club and Upper Canada College, on the grounds of the latter, showed by contrast the superiority of the Open Formation method. Both spectators and players were disappointed in the expectation of a display of skill. The ball was buried in scrimmages the greater part of the afternoon, and moved scarcely ten yards in as many minutes, giving very few chances to the forwards or the backs to display dexterity. Open Formation, on the contrary, requires very fast running as well as agile movement—requirements which, if fulfilled, immeasurably increase the interest deserved by so excellent a game.

—The programme of events which accompanied the invitation to this University to be present at the McGill College sports, suggested some advantageous alterations which might be made in the catalogue of games in succeeding years. All contests, except those for the championship cup, are open to undergraduates of all universities. Second prizes are awarded only when there are three *bona fide* competitors. Amateurs alone can compete, and this is a regulation which should unquestionably be adopted and added to our already existing code. These alterations would prevent individuals carrying off just what prizes they determine upon between themselves to have—the determination resting on the grounds of the inefficiency and the sparse number of their opponents. Foot-ball teams would not then need to hesitate about accepting challenges on account of the untrained condition of men whose mantlepieces are ornamented with spoils.

—The following important changes have been made in the foot-ball rules of Harvard University.—

1. A match shall be decided by majority of touch-downs. A goal shall be equal to four touch-downs; but in case of a tie, a goal kicked from a touch-down shall take precedence over touch-downs or a goal kicked from the field.

2. A scrimmage takes place when the holder of the ball, being in the field of play, puts it down on the ground in front of him and puts it in play (while on-side) by—1st, kicking the ball; 2nd, by snapping it

back with the foot. The man who first receives the ball from the snap-back shall be called a quarter-back, and shall not then rush forward with the ball under penalty of a foul.

3. If the ball either fly, bound, or roll in touch from a kick out, it must be brought back; but if it touches any player it need not be brought back.

4. In case of a punt-out, the players of the side to which the ball is punted out, must be at least fifteen feet from the goal line. The opposite punter-out has five feet clear, extending from his scratch in the direction of touch. Punter-out must not be in any way interfered with. A punt-out must be a kick from the toe.

5. If any player purposely foul an opponent or ball, when such opponent is about to try for a fair catch, the opponent's side may either have the ball down where the foul was made, or take a free kick, which free kick cannot score a goal.

To the Editor of the "Varsity":—

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to see so many encouraging notices of the new college paper, and I hope that it will meet with all the success that has been prophesied for it. There are, however, some points upon which I would like to make a few remarks. Compared with the *White and Blue*, one is immediately struck with the pretentiousness of the new paper. The title-page is excellent—just the sort of outer covering one would have expected the *White and Blue* to assume as soon as it began to look up in the world, and felt the need of a more gorgeous apparel—indicative, too, of that admixture of fun and sound common sense which made our first college paper such a decided success.

The *Varsity* is a much more appropriate title than the *White and Blue*, which was rather meaningless; but what could have induced the Committee—or whoever manages these things—to metamorphose our modest sheet of College gossip into "A Weekly Review of Education, University Politics and Events"!! "O, Shakespeare, how could'st thou ask, 'What's in a name?' 'Tis the devil's in it!"

What can one expect from a "Weekly Review of Education," but a kind of school journal, devoted to the reproduction of examination papers, with amazingly elaborate answers to the questions propounded—a thoroughly respectable, orthodox publication on the principle of the Sunday Magazine, with which the unfortunate children of the present generation are afflicted by their Sunday-school teachers?

Surely, it cannot be the intention of the editor and his colleagues to really inflict his (*sic*) readers with a weekly review of education? The education of the students of University College is surely carefully enough looked after by the authorities without the establishment of a College paper to supplement their labours! Of course all true University men should heartily co-operate with the professors and tutors, and essays and articles on subjects arising out of college studies should always find a place in the columns of a college paper; but the advancement of education is not my idea of its main object. Leave that to the authorities, and devote all your energies to the *social* side of college life. The weak point with all our Canadian Universities seems to be the luke-warm interest taken in all matters which do not directly tend to help a man in obtaining a good place on the class lists; and the great object of a paper like the *Varsity* seems to me to be the creation of a genuine, hearty *esprit-de-corps* among University men.

Perhaps it is rather to soon to criticize, but, judging from the general tone of the first two numbers of the *Varsity*, small encouragement will be given to light and amusing articles, and the reading matter will tend to become, perhaps, highly instructive—even "educational"—but, on the whole, heavy.

I hope I am wrong; I hope the editors have no such intention of allowing the paper to become the organ of a numerous but most objectionable class of University Students—the prigs—men who are so thoroughly impressed with the dignity of the undergraduate that they quite look down on all manly exercises, who assume the habits and demeanor of the Methodist parson, and who talk as though their spare hours were spent in learning by heart the unabridged edition of Webster's dictionary: men, who are utterly selfish, subscribe to no fund from which they do not expect to make a personal gain, and who, in short, are completely devoid of any true University spirit.

The success which attended the 'White and Blue' was in a great measure due to the absence of anything approaching "priggishness." The public were so surprised at finding that there was some little life and sense of humor among the undergraduates of University College that they were quite delighted with that original and unconventional publication, and, with many other graduates and friends of the College, I would be very sorry if the new paper should not, in that respect, at least, be conducted on the same principle as the old one.

Trusting that my remarks will be taken in good part, and, with every wish for the success of the paper,

Toronto, Oct. 18th, 1880.

I am, sir, yours, &c,

A GRADUATE.

Erratum.—The 'College Gown' will appear next week.

NOTICE.

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