

*University*

# THE UNIVERSITY



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Toronto, January 5, 1883.

# THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

SPECIAL NUMBER.

January 5, 1883.

Price 5 cents.

*We did not intend to have published any number this week, owing to its being Vacation, but we regard it as of so much importance that there should be a clear expression of opinion with regard to the motion to abolish the Residence, that we deem it better to publish the present issue. It is intended to furnish our subscribers and members of the Senate and Convocation with information of the proposed measure, and the opinion widely held regarding it. We believe we shall thus be faithful to our duty as a University and College paper.*

The two communications which we publish in our columns set forth so fully the question of the inadvisability of abolishing the Residence that we can add nothing to them. We most heartily concur in the observations of our correspondents, and we are at a loss to understand what possible ground the mover of the motion can have had in bringing it before the notice of the Senate. If it is desirable to turn the College into a body without a soul, into a cramming machine without life, then the mover is right. If we wish to give our men an all-round training, one to fit them for the active, busy world in which most of them will live, then the mover is wrong. Between the two issues there can be only one choice. Going back to first principles, the object of education is to give a man knowledge. What knowledge? Book-knowledge? Certainly, but anything else? Surely, knowledge of the world. Where will he be grounded in it so well as in a College Residence, which is a world in itself. This is one view of the question. A College which only gives 'book learning' does only half, and the least important half of its work. Can anything more be done by a College which does not bring its men together? We believe not. We do not say that it is impossible for men who live during undergraduate life outside of their College to have an affection for it. Fortunately, experience teaches otherwise, and the non-resident students of University College are eminent for their attachment to their *Alma Mater* in spite of many obstacles. But we do say that such a feeling is strengthened and encouraged, if not absolutely kept alive, by a Residence.

We believe the result of abolishing the College Residence would be unfortunate for the men who go to the College. What would it be for the College itself? We believe utterly disastrous. If the men live in nothing but outlying boarding-houses here, there, and everywhere, how can they have the same feeling of affection and love for their College as they would have if it were their home? What associations can they have of it except those connected with work—work—work. Lecture after lecture—examination after examination—fag, fag, fag. The result would be that when they got the much-longed-for Degree, they would shake the dust from their feet, and turn from the old place as one associated only with the idea of a continual grind. In most cases, what would they care whether the place went on or not, when once it had served their turn? What claim would the institution have on them in after-life? What chance would it have of receiving their benefactions, their grateful sympathy, their affectionate allegiance? We believe very little. We think it says much for the non residents that they display the zeal and affection for the College which they undoubtedly do. But how much it would be increased if, instead of forty or fifty men in Residence, there were two or three hundred! Has the mover of

the present resolution considered this point? Surely, he cannot have done so. If he has, does it count for nothing with him?

We regret further that the motion should have come from the quarter it has. Mr. Houston was undoubtedly returned at the head of the poll on the last occasion, as a sort of representative University man who had taken much interest in the affairs of his old college; who had been active in Convocation, and who would probably assist in galvanizing the Senate into activity. But it is unfortunate that he should have made this move. To some extent it discredits his supporters and the supporters of that movement which has for its object the enlisting in the service of the University the practical assistance of her graduates. If this is the shape it is going to take, the University is better without it. We believe that Mr. Houston is animated by a sincere desire to do what he thinks is for the best interests of the University, but we do not think he has given this present proposition the full consideration it deserves. The supporters of the movement we have mentioned will moreover, we anticipate, be in some difficulty with this motion on record, as made by one of their own choice, unless it is withdrawn, which we hope it will be. We shall be as ready as ever to give Mr. Houston full credit for his zeal and energy.

We feel bound to do more than criticise. We feel it our duty to suggest, and the present moment is opportune. We have contended from the beginning that the course proposed by various members both of the Senate and Convocation was wrong. It consists briefly of a statement something similar to the following: 'Whereas the funds of the University and College are insufficient to enable them to do their work properly, let us abolish something'—the fair conclusion to be drawn then being that the University and College will be less efficient. What we have proposed—what we now urge—is this: We agree with the preamble, and continue 'let us unite in an appeal to the Legislature. Let us tell the country plainly and honestly what we want, and let everything else in the meantime be subordinate to this demand.' There seems to be a timid dread of taking this ground; why, we cannot understand. Unless the country is hopelessly given over to political hirelings surely this question is one on which all can agree. It can be kept out of the range of party warfare if properly approached. Is it a dread of the rival claims of Sectarian Colleges? There is a conclusive answer and a simple one: 'The College is not sectarian; every man, whatever his opinions, can go there; it is free to all. The sects and churches have a perfect right to have their own Colleges managed in their own way, if they choose to pay for them, but this is the College of the people.' We believe that this position is our true one, and for this reason we have regretted—nay, we have been alarmed by the spiritless proposals which have received too much acceptance. But this last proposal has gone too far; even our graduates, patient as they have shown themselves, will draw the line before that limit is reached.

The proper motion to have been made would have been for a larger Residence—one three times as large as the present one—a large Convocation Hall, an annex for the education of

women—more lecture rooms—a large Library—a Provincial botanical, geological, mineralogical museum—a complete supply of mechanical apparatus—and means wherewith to pay a sufficient staff of the ablest men who can be procured as professors and lecturers—Then the University and University College would be a University and College indeed, of which any Canadian would be even more proud, than now.

The following Remonstrance has been sent to the Registrar to be read at the Senate meeting to-night. Many more names could have been obtained had it not been for the shortness of the notice:—

We, the undersigned graduates of the University of Toronto, do hereby beg to express our unfeigned regret that any motion should have been made in the Senate of the University towards the abolition of the Residence of University College.

We believe that such a motion would be contrary to the wishes of the large majority of graduates, and that if adopted, it would be prejudicial to the welfare of University College, and we earnestly hope that no such change will be carried out.

We would also respectfully request the Senate to consider that in a matter of such importance there should be some general demand expressed for the proposed change, and in the present instance there has been no such demand.

For these reasons we beg that the Senate will not accede to the proposition contained in the motion, or at least postpone its consideration until the wishes of the graduates be more fully ascertained.

GOODWIN GIBSON, M.A.	D. A. O'SULLIVAN, LL.B.
R. E. KINGSFORD, M.A., LL.B.	FRED. C. WADE, B.A.
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W. A. FOSTER, LL.B.	H. H. COLLIER, B.A.
J. C. HAMILTON, LL.B.	JAS. M. DUNCAN, B.A.
JOHN A. PATERSON, M.A.	WILLIAM CREELMAN, B.A.
WM. DAVIDSON, B.A.	EARNEST F. GUNTHER, B.A.
THOMAS HODGINS, M.A.	W. H. P. CLEMENT, B.A., LL.B.
GEO. M. EVANS, B.A.	H. W. MICKLE, B.A.
H. E. MORPHY.	W. F. MACLEAN, B.A.
B. E. BULL, B.A.	GEO. E. CASEY, B.A.

And others.

2nd January, 1883.

### ABOLITION OF THE RESIDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

Although ominous rumors have been current for some time past that an effort of the kind was likely to be made, nearly all University men will be surprised at the notice of motion given by Mr. Houston at the last meeting of the Senate. Perhaps an element in the surprise will be that the notice should come from the source it does, for Mr. Houston, while looked upon as a Reformer in University matters, has never had the reputation of being a Radical.

It is one of the evils attendant upon the present system of University legislation that an important resolution of this kind can be introduced and passed almost unnoticed by the public, and without any opportunity being given for full and fair discussion. This evil is particularly apparent in connection with this resolution. It is introduced after the vacation has begun, and, if I am not incorrectly informed, unless laid over until another meeting, the resolution can be passed at the meeting of the Senate on Friday evening. With the meetings of the Senate open to members of Convocation and representatives of the press, public attention would be called to its proceedings, and the importance of such a resolution as this more fully appreciated.

The purport of Mr. Houston's resolution is that for economical purposes the Residence should be abolished. Funds are required for other branches of the work of the University and College, and the

money spent in maintaining the Residence might better be applied in some other direction—and here we are met by another defect in the present system of management. How much is spent annually in carrying on the Residence? No detailed report of receipts and expenditures is given to the public, and we are therefore ignorant of what the deficit is. Surely it cannot be very large. The Steward's department is self-supporting, and the rent of the rooms, which must amount annually to at least \$800, is sufficient to pay for the 'wear and tear' on the building, with a large balance to go towards paying the Dean's salary. This gentleman receives, I believe, \$1,800 a year for his duties as classical tutor and Dean, \$1,000 for the former, \$800 for the latter office. It may reasonably be doubted whether a classical tutor holding that position alone could be secured for \$1,000 a year, and therefore if the office of Dean be abolished, the probabilities are that a classical tutor must be paid not less than \$1,500 a year, so that, in reality, the salary of the Dean should be considered as \$300 a year (with house rent free) rather than \$800, and with proper management this sum could be paid from the surplus of Residence rents, after all other expenses were deducted. Of course these figures are merely conjectural, but they cannot be far astray from the proper ones.

Where then is this ruinous drain that is being made upon the University Finances by the Residence? Even allowing that there is a deficit of say \$500 a year, such a trifling expenditure as this can form no real reason for the abolition of Residence unless it can be shown that its existence is injurious to the best interests of the College, or at any rate that it is doing no good. The real question is *not* the financial one at all. It is whether the Residence is advantageous or injurious to the College and to College life.

It seems strange that there can be any doubt upon this point. If the list of graduates who still take an interest in University matters is reviewed, it will be found that the great majority of them have lived in Residence. If the men who are living, or who have in the past lived in the Residence, are canvassed, scarcely one will be found who will not speak warmly of the benefit derived from Residence life. Those who are the most determined opponents of the Residence are those who know nothing about it—who have never lived there—and who therefore are not in a position to judge whether it is advantageous or not. All who have lived there are unanimous in its favor, and the reason for this is obvious. In Residence, and in Residence alone can true College life be found. Men there are thrown together daily. They are all placed upon the same level. There is a community of feelings and interests. The College is their home for the time being. Friendships are formed there that endure through life and that would never have been formed if the men had merely met at lectures and then separated. In after years, the years at College are remembered as many happy years, because they were spent at a place where pleasant companionship and sympathy of common aims and interests made life very agreeable. And then the numberless benefits to be derived from the help that one student can give another, the economy possible from the interchanging of books, the profit derived from being daily brought into contact with one another, and the enlargement of one's opinions resultant therefrom—all these are very important advantages to be derived from Residence life. Take away the Residence, and all this is gone. Students are condemned to live in boarding-houses. They meet only at lectures and never really know each other. There is nothing to bring them closely together or to give the College a permanent place in their affections. Is it strange then that as a rule non-residents take little interest in the College after graduating, while Residence men acquire a love for the institution which is never forgotten, and that it profits us in after years.

Many of the strongest opponents of the Residence, however, are such on the ground that the moral influence there is bad, and that it practically means moral ruin for a young man to be sent there. I may say that before going into the Residence to live I had some such idea as this myself. Rumors of the outrageous doings of Residence men had reached my ears, and I went there prepared to be an Ishmaelite. I found however, on living among them that Residence men were quite as good as any average forty men of the same class that one could select anywhere. I do not mean to say that they were or are all perfection, and that nothing objectionable was or is to be found. Men may be divided into three classes, the positively religious, the negatively moral and the positively bad. All these classes can generally be found in the Residence, in proportions varying in the different years. The proportion of the last class is no larger and probably no smaller than would upon the average be found among the same number of young men anywhere. Men may learn bad habits at the Residence. But would they not acquire the same habits if they were living in boarding houses or even at home? The restraints in Residence are greater than those in boarding houses. The former are subject to certain rules concerning hours, etc., that must be adhered to.

The latter are without any restraints of this kind but those imposed by the wills of the inmates—and the average Residence man is also subject to the latter restraint. Any young man is subject to as much and perhaps to more temptation in boarding houses. If he wishes to lead a fast life he can probably find companions to suit him in both places.

Mr. Houston's resolution would recommend the destruction of nearly all the ties that have bound men to the College in the past. In the place of a College that, while providing excellent teaching facilities, also provides a home for the students, and thus makes itself the centre of their thoughts and lives while there, he would have a College barren of such privileges and only providing a staff of teachers to its students. The tendency, too prevalent already, is to be encouraged to make College life one long grind, with no means provided for wearing away the sharp corners and angles country life has made upon the thoughts and manners of most undergraduates. If the step proposed is taken, the College will lose one of the chief ties that bind to it the affections of its graduates, and I firmly believe a severe blow will be given to its usefulness as a training institution.

Instead of a proposal to abolish the Residence we would gladly welcome a proposal to enlarge it. Its usefulness now is impaired by its contracted size, its cheerless rooms and defective interior economy. But even under these circumstances it has been most useful to the College. Were it three times its present size, with the rooms thoroughly renovated and made cheerful and healthy, students would flock to it. The expenses would be comparatively much less than now, and its good influence would be more than trebly increased. Nothing but the grossest blindness to the real interests of the College can sanction its abolition. I cannot think it possible that the resolution can have even a handful of supporters in the Senate, but in any case the time has come when the question should receive full discussion. Some more valid reason for the abolition of Residence than that of the paltry sum to be saved by doing so must be given; and, on the other hand, if the Residence is worthy of being maintained, if its fruit in the past has been good even under the most discouraging circumstances, there is no reason why it should labor under this ban any longer. Let every son of the College give no uncertain expression of opinion, and let the voice of protest against this sweeping Radicalism be raised throughout the whole Province. Let it be understood fully what the effect of abolition will be, and no one will venture to favor a resolution which, if not giving a death blow, will certainly do very serious injury to the College.

Yours truly,  
G. M. WRONG.

University College, Jan. 2nd, 1883.

### THE COLLEGE RESIDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'VARSITY.

DEAR SIR,—I am not much given to airing my ideas in the public prints, and I should not now trouble you with this communication but that I have been too seriously alarmed by the proposition lately formulated into a notice of motion in the University Senate, and pointing to the abolition of the University College Residence—to admit of my holding my peace. I can assure you that in your editorial note of last week, in which you state the 'VARSITY's position to be one of strongest opposition to the proposal, you are but expressing the views of hundreds of graduates, and, I believe, of the vast majority of the members of Convocation.

The lamentable apathy in reference to all University matters that so unfortunately seizes upon the great body of our University men, the moment they have finally left the shadow of the College walls, seems so settled that one may fear lest even this greatest of calamities may threaten us and yet the attention of only a few be roused. It is the earnest desire to be if possible of some assistance in sounding the alarm—the fond hope that others, whose lethargy has been so confirmed and of as long standing as mine, may be awakened—that impels me to write.

I know that I am but giving voice to the heartfelt sentiments of hundreds of my fellows when I say that for us there cluster round the rooms and halls, and corridors of University College Residence memories dearer and more sacred than hallow any other spot on earth. For years it was my home. The years lived there were far the happiest I have ever known, and though the recollection of them seems now, to look back to them, as if it were a bygone age, it lives still fresh and green, and I am sure will never fade till everything else is gone. I know that this is a practical age. There is no room in our lives for sentiment. Everything must be measured by the standard—and re-

duced to the level of dollars and cents. And the Residence being some charge upon the General Income fund of the University and College, must be sacrificed.

If there was nothing that could be urged in favor of the retention of the Residence but the love its children bear it, the argument against its destruction would, I am afraid, be pitied rather than respected, and however powerful that feeling of affection is in the breasts of those who during their College course were Residence men, it is, I suppose, hoping too much to expect that it should be sympathised with or even understood by those whose good fortune it never was to occupy a Residence room.

For one of my way of thinking upon this matter, it is quite impossible to imagine what the line of reasoning can be in the minds of those, if there are any, who in sincerity advocate the discontinuance of the College Residence with any thought that they are thereby advancing the University's good. It is impossible to combat arguments one cannot anticipate or imagine; but in the meantime, apart entirely from sentiments, let me give one or two reasons why to my mind the closing of Residence would be perhaps the very greatest misfortune that could befall the University or College.

I am but writing a sentence from experience when I say that four years in Residence turns a boy into a man in a way that I believe nothing else in the world would do so well. A Freshman may matriculate—may attend his lectures regularly—read his text-books faithfully—pass his examinations creditably, and graduate honorably, and yet at the end of it stand in Convocation Hall with the ermine of his Bachelor's hood adorning a youth who is still—Oh! so fresh. That will not be his fate if he College life has been lived in College residence: the man who graduates in that school has obtained a degree that a good many years of practical experience enable me, I think with some authority, to say, is worth a hundred fold the book reading or even the mental training he has had to go through to win the two letters his University gives him at the end of his Collegiate course. To my mind the advantages of a life in College Residence simply cannot be over-estimated. The practical benefit acquired from constant association with one's fellows—the hard common sense pounded into a man,—the knowledge of the world and the ability to take care of one's self in it that nothing but a few years of life as one's own master can give—the judgment that comes only from experience—all these are to be had by the student who makes the Residence his home, to a fuller extent in three months of life there than in as many years of existence in some carefully selected boarding-house.

I speak as one who knows and has himself compared. I lived nearly two years of my undergraduate life in a private family before the fears of a father, who had not the advantage of a College life in his own youth, would permit his son to face the terrors of the 'initiation' and the Residence 'Molly Maguires' of that antediluvian age. Now that years enough have rolled away to bring upon the scene another generation, I can say with solemn truth that there is no place anywhere that I know to which I would send my son—when the time comes for him to go—with the same confidence that it will make a man of him—as to University College Residence, and I would not either that ought should be omitted, neither Ixion's wheel nor the ponderous boot of Lucifer—there ought not to be one less spike on the fence in rear of the quad, or one more impediment thrown in the way of a room being well routed when its owner deserved it, than there used to be in the olden time.

But I do not wish to transgress by writing too much. I wanted to have said how in my day—and I feel no doubt it is so yet—the men who headed the Class Lists—the men who were fullest of the true University spirit—the men who were indeed *Imperii provinciaeque spes*—as well as all "princes of jolly good fellows," the very thought of whom still will warm one's heart—were ever to be found among the dwellers in College Residence, but I have only room for one practical suggestion. Let every old Residence man who reads these words do what he can. Our combined influence will indeed be felt. Every one of us knows some member of the Senate. Every one of us can reach some one of them by letter, if not by personal interview. We have but to exert the influence we possess—but to let the men we send to the Senate know what we want them to do—and they will realize that something is threatened in University matters that we feel some interest in.

If the old Residence men all through the country will only waken up and act there can be no real danger, and if there can be assured a sufficiently decisive defeat on the Senate to give its quietus forever to the spirit of iconoclasm that has been too much showing itself there of late, we shall have done our University the best service it has received in many a long day.

Yours truly,  
PRINCE'S PRIZEMAN.