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THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

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Editorial Comments.



THE present age is characterized by an intellectual unrest—a striving after broadened mental culture, and our universities are endeavoring to satisfy this want. The general method adopted is to largely increase the amount of work which has to be done by the student. In order to appreciate the effect of this increase we shall consider the work laid down in the curriculum of Toronto University.

Any one who compares the present curriculum of the University with that which was in use between '85-'90 must at once be struck with the far greater amount of work which has to be done under the regulations of the present curriculum. The pass work prescribed in French and German, for Honor students, has been largely increased. The policy which has actuated the authorities in this respect is a little hard to understand. Is the object to give the student a comprehensive knowledge of all French or German literature? Then why not a still more comprehensive course—under these new circumstances we would, probably, get over about as much of the texts in the lectures as we do at present. Or is the idea to give the student an appreciation of the genius of the language, which will induce him to continue making a study of it in after life? If such is the intention, then how can this be more effectually brought about than by a thorough study of, say, one important text? As it is at present, there is either too much or too little pass work. One is tempted to believe that in a contest for pre-eminence between two rivals the poor student has come between the upper and the nether mill-stone.

But this is only a minor part of the question; there is another and more important defect in the curriculum as it at present exists—it really defeats its ostensible aim. If the curriculum means anything it means that from the study of the work laid down the student can obtain a development which will be conducive to his success in after life. However, the exceedingly large amount of work which is laid down, in all the branches, militates against a thorough knowledge, even in the special branch, and almost precludes any acquaintances with the still wider field of knowledge which exists beyond. As the work prescribed in each department stands at present it is well-nigh impossible for an ordinary mortal to have a thorough knowledge of all the work laid down, and consequently, in too many cases, knowing that he cannot get all his work up thoroughly he loses sight of the general intellectual culture, and works merely to get through the examination. Now even if we must have specialization, might it not be possible to have it without having connected with it the superficiality which, in too many instances, characterizes it at present? Would one be less thoroughly educated if instead of run-

ning rapidly through a dozen books he read four books thoroughly, assimilating their contents to his intellectual being and then *thought*?

As we have mentioned above, the specializing tendency of the curriculum almost altogether precludes a general knowledge. Go to any student, who is taking up an Honor Course, and question him concerning work which does not fall within his immediate province, and you will find—unless he has had great opportunities in the way of general reading in earlier life—that, in too many instances, he is lamentably ignorant of anything outside of his particular course. Is this right? Can we obtain a real education when any such state of affairs is prevalent? In the world around us are rising every day poets and writers, new intellectual and moral forces are manifesting themselves, but bound up by the trammels of our Classical Course or our Science Course we have no time to devote to the acquisition of general knowledge, and while the world moves on we lag behind. Four of the *making* years of our life are spent in obtaining a minute and technical knowledge of some specialty, and then we have to endeavor to get out of the rut and obtain real knowledge. We do not desire to depreciate the importance of Classics or of Science or of any of the other Honor Courses, but it must be remembered that they are after all only one phase of mental development; if we devote all our time and attention to the development of merely one side of our intellectual nature, the development will be as symmetrical as in the case of an athlete who should devote all care and energy to the development of one arm alone.

But after all, important as book knowledge is, is it all of university life? It has been said that one can read books at home, but that the real advantage of coming to a university is the coming in contact with new minds, new faces, new ideas; and in this position there is much truth. The part of university education which will be of most benefit to us in after life will not be what we obtained from books alone but the knowledge of human nature which we have gained. The practised student of human nature is far better fitted for being a success in life than the practised book-worm. We cannot, however, devote attention to this phase of education as things are at present; the work to be done is so excessive, that, when we would mingle with the student body, the remembrance of the pile of work to be done holds one as the ancient mariner held the wedding guest. And the consequence of such a state of affairs is, that the students, instead of devoting attention to the phases of human nature all around them, instead of attending the various societies, where a practical knowledge may be obtained which will be of great benefit in after life, spend their time in burning the midnight oil and ruining their constitutions with excessive work. A recent graduate said that over one-half of the graduates of Toronto University go out with constitutions shattered by excessive

work. Is such a state of things conducive to a true education?

The truest answer on the part of the university to the demand for increased culture lies not in the direction of increased work. The higher standard is to be obtained by the encouragement of thought, and this will be best effected by having fewer text-books prescribed. The present system instead of developing a *thorough* student is developing a *plug* who spends every moment he can lay hold of in poring over his books, and in so doing neglecting the ordinary claims of health. And after all, what is the knowledge of such a student acquired in such a way? He goes out into life and finds there that the qualities which he neglected during his university course, qualities on whose neglect the university curriculum sets a premium, are there in demand. Instead of going out with a thorough development, he graduates a one-sided intellectual monstrosity. The present system is killing true university feeling, the *plug* is fast displacing the *student*, and if such a state of affairs is to continue in the future it speaks ill for the *real* success of the University of Toronto.

THE OLD-FASHIONED RAWHIDE.

How dear to my heart are the memories of childhood,
 With the humdrum old school-days my infancy knew!
 In these days of big buildings and college-bred teachers
 What fond recollections rise up to my view!
 The student log school-books, the crabbéd view,
 The dog-eared old books, even yet I can see—
 But not half so plain, nor with half so much interest,
 As when I revert my remembrance to thee—
 The old-fashioned rawhide, the shabby old rawhide,
 The awful old rawhide my infancy knew.

How often I used to play truant from classes,
 When blossoms were budding and clear was the sky!
 No hours were more joyous, no heart was e'er lighter,
 No truant was ever more happy than I.
 How fair shone the sun, as I wandered the woodlands,
 But oh, how dark all the world seemed to be,
 When, found out, I was led by the ear to the school-house
 And introduced very politely to thee—
 The old-fashioned rawhide, the faded old rawhide,
 The fiendish old rawhide my infancy knew!

Oh, oft did I wish thee deep, deep down in Hades,
 When the master detected me talking in class,
 And thundered, "George Washington Tompkins, step
 forward!
 I'll teach you to talk when you should be—" Alas!
 How I bellowed, and roared then as, curling around me,
 That awful old rawhide came down whack on my back,
 Every time leaving stings like the bites of a serpent
 And dense clouds of dust in the terrible track
 Of that old-fashioned rawhide, that demonish rawhide,
 That limber old rawhide my infancy knew.

Oh, ne'er shall I lose my fond memories of thee,
 Tho' the years may roll on and my locks turn to grey;
 For the scenes of our school-days stick close as a brother,
 And those interesting happenings can ne'er fade away.
 Even now can I fancy I feel thee descending,
 Like ten millions of furious hornets set free;
 And I often start up with a shriek from my slumber
 To find that I've only been dreaming of thee—
 The old-fashioned rawhide, the lightning-like rawhide,
 The ne'er-forgot rawhide, my infancy knew!

JAS. A. TUCKER, '94.

PROF. ASHLEY'S LECTURE.

For the benefit of those who could not attend Prof. Ashley's lecture we give here some of its leading ideas.

The subject was "Methods of Industrial Peace," and the method of dealing with it was this: The Professor first showed that a very real and destructive warfare was in progress between the employer and the employed; he next considered various proposals which have been made for remedying this evil, prominent among these were socialism, anarchism, nationalization of land, and sharing of profits, all of which schemes he deemed fatally defective; and finally he maintained that the safest solution of the difficulty was to be found in the labor unions aided by boards of arbitrators. In dealing thus with the subject the lecturer asked to be permitted for the present to put on one side the difficulties created by great fluctuations in trade, and the consideration of the demoralized class who tried to live without work, in order that he might speak directly of the wage question.

It is not necessary here to urge the first point; all who at all observe the working of our social machine see the baneful results of too low wages on the one hand and of strikes on the other. It is well, however, to repeat the observation that there is not at all that serious attention being given to the subject by our well-to-do classes which its importance demands; nor ought one to forget that "supply and demand" which is so often appealed to as the proper force for determining the rate of wages was shown to be "only a short phrase for the majority of those circumstances which effect the workman in bargaining with the employer." It is only another name for the very struggle which so often ends either in the starvation of the laborer or in the ruin of the employer, or both.

It is reassuring to learn from one so eminently qualified to speak that the condition of the working classes is improving; and improving in the sense that there is not now so wide a gulf between employer and employed as there was fifty years ago. That the workingman of to-day is better off than the workingman of fifty years ago is easily discerned, but that he has got something more than his proportional share in the general advancement of humanity is the information that is encouraging.

In attempting to arrive at some mode of deciding what proportion of the world's produce shall go to the laboring classes, some deem it necessary to tear up the whole present social organization. Among these are first the socialists. They look forward to a system of production and distribution carried on by a great State such as England. Their hope is based on the enlargement of the activities of the State. There is a sense in which some economists and statesmen who are essentially conservative may be called socialists. They realize that the unrestrained competition of fifty years ago was excessive and dangerous, and they anticipate that within a century the organization of industry will be far more socialistic than it now is. But these also realize that self-interest furnishes a motive power which materially increase the world's production, and that there has as yet been no plan devised which would socialize production and at the same time retain or replace this motive power. They also realize that the present state of political morality in democratic countries is not sufficiently high to make the experiment desirable at present. This position would not, of course, satisfy most people who call themselves socialists. They think the time is ripe for the transference of the means of production from private to public control. They believe that all wealth is created by labor, and that it would therefore be just to confiscate the means of production without compensation. But this doctrine of value in the sense in which they understand it is certainly false. And it is impossible to allow that the social evolution has reached a stage in which an easy transition to a socialistic system is possible.

So far from developing the activities of the State the

anarchist looks upon the State as one of the evils that must be removed before the social difficulty can be solved. He looks forward to a time when the country will be dotted over with little village communities, each entirely self-sustaining and wholly communistic within its bounds. There will be no authority there nor jails, for the innate goodness of the people shall render these unnecessary, and the whole of the communities shall be bound together by a feeling of brotherly love. Even though all men were so convinced of the fairness of this scheme as to enter it willingly, still, the Professor declares, that there could not be evolved during the transition a sufficient stock of virtue and brotherly love to make it workable.

And again, in both the socialistic and the anarchists' scheme the real difficulty is left untouched. There is no way of forcing any one to do the disagreeable work, and to hope that every one would desire to do the very thing that was most needed requires large faith. If my right is equal with yours, and if there be no extra reward, I will hardly choose to be a scavenger while you become a printer or teacher.

Land nationalization was thought to require but short notice. To believe that one could pluck the idea of private property in land from the human mind and leave the idea of all other private property untouched was to live in a fool's paradise; and even were it possible the change would not in the least affect the difficulties incident to the relation between employer and employed.

Distributive co-operation was put on one side as saving wages, but in no way helping to determine the rate of wages. But co-operation in the sense of a number of workmen becoming a body corporate, carrying on industrial enterprise either with capital saved by themselves or borrowed capital, was declared to merit our careful and sympathetic attention. Some of the noblest lives of the century had been spent in trying to realize it; but the experience of the last half century was thought to clearly teach that co-operation would never succeed in displacing the present system of employment. It failed in one of two ways: either the corporations have not been able to secure the business talent necessary to keep open channels for placing the goods when manufactured; or they have become mere joint stock companies in which the shareholders are artizans, but these artizans soon choose to work in another mill than the one in which they own stock.

The plan whereby the employer pays average wages to his men, take average profits himself and divides whatever surplus is left after the two first charges are paid was thought to be practicable in some cases. This, however, like the other plans already considered does not help in the least to determine the rate of wages. And it is likely to work badly when advantages or disadvantages occur to the industry over which neither master nor men have any control.

The history of social evolution teaches us that the most that individual reformers can do in relation to the great outlines of social organization is to discover the direction in which, more or less unconsciously, forces are tending and endeavor to utilize them. In looking upon the industrial world of this century one sees in Trades Unionism the spontaneous and inevitable development which stamps it as the strongest evolution of the period. It has grown in the face of tremendous opposition; and on the whole the movement makes for good.

Trades Unionism in America was said to be now advanced to about the stage it had attained in England a quarter of a century ago. In most of the great industries in England bargains made by individual workmen or even by the men of a particular mine or mill are now things of the past. Wages are regulated by elaborate lists of prices applicable to the whole industry or to a great district. These price lists are usually constructed by representatives from the trades unions and from the associations of masters.

The Trades Union movement is not merely an inevit-

able effort on the part of the working classes to secure a real freedom of contract which isolated they can enjoy only in name. It is the outcome of a true instinct of the nature of the social problem. It is based on the feeling that the problem is not to enable a few especially thrifty or talented workmen to escape out of their class, but how to raise, materially and morally, the class as a whole.

Unions were originally organizations for fighting purposes, but their natural work in modern industry is to make industrial peace. With such a consolidation of the workmen and such an organization of them as is brought about by the trades unions arbitration between master and men becomes possible. The better and more reasonable of the workmen become the leaders in the union. These are more easy to satisfy as to what the industry can actually afford to pay than the rank and file are. So that when a thorough investigation of the gains of any industry is secured the difficulty of setting the rate of wages either by boards of arbitration or better of conciliation is through the Trades Union made possible.

The Professor took occasion to point out that this machinery of arbitration and conciliation had not yet been much used on this side of the Atlantic, and to urge upon our industrial world the advisability of speedily adopting it, although it was admitted that only by degrees could so vast a change be introduced. The State Board of Arbitration was declared not to be desirable.

LINES TO ALTHEA.

Embodiment of grace!
Accept this little tribute from the heart
Of one, from whose mind never shall depart
The memory of thy face.

We were thrown together
By some good angel from a sphere sublime;
Soon, cruel fate, that blights the harvest time,
Our happiness will sever.

In the brief hours we live
We scarce have met before we say good-bye;
Then why, dear friend, should we ourselves deny
The pleasures which they give.

The sweets which they contain
Let us enjoy, as only now we may;
And when we part, each to the other say,
"Liebe, Aufwiedersehn."

S. A. Woods.

EXCHANGES.

The *Notre Dame Scholastic* of December 12th contains a short but very pithy article on The Poet Laureate.

The *Presbyterian College Journal* for January contains an excellent article on "Current Unbelief," by Rev. James Barclay, M. A.

We welcome to our table the *Niagara Index* on account of its racy style. The column devoted to reviews and notices is especially good.

"Our corridor man" gets out a good column in each number of the *Athenæum*, of West Virginia University. His football game in church is remarkably clever.

The latest edition of the Swarthmore *Phoenix*, Philadelphia, in one of its editorials proclaims the probability of a joint meeting of the several American College Press Associations at the coming World's Fair, and dilates on the feasibility of the proposal. In its story column "The Story of a Crisis; or, The Value of Humility in a College Man," and in its Alumni department "The History of Class '87," are beyond reproach.

The Varsity

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FEBRUARY 9, 1892.

CONSTITUTION NIGHT.



THE Literary Society took its semi-annual constitutional on Friday evening, and made most heroic struggles to tone up its health in several particulars. Preliminary business was got through with in a few minutes, there being only three items worthy of mention, viz., the fixing of Feb. 26 for another session of the

Mock Parliament, the administering of a six months' elevation to a recommendation from THE VARSITY Committee and the passing of a motion of which Mr. L. McDougall had given notice, and which constituted the President and Messrs. J. A. McLean, J. C. McMurchy, J. Gillies and L. McDougall a "committee to ascertain the work done by the former Gymnasium and Club Scheme Committee, and the disposal of the funds subscribed."

When Mr. R. H. Knox opened fire on that ancient bulwark of liberty, the constitution, by introducing his motion to give the scrutineers a chance to make up, by badgering the electors, for the fun they lose in virtue of their position at the annual elections. Mr. Knox made a "strong" speech, and "grew eloquent" as he dwelt on the evil effects of prominent party men accommodating a large portion of the electorate with the requisite dollar and a-half in the spring time. He knew of at least *one* such gentleman whose experience had cost him ten dollars, while with some it ran as high as seventy-five dollars. If this were the only way for the Society to raise money it

had better go without. Mr. Bull arose and attacked Mr. Knox's position on the ground that if there were anything corrupt, which he did not admit, in the usual way of conducting the elections this motion would not remove it. Mr. Boles then very neatly turned a part of Mr. Bull's position by moving an amendment striking out the clauses objected to by that gentleman, while yet not altering the spirit of the motion. Messrs. Perrin, Cooper, McMurchy, Parks, McMillan and Howard Ferguson also took part in the discussion. Mr. Knox withdrew his motion in favor of the amendment, which, however, failed to secure the necessary two-thirds vote, and was declared lost.

In the absence of Mr. W. J. Knox, R. H. introduced that gentleman's motion for the establishing of two polling booths, but this was also lost on a division.

F. B. R. Hellems then introduced the important motion of the evening, viz., to provide for "inter-faculty and inter-college and inter-society debates." He dwelt upon the lack of interest which the students generally manifest with regard to the Literary Society, and claimed that his motion would bring forth crowded houses every Friday evening. He thought it would tend to make the Literary Society a centre for all the societies about college. Discussion became free and general. An amendment by Mr. Wood was voted down, and finally Mr. Hellems was able to claim the honor of making the first real break in the constitution, for his motion carried.

Mr. McCraney's motion, to return to the old order of electing members, was well introduced and defended, and after speeches by Messrs. Perrin, Addison, Gillies and the President, Mr. Linglebach improved it slightly by an amendment which became the motion and carried. In consequence of this motion the President is "somewhat of the opinion" that the present first year men *are* members of the Society.

The President said no more than what was right when he complimented the members on the orderly and able manner in which the debate had been conducted. It was a good augury for the future.

The members were glad to see our old friends Fergy and I. O. Stringer, and gave them an ovation as they entered the hall.

Without proceeding to other orders of business, on motion of Mr. Perrin the Society adjourned out of respect to the memory of the late T. B. P. Stuart, B.A., LL.B., at one time 1st Vice-President of the Society.

MEDICAL NOTES.

The second year students were given an opportunity last Tuesday of testing their knowledge of that part of the physiology already covered by the lectures.

Prof. McCallum held a written examination which was optional, but which the majority of the boys, with commendable courage, took advantage of. The papers on being examined will be returned in all probability brilliantly adorned with red and blue criticism.

Practice in writing on examinations is certainly of the greatest benefit to the student, as it not only prepares him for the style of questions usually asked, but enables him also the more readily to interpret correctly and fully the extent of these questions. As is well known, lamentable mistakes are often made by candidates in misunderstanding or misinterpreting the meaning of the examiner. In many cases this arises from carelessness, undue excitement or unnecessary haste on the part of the candidate, but occasionally the fault lies with the examiner in not being sufficiently careful to avoid ambiguity.

The readers of THE VARSITY will be glad to learn that Mr. Kilbourn, Associate Medical Editor, who was unfortunately stricken down with typhoid fever before Christmas, has returned completely restored to health, and will now continue his interrupted studies. We hope his long siege of illness will make no material difference in the result of his final exam.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

The Engineering Society met on Tuesday, Feb. 2, in No. 1 Lecture Room. The attendance was rather small owing to other meetings being in progress at the same time. Those members who were there, however, proved an appreciative and enthusiastic audience to hear Mr. E. F. Ball, '88, give a paper on "Computation of Earthwork and Overhaul." The writer since his graduation has spent much time on the study of this subject, and consequently, by his experience and valuable suggestions as introduced in his paper, will prove very useful, especially to those gentlemen proposing to enter railroad and similar work. The treatment of computation of earthwork has always been troublesome, often inaccurate, and, at best, very laborious; but recently there has been a new process of computation introduced, which wonderfully shortens the work. This method is diagrammatical, and is even more accurate than previous methods. It was mainly to this new method that Mr. Ball confined his attention, and to him is the credit of first bringing it before the Engineering Society. He explained the principles involved and the method of procedure very clearly, and estimated that the new process saved three-fourths of the usual laborious calculations. The writer also introduced a new method of determining "overhaul," an important point in connection with the construction of railway works. The paper occasioned considerable discussion. The only business transacted was that of granting \$25 to the Publishing Committee of the "Pamphlet," after which the meeting adjourned.

Last Tuesday and Wednesday there was considerable activity within the walls of the S. P. S. The cause was the annual meeting of the Ontario Association of Architects. No. 2 Lecture Room was headquarters, and, from what can be learned from the undergrads in Architecture, the room was made good use of during the two days. The walls of the main corridors were profusely decorated with architectural exhibits, and the library and reading room were thrown open. On Wednesday morning the Association descended to the Mechanical Laboratory to witness the tests made by the two large testing machines. These were the first public tests which have been made with these machines, and as nearly all the Engineering students were present also there was unusual enthusiasm. Several large beams were first disposed of by the "Hundred Ton Machine," and it was amusing to watch with what interest those present waited for the destruction of a valuable piece of timber. Tests were also made on wooden posts by crushing and compressive strains. The most interesting test made by this machine was that of the crushing strength of a small block of sandstone—a cube of three-inch face—which broke and crumbled with a report like a gun at a measured stress of seventy-five tons. Tests were made with the "Fifty Ton Machine" also, principally on iron rods in tension.

Mr. A. B. English, '90, is taking a special course in assaying in the Mineralogical Laboratories preparatory to going to New Mexico to engage in Mining Engineering.

There is a subdued amount of excitement present among the undergraduates of the school, and that mysterious atmosphere which forebodes an impending event. The workmen about the building are moving about thirty-three per cent. faster than usual; there is a decided odor of fresh paint, varnish and oil pervading the whole place, hammering and general hub-bub to an unlimited extent. The doors of the innermost recesses of the mechanical laboratories are kept zealously locked during the day, and at night lights are twinkling through the windows, the programme being the same for the evening performance as at the matinee, and someone has even said something about Sunday too. Freshmen, eager and inquisitive though they are, cannot make it out, the Second Year men pretend they know all about it, whilst the Seniors know *all* about it, but take on a mysterious air and will not divulge. Some '93 men happened to come across a Senior a few

days ago fitting about the dimly-lighted basement in an azure-colored suit somewhat similar to that worn by an apprentice in a machine shop. An inquest was held but no decision arrived at, and the subject allowed to go, not without a caution, however, for it was supposed that the unfortunate was a freshman, the features being almost unrecognizable. Another case in point was that of a bashful but inquisitive Second Year man who was endeavoring to discover what was hatching in the lower machine shop. He was found by his friends shortly after on College Ave. embracing his opportunities of designing. These, together with the fact that Graham is also affected and many other circumstances, have tended to cause considerable uneasiness on the part of the students, and as there have yet been no official announcements of anything of importance a committee was appointed to enquire into the matter, and it has reported that *something* is going to happen next week, but what that something is it is at a loss to know.

BASEBALL.

Athletics in Varsity precincts now hold almost continuous sway throughout the term. Ere hockey is on the wane, baseball dons her duds and *slides* out in quest of "Game."

Appearances in diamond circles already seem to forecast a successful year. Two schemes are now on foot, viz., (a) the formation of a College league, and (b) the taking of an extended tour. The former was suggested by the Niagara University Club, the proposal being to include therein Rochester, Buffalo, Niagara and Toronto Universities, London Medical College, and perhaps others. To bring either of these schemes to a successful issue, correspondence would have to be opened at once, as the American colleges have already commenced to formulate their schedules—hence the necessity of holding the annual meeting at an early date.

Last spring the Varsity team met with marked success in their field encounters, but financially they failed to score, or, in other words, they were *mastered*. During the season the team played six matches, and defeated each club encountered. The following is a recapitulation of the scores:—

April 25.—Varsity, 11; Graduates, 7. May 16.—Varsity, 16; Hamilton, 11. June 13.—Varsity, 4; Galt, 3. June 20.—Varsity, 11; Niagara University, 9. July 1.—Morning: Varsity, 7; Montreal, 8. Afternoon: Varsity, 13; Montreal, 9.

The team was composed of Messrs. Bennet, H. Wardell (captain), Garrett, McCuen, Fitzgerald, T. Wardell, Sampson, Knox, Campbell, Moore, McIntosh, Driscoll, Keenan and Coté. These men, with four or five exceptions, will be candidates for this year's team. In addition, Mr. W. W. Andrews will be on hand till the end of April to coach the team; and who kens what latent talent lies hidden in the modest freshman class?

All those interested in baseball are earnestly invited to attend the annual meeting to be held in Y.M.C.A. parlor on Monday, Feb. 15, at 3.30 o'clock.

J. W. MCINTOSH, '92.

HOCKEY.

Varsity and Osgoode met at Victoria Rink on Friday night in an exhibition game. Osgoode proved the stronger team and scored fourteen times, while Varsity placed the puck between the flags only five times. The combination of the Hall's forward line at times was almost complete, and Smellie ran through the college defence with little trouble. Cameron, in goal, sustained his brilliant reputation, playing the same steady game throughout.

Varsity expect to visit Queen's next Saturday, and a close game may be expected as Varsity's defence will be strengthened by the presence of Parkyn and Lucas, who, with Cameron in goal, will prove an obstacle to Queen's forward line.

TOBACCO

In this age of fanatics in which we live we are constantly hearing men decry the use of tobacco and assuring their fellow mortals that to use tobacco is simply to environ themselves while on earth with a cloud of smoke which will surely and certainly encircle them throughout the ages of eternity. The fragrant weed is abused, calumniated on all sides, and there are few, comparatively speaking, who will venture to undertake its defence.

Since the time of James I. of England tobacco has had its habitués and also its opposers. That learned monarch, as every student of Edith Thompson is well aware, wrote an elaborate treatise in its condemnation, and many, and possibly James amongst that number, are inclined to treat everyone whom they see smoking in the same way as Raleigh's servant treated him.

It was a characteristic of the good old days of chivalry that a knight should take the side of the oppressed and wronged. Why then should we degenerate from what was noble in our ancestors? Why should we be afraid to uphold the down trodden? Why should we be afraid to-day to strike a blow at the demon of fanaticism which is stalking through society and leaving a hideous trail all along his path?

It is recorded that when Columbus reached America, among other strange customs which he perceived common amongst the natives was one which he looked upon as exceptionally strange, that they took the leaves of a plant which grew in abundance, rolled them together, and, placing one end in their mouths, applied fire to the other, inhaling and exhaling the smoke arising therefrom with apparent gusto.

Sailors are said to be great imitators, and true to their character in this respect, some of the followers of Columbus attempted to emulate the example of the aborigines, with effects which may perhaps have been noticed in certain small boys under similar circumstances, and it is even darkly hinted in some students under different circumstances. In this strange practice of the "Indians" we find the germ which has since developed into our "choice Havannas."

This habit of smoking is widespread. The Arabian Sheik, in his desert home, sits at the door of his tent, after the hour of evening prayers, and regales his harem with the fumes of the same delicious plant. The Esquimaux, in his ice-bound native land, is said to possess the same peculiarity. While over the more enlightened countries of Christendom the light of the cigar keeps pace with the light of civilization.

Perhaps the reader is a non-smoker, is one who has never tasted of the joys to be found when enveloped with that elysian-like atmosphere. If so, it may not be out of place here briefly to attempt conveying to him, so far as the feeble vehicle of words can do, some inadequate idea of the pleasure derived from the use of the weed. Has he ever felt himself wearied and jaded by his work? Has he ever found himself incapable of remembering that which he is reading? Has he ever found himself, after an exceptionally good application to "good cheer" of some hospitable guest, heavy, sleepy and with what Plato (if my memory fail me not) calls a disordered stomach? If he has ever endured any or all of those feelings, let him seek the cure, or the only panacea for all such woes, a pipe. Who is there who has not found a pipe the best commentator on the speeches of Thucydides? Who has not found it the most excellent explainer of the deep philosophies of Greece? Who has not received from its fragrant rings of blue the requisite inspiration for composing in the language of Cicero? Verily the muses themselves are charmed and brought near by its clouds of incense.

When called upon to pass the night in solitude, what better accompaniment to the lonely midnight lamp? In company, what better means of forging strongly the bonds of friendship? But what further need of enconium? Oh

solace of solitude, oh bond of friendship, oh promoter of joy, oh remover of sorrow, may we never want thee; may we never part from thee; may we never be so "broken" as to be unable to buy a "fill" for this best cure for the melancholy.
D. MCGEE.

[There is no use, we suppose, in telling our readers that the above is a burlesque, and neither intended as a treatise on morality nor an argument in defence of the use of tobacco. We hope none will treat it as a personal matter, because we are sure, from our knowledge of the writer, there is no offence meant. Nevertheless the fact that it comes from a Faculty pen casts a halo of sanctity around it.—ED.]

REFLECTIONS.

The spirit that can carry away from Westminster Abbey the worldly hates and petty disputings that overburdened it must lack the sensibility of its own littleness among the dust of the world's greatest.

Without is the ceaseless roar of a living nation: within, the eloquent silence of the quiet dead. 'Tis but one step from turmoil to peace: one step from the midst of stormy life to the precincts of everlasting rest.

Heartfelt is our awe as we stand beside lofty monuments, fit emblems of the aspirations that once warmed hearts, now forever at rest; aspirations now as lifeless as the impassive marble. Reverentially do we gaze at the tattered flags, drooping from the chancel-roof; speaking messages from far-off fields, telling in every rent how heroes died.

The noble grandeur of the pillars, the darkened arches of the lofty windows, the dim traceries of the pictured nave—all are the silent but enduring memorials of bygone centuries.

Heroes have lived and died, thrones risen and fallen, empires grown old and decayed—but through all, unchanging in their majesty, those towers have kept their steadfast watch—shone out cold and gray in the misty dawn, gleaming a reflection to the morning sun, borne unmoved the glare of the dusty noontide and faded to dark vastness in the deepening twilight.

Faintly do we grasp the entire meaning of the lapse of centuries, as, perhaps, a stray sunbeam glints through the stained windows, lending a brightness to our thoughts and enhancing the glory of the grand structure: more deeply do we realize it, as evening steals on, and shadows deepen—then the gloom brings home to us that here the stillness of the grave has reigned; night after night, year after year, century after century.

Wander from aisle to aisle, scan from roof to floor, stop to glance at the brief record of lives greater than our own, and think—how the mortal has struggled with the Infinite, and Time with Futurity.

Harvest after harvest has sprung up with the warm showers of Hope: increased in the genial rays of Success, ripened in a golden autumn of Prosperity—and fallen under the inevitable stroke of Death.

But just as surely has it been gathered into the store-houses of the unforgotten Past.
J. McCRAE, '92

[The writer while travelling in Great Britain visited this place the beauties of which are herein depicted with so much force.—ED.]

Yale received gifts to the amount of \$343,394.31 last year.

Miesky, 125 miles south-west of Berlin, is the German Northfield.

Harvard has 365,000 bound volumes in her library; Yale, 200,000.

Columbia College has an increase of ten per cent. in attendance over last year.

THE CLUB CONCERT.

Every one should attend the Glee Club Concert, which will be given in the Horticultural Pavilion, Friday evening, February 19. This will in a great measure take the place of the Annual *Conversazione*, and should be patronized by the student-body *en masse*. This concert is to be given under the auspices of the Varsity Glee Club, composed of sixty voices. Besides the singing of the club, music will be supplied by the Varsity "Guitar and Banjo Club," which achieved so much success at the Academy of Music last week. They will be assisted by Miss Mary Howe, the renowned soprano of New York; W. J. Lavin, tenor, of the same city; Frederick Boscovitz, pianist, and E. W. Schuch, basso. Reserved seats are placed within range of every student, being at the very low figure of 75 cents. Tickets are for sale at Nordheimer's music store and from members of the Glee Club.

Every student should deem it his duty to attend this entertainment, as it is the only method we have of showing our appreciation of their able services throughout the year. Let every one be there in cap and gown, and make it a rousing success, as everything taken in hand by the students should be.

THE BANJO CLUB.

The Varsity Banjo and Guitar Club have lately come into a wide, though well-deserved prominence. This club has not been organized for more than a few months, and yet have attained such proficiency in this short time, under the leadership of genial Percy Parker, that the Toronto Lacrosse Club Minstrels saw fit to secure their services as one of the main features of their entertainment last week at the Academy of Music. The boys acquitted themselves nobly.

On Friday evening, owing to a misunderstanding, the curtain rose too soon, and the club was at a disadvantage, but at the Saturday matinee they eclipsed themselves and received vigorous and gratifying encores. On Saturday afternoon, while they were sitting in Farmer Bros.' studio, "for reasons best known to themselves," the Edison Phonograph Co. sent over requesting them to play selections into their instrument. They did so, and wound up with a good, able-bodied Varsity yell, which in years to come may soothe the troubled nerves of some world-weary don.

Our prayer is that our Banjo and Guitar Club may long continue to sustain the reputation they have gained and the credit of dear old Varsity.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

The regular weekly meeting of this Association was held on Thursday at 5 p.m. Messrs. Menzies and McNicol were appointed delegates to the Provincial Convention in London, Feb. 11 to 14. The following Finance Committee was formed to work with the Executive in raising the necessary funds for the support of the Association: Graduates—A. H. Young, A. H. Sinclair, H. R. Horne, I. O. Stringer, W. S. W. Fortune, W. S. Milner; Undergraduates—G. E. McCraney, G. B. Merrill, J. H. Lamont, J. W. Graham, C. R. Williamson, E. A. Henry, E. R. Young, W. J. Knox, W. A. Lea.

The devotional part of the meeting was led by J. Wilson on the subject: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Messrs. A. Beatty, G. E. McCraney and A. L. Budge also took part.

At the next meeting of the Y.M.C.A., on Thursday, Feb. 11, very important matters in connection with the Korean Mission will be brought before the Association by the Mission Board. The meeting will be an open one, and an invitation is extended to the ladies of the college and all other students. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The above Society met in the West Lecture Room on Friday, Feb. 5, Vice-President Hull in the chair. Mr. F. D. Davis, '92, read a very interesting paper on "The Relation of Algebra to Geometry." A number of simultaneous equations were solved very simply by taking them to represent surfaces, and effecting a simplification by a change of the co-ordinate axes. Messrs. Govenlock and McQueen followed with the optical projection of Lissajou's curves. These are formed by placing two forks of known vibration with their planes at right angles to each other and causing a beam of light to strike on a small mirror on the end of one, thence to a similar mirror on the end of the other, and from there to the screen.

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18, when Mr. C. A. Chant will give a number of experiments on "Chromatic Polarization of Light." These are among the most brilliant experiments in the whole range of physics, and every one interested in mathematics should turn out. Mr. W. Gillespie, '93, will also read a paper.

MODERN LANGUAGE.

Canadian Authors were on at the Modern Language Club on Monday last. Professor Alexander occupied the chair, and in a short address on the requirements of a national literature very clearly brought out the position of Canadian literature as represented by Roberts, Mair, MacMechan, Lampman and others. Selections and essays on the four just named constituted the programme, and the essay, interspersed with readings, on Roberts, by Miss Street, '95, was appreciated. Mr. Bigger, '94, read Mair's interview between Tecumseh and Harrison, Miss Ballard, '94, a selection from MacMechan, and Miss Rowsom, '95, several short poems from Lampman.

After the programme Mr. Cameron, '92, was declared President, and Mr. Norman '93, 1st Vice, Mr. Edgar, candidate for President, and Mr. Beatty, for Vice, having withdrawn.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR.

TUESDAY, FEB. 9TH.

- Class of '93 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 10.10 a.m.
- Class of '94 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.
- Classical Association.—Open meeting, addresses by Mr. Dale and Mr. Milner. Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.
- Natural Science Association.—"Relation between Crystallization and the Periodic Law," W. L. T. Addison, '92. Biological Lecture Room, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10TH.

- Y.M.C.A. Bible Class.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.
- Y.W.C.A. Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.
- K. Company.—Annual Meeting, Residence Dining Hall, 7.30 p.m.
- Political Science Club of '94.—"Platform of the Patrons of Industry" T. A. Hunt. Room No. 3, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 11TH.

- Y.M.C.A. Meeting.—"Korean Mission." Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.
- Oriental Seminary.—Room 6, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 12TH.

- Literary Society.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 8 p.m.
- Varsity Editorial Staff.—Varsity Office, 7.15 p.m.
- College Glee Club.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.
- Ladies' Glee Club.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 1 p.m.
- Meeting of Senate.

SATURDAY, FEB. 13TH.

- Regular University Lecture.—"History of Astronomy; The Systems of a Great Problem." Prof. Baker, M.A. University Hall, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 14TH.

- Bible Class.—"St. Paul at Ephesus," Acts, xix. 8-22. Rev. J. P. Sheraton, D.D. Wycliffe College, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 15TH.

- "Baseball Club"—Annual Meeting, everyone invited. Y.M.C.A. parlor 3.30 p.m.
- S.P.S. Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.
- Class of '92 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 9.40 a.m.
- Modern Language Club.—"Schiller." Essays, Life; Poetry. Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16TH.

- Philosophical Society of '93.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.
- Philosophical Society of '94.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.
- Engineering Society.—Lecture Room No. 2, S. P. S., 3 p.m.

NOTICE.

All reports of meetings or events occurring up to Thursday evening must be in the hands of the Editor by Friday noon, or they will not be published.

'MIDST THE MORTAR BOARDS.

S. J. McLean, '94, is worse.

Glee Club Concert—Feb. 19th.

Miss Tena Willson, '93, is at her home in Ridgetown.

"The Beggar Student"—at the Grand Friday and Saturday.

Mr. W. S. W. McLay, B.A., '91, late Fellow in Moderns, has taken his departure for Vancouver, B.C.

The men of the 1st and 3rd year were delighted to meet the French lecturers on Friday last.

The Varsity Banjo and Guitar Club were busy last February 5th and 6th helping the Toronto Lacrosse Club at their colossal concert.

Three very striking portraits of Miss Mary Howe, the famous cantatrice who is the star of the coming Glee Club Concert, may be seen in Nordheimer's.

Jay Kobb, our college poet, is earning more than local fame. We notice some of his best productions are copied by our exchanges. The Ottawa Owl used his "He Wasn't In It."

Arch. McKinnon, B.A., '91, returned last week from an extended "tour" through New York City, and spent a few days with old college cronies in the city. He is now studying law in Orangeville.

The College Y. W. C. A. held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd. The subject for the hour was Africa, and a most interesting account of the country, the people and its mission work was given by Miss Withrow.

The Political Science Association of '94 held its weekly meeting on Wednesday. The matter before the meeting was a paper on "Profit Sharing," by Mr. D. A. Burgess, '89. Professor Ashley summed up the points advanced.

All students are invited to attend a lecture in French by Prof. Geo. Coutellier, B.A., D.C.L., of the Paris University, to be delivered at the Y. M. C. A. Building, corner Yonge and McGill Streets, on Tuesday, Feb. 9th, at 8 p.m. Subject—La Presse Francaise et les Journalistes Parisiens.

At the Glee Club Concert, it is requested that the students will wear their gowns, and it is hoped they will not fail to comply with the request. Arrangements were made for canvassing the city, and the work was begun on Saturday with excellent prospects of success. Students may obtain tickets at reduced rates from any member of the committee.

We have received an article entitled, "A Summer at the Wood's Hall Marine Biological Laboratory," from Frank R. Lillie, B.A., '91, Fellow in Clarke University, Worcester, Mass., which will be relished by all. It will appear in a future issue.

We have to record this week the death of two graduates of our University, William Huston, M.A., Principal of Woodstock College, and T. B. P. Stewart, B.A. LL.B., Barrister-at-law. Both were young men, but had given promise of good ability. Mr. Stewart, though entering the legal profession, had given much thought to literature, and would undoubtedly have risen to eminence had he not been cut off at so early an age.

There is to be an official Government opening of the School of Science on the 17th inst. The affair will take the nature of an "At Home," and invitations will be issued this week for students and their friends. The whole building with its laboratories and machine shops will be thrown open, and the machinery is to be running, interesting experiments and tests being conducted by students. The Minister of Education is to give the inaugural address.

A very successful meeting of the Political Science Club of '93 was held on Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, Hon. David Mills in the chair. The subject under discussion was: "Resolved that the claim of the Imperial Parliament to unlimited legislative authority over the colonies is inconsistent with the liberties of the colonists." The affirmative was supported by Messrs. Parker and Horne, the negative by Messrs. Moore and White. The chairman, in summing up, made a number of instructive remarks on the subject, and declared that the weight of the argument rested with the affirmative.

Glee Club, Pavilion, Feb. 19th.

DI-VARSITIES.

In dentistry is money easily got—
He simply drops his forceps in your slot.

1st Student (well-fed): I am working like the D— just now. 2nd Student: Yes, going round seeking what you may devour.

Cassius: Where did you get that emory stone, Brut? Brutus: That is no emory stone, you numbskull; it's a bun I took from our hash house.

Miss Giblets: Will you have boiled eggs, sir? Mr. Freshly: Are they fresh? Miss Giblets: Yes, sir, they are; we kept them in the ice-house all last summer.

De Graded: See, Bill, ain't this a fine pair of rubbers. I traded with a fellow in the Y.M.C.A. Up Right: Who was it? De Graded: How do I know. He wasn't there when I traded.

Mr. Hashly: Will you have pork, sir? Mr. Cutely: Is it cooked? Mr. Hashly: Of course it is, it's been cooked since day before yesterday.

Epicurus: Look here, I can't eat this; I ordered Irish stew. Friend: Well, isn't that Irish stew? Epicurus: No; this is oysters on the half shell, without the oysters.

Krossly: (Who's been waiting half an hour) Hurry up there Soup! Don't you intend to bring me anything to eat before to-morrow morning? Souply: Yes, if you'll wait.

It is the college poet
And he is grown so mad, so mad
That I would be his father
To cure him with the gad,
And every time he made a verse
I'd smite him on the back—or worse.

Sarcastikus: Isn't it awfully cold this morning? Repartemus: You can bet your fundamental ducats it is. When I saw that conductor on the bob-tail car fairly shivering, my heart went out to him. Sarcastikus: Did he get it, old man? Repartemus; No, it froze before it got to him.

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