

THE VARSITY

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INFLOWING TIDE.

I crossed the bridge that spanned a river wide
Where vacant flats beneath the smoky day
Stretched wide and far, in mire the brown weeds lay,
And outward with the stream's fair hope did glide ;
But ere I passed again, the flowing tide,
From moon-stirred ocean up the long blue bay,
Between the slime-green piers poured lavishly
And all the wide blank wastes were satisfied.

Thus void my heart a desolate expanse
Doubt strewn and sad, of hopeful joy deplete
Till happiness upwelled at thy first glance—
Yea, Friend, 'twas rapture thy dear self to greet,
And though for God we work in ways apart
Joy tides at every meeting to my heart.

MOONLIGHT.

So tremulous the fire of thinking burns
Beneath mine eyelids that I may not keep
My restless couch ; I watch the still moon sweep
Through starry space, like some white soul that spurns
Earth life, and to the sunlight ever turns ;
In her cool beams my burning eyes I steep—
O that my spirit thus may rest in sleep
When my pale ashes Mother Earth inurns !

And as moonlight doth quiet mine unrest
Changing thoughts' scorching glow to truth's pure light,
So thou who art my heart's own holy guest
Dost make its ruddy flame glow spirit-white ;
And like pure-hearted child 'mid happy dreams
I rest my heart and soul in thy love beams.

WILLIAM P. MCKENZIE.

PROF. ALEXANDER'S INTRODUCTION TO BROWNING.

Professor Alexander comes to his new position in our University highly recommended by his recently published "Introduction to the Poetry of Robert Browning." It shows, in general, that the author is a man of wide reading, combined with closeness and clearness of observation, critical fairness and lucidity of expression ; and, in the particular consideration of Browning's poetry, evinces a keen power of analysis, directed to the elucidation both of the poet's merits and of such defects as he is admitted to have. The work, as the preface tells us, "consists largely of extracts, accompanied by careful analyses and a copious critical commentary," by the help of which the author hopes to induce a wider study and a deeper appreciation of a poet, "who is, at first, confessedly difficult, and somewhat repellent." It need scarcely be said

that the object of the succeeding pages is to show that it is only "at first" that the charges made against Browning's style and matter can be entertained, and that their foundation disappears with study and reflection. We shall not express an opinion as to how far the author convinces us that the place he gives to Browning is not too high, but shall content ourselves with briefly pointing out the way in which his duty is performed.

The work commences with a thoughtful consideration of the poet's "General Characteristics," in which are pointed out his intense subjectivity, his devotion to psychological analysis of character, his "widespread and unprecedented interest in the inner life," his subordination of outer action to the inner drama of the soul, and the consequent appropriateness of his peculiar method to the purposes to which it is adapted. In the second chapter, his philosophy (and his Religion) are dwelt upon, his axiomatic belief in God, Christ, and individual immortality, his contempt for Positivism and Materialism, his serious view of life, and that deep-seated view of man's duty as a constant striving to attain divine perfection which makes his work so serious, and so often carries him into those clouds of lofty abstract metaphysical speculation which we are often tempted to believe to be less inherent in the subject than the production of the poet himself. Chapter three shows the poet's undoubting and intensely-serious belief in Christianity. Chapter four deals with his "Theory of Art," as elucidated partly by Browning himself in his "Essay on Shelley," and shows how the view, that the artist "lifts his fellows, with their half-apprehensions, up to his own sphere, by intensifying the import of details, and rounding the universal meaning," finds practical illustration in such poems as "Sordello," "Andrea del Sarto" and the "Epistle of Karshish." Chapters five, seven and eight treat of the poet's development as a poet, and go to show that the works of Browning can be understood in their true meaning only when studied chronologically and as the fruits of a gradual mental development. Chapter six is a skilful analysis of "Sordello," which can be done justice to only by a thorough reading. It was a bold task to attempt a justification of Browning against his critics through the very poem which has been the most universal object of criticism, and which even admirers of Browning, such as the author of "Obiter Dicta," confess to be obscure and difficult. It is a task which Prof. Alexander has shown himself not unfit for.

Little attention is paid in this work to adverse criticisms of Browning's style. Many such there have been, from elaborate philosophical analyses down to such mocking gibes as are well illustrated by the remark of a cynic who, in speaking of "The Grammarian's Funeral," observed that it was a pity the author had allowed himself ever since to remain under the delusion that he had buried, not only the Grammarian, but his grammar also. Many think Browning often too much of a "verbal acrobat," often designedly obscure, confused, diffused, incongruous and inconsequent in arrangement. This Prof. Alexander, though scarcely admitting it, explains by the theory that for Browning poetry is but "a form of activity," a "means of realizing his own individuality." Hence the imperfection of his work ; he wrote for the satisfaction of himself and what was in him, not for the satisfaction of others, or of artistic requirements.

But further analysis of this work is impossible here. We repeat, however, that Prof. Alexander's treatment of his subject is well calculated to produce the results which his preface alleges to be aimed at.

W. F. W. C.

AT SUNDOWN.

The glory of the sunset fades away,
 Close clouds of gloom o'erspread the changing sky,
 The beauty and the radiance fleet and fly,
 And night's black pall enfolds the dying day.
 Thus is it with the life wherethrough we stray:
 Swift are the smiles that but suppress the sigh,
 The transient splendours of our pleasure die,
 But grief abides with gloomy clouds and grey.

Yet souls that hear the music of the spheres
 Dream-driven through the choral air, have won
 A passing respite from the sounds that jar,
 To banish the heart's pain and sanguine tears
 Remote as the far flame of the sinking sun,
 Or steel wind storming round some dying star.

FREDERICK DAVIDSON.

QUIPS AND CRANKS.

It is perhaps as well to explain at the outset that the word cranks is here used in its more respectable, Miltonic sense; not in that familiar to our every-day Canadian speech. Let none take offence, then, whose name may be found in these two columns of disconnected college reminiscences. I have attempted no particular classification; I shall string my stories together as they occur to me, and when I have told enough I shall, I hope, be prevailed on to stop.

Some of the best of the old stories centre round Moss Hall—that shrine of student-worship that will soon exist only in the memory of generations of graduates. The elections have their reminiscences for every student; the hazing—now no more—can also contribute its share. Tricks without number were wont to be played by wily politicians on their unsuspecting opponents, and one of the stratagems resorted to may find a place here.

That year the election was close. As it turned out, half the committee was elected by majorities of three or four, or less. The managers of both parties were on the alert; every vote had been canvassed and the whole college was excited. In a certain affiliated institution were five voters all pledged to the Blues. It became, of course, the bounden duty of the Buff leaders to see that these gentlemen did not exercise the franchise; since they would fain use it unwisely—from the Buff point of view. Accordingly, two virtuous canvassers of the Buff persuasion made it their duty to interview the reverend principal of the college in question on a business matter. This they discussed innocently for half an hour, and as they passed from the hall they incidentally remarked on the approach of the election. "Terrible times—election times," said one, and shook his head sadly. The principal pricked up his ears. The schemers proceeded to describe the whole affair as a scene of revelry and riot, and though the principal said no word, they saw resolve in his eye and went away with full assurance of success. When the fateful night arrived the Blues sent to the college for their men. In vain! They were detained; none could leave the hall. One, whose father, fortunately, came to town that night by train, took advantage of his permission to go to meet him to vote the straight Blue ticket. The other four were freed at 4.30 the next morning; and rushed to the polls only to find that the voting has ceased half an hour before; and to learn, later on, that three Buffs had been elected by majorities of three or under!

The elections gave occasion one year for a rather sharp report. The canvassing committee of one party was revising the list of voters and came across the name of one who was said to be opposed to them. "Who is he?" asked one. "Is he in Knox?" "No, he is an ass," was the quick reply. And the committee smiled.

Talking of Knox reminds me of many an escapade of which her Calvinistic halls have been the scene. On one occasion, the slumberers on one flat of the College were awakened

by an alarm clock which, at three o'clock in the morning, broke the nocturnal stillness. Each drowsy theolog. breathed a—sigh—and settled himself to sleep again. But once more—whir-r-r-r! And again and again at intervals of a few minutes for full half an hour it went on—clock after clock. And at each explosion the sleepers would start up and grumble; and as each clock ceased they would again seek repose, thinking each one the last and altogether too lazy to stir. And in the morning it was explained: for in the corridor, all in a row, sat a dozen alarms stolen the day before from the rooms of absentees and carefully regulated to go off within a few minutes of each other.

It must have been the genius who planned this trick that at another time secreted the lawn-mower for half a day in his room, that he might have the pleasure of rattling, dashing, smashing with it at midnight, along the corridor, down the stairs, past the doors of execrating sleepers and through a storm of old shoes and boot-jacks out into the night. When morning came the mower was nowhere to be seen. But next day it came back—from the cutler's shop. The jolly joker had broken it in his mad career and had been obliged to rise at six and wheel it down town to be mended. He directed it simply to be returned to the College; and his name was never known.

One of the best college stories I have ever heard is told concerning the late Dr. Beavan, once Professor of Philosophy in the University. The doctor, a worthy man enough, was not of a stamp to inspire enthusiasm in his pupils; in fact, many regarded his lectures as something of a bore. One day, accordingly, when he entered his class room he was surprised to be confronted by an immense and ugly ape which his students had with facetious intent placed in his professor's chair. His amazement, however, was but momentary; he quickly took in the situation. He took off his cap, and bowed gravely. "Well, gentlemen," he said, "since you have found a professor more fitted to your capacity, permit me to retire!" He bowed again, and left the room. X.

LETTER LEGACIES.

(Continued.)

[The following must only be regarded as an individual expression of opinion.—EDITORS].

JULY 11th, 1881.

DEAR FRIEND,—Do not imagine for a moment that I think Annexation to be the only political outcome of present political uncertainties. I had rather anticipate a separate development if that were peacefully possible. But in these larger enterprises fate is not directed by argument alone. There is an element of predestination in the working of the great forces that control all natural movements. The question before us is simple. There is immense power to the south of us. We are weak in comparison. Can we resist ultimate absorption? and should we do so unprofiting of the unwholesome spectacle that Europe has presented with her disintegrating processes so disastrous to continued peace? Apart from all knowledge of the certainty of increased material prosperity, it seemeth me that patriotism itself demands this union, and so let us have no more about it at present.

The scientific tendency of the century conflicts less with our unborn literature than the causes that retarded the mind of America till the advent of the existing school. These causes are as evident as the results they produced, and are applicable with additions to our case. Our constitution is young, and the creative minds have expended themselves hitherto in oratory. Our country is new, and the sympathies of its people have not been directed towards an appreciation of literary effort, but they have pursued their inborn instinct of personal gain to the utmost. Nor are they much to be blamed, for it is this instinct that always precedes an age when the receptive faculties may be exercised in leisure and the energies have cooled from their first great heat, when "the epic passion was absorbed in the clearing of forests, the bridging of rivers, the conquest of savage and beast, the creation of a free government." What reasonable explanation does

Stedman give us for the barrenness of the early colonial period? What conflicting causes does he make mention of in addition to restrictions of money, sympathy and historical theme for the ground-work of great poems? What has he to say of copyright, of the absence of literary centres, of European contempt, and what, finally, of the limitations implied in that confining word "Colonial?"

"All the drags, the anchorage, the limitations, involved in the word 'colonial' retarded a new ideal. The colonial restriction has been well determined. It made the western lyre, until the period covered by this survey, a mechanism to echo, without fresh and true feeling, notes that came from over sea." And in addition to this echo we have the double refrain caught from American eccentricities which have also somewhat sapped our originality. We know that for fifty years after their Declaration of Nationality our cousins were groping for political and financial security. We know also that all the poetry of these generations lies in scattered outbursts of prose apostrophes to Liberty throughout the multitudinous rhetorical periods of their orators. Their years of transition are over, when the nation was striving from state to state of political excellence at last to grasp their highest attainable ideal of government, and to feel their vast continent throbbing with power. We are many stages in the national march behind them. We are dragging along the despised path that the Americans forsook more than a century ago. How many unproductive periods of transition must we undergo before we know our fate among the nations, and remain no longer in intellectual subjection to the pettiest states of Europe? It is not treason to long for this intellectual equality with other nations, for it is only secured by national security and the material prosperity of the people. . . . The lack of inspiring historical themes of course does not militate against a lyrical development in poetry, and this refined essence may spring up at any time, for we never lose possession of our passions, desires and doubts; and we have hardly to raise our eyes for a sight of a Nature with tints and phases that are always national and peculiar to Canada. But every other indictment upon our condition prevails adversely even upon this form of expression. But it is not improbable that we shall have at no distant date lyrical productions of merit, lauded perhaps in England and America, and published in Canada (for the national honour) with profit to everyone but the author, thanks to the effect of Copyright Law.

WORDS OF GUIDANCE.

"And therefore will I maken you disport
As I seyde erst, and don you some comfort."

It has ever been customary at this season for THE VARSITY to offer solemn words at once of warning and of comfort to those of its readers who were expecting to come within the circle of the Charybdis which once a year draws in the waters of the student world and again vomits them forth strewn with shattered wrecks. These maxims, like the wild-fig tree to which Ulysses clung when the black waters swirled beneath him, have sustained many a struggling swimmer, and have even helped (so we have been informed) some of the weaker brethren who have been caught by the back-eddy which sets in every September. We have therefore devoted time and trouble to culling an anthology of verses suitable for memorizing at this season. The result we have tabulated, according to the various persons or things to which they refer, in a systematic manner that shows that we too have taken pass Geology in our day. The regular and relentless measure in which it proceeds vividly recalls the ordinary toast-list.

Like those savages who endeavour first of all to propitiate the powers of evil, we begin:

AD EXAMINATORES.

"Now is not that of God a full fair grace
That such a lewed mannes wit shall pass
The wisdom of an heap of lernedemen."

"Good gentleman, go your gait, and let poor folk pass."

AD SENIORES.

"Men must endure
Their going hence, even as their coming hither."
"Gone are the days in idle jest dispersed."

AD JUNIORES.

"Get thee glass eyes
And like the scurvy politician seem
To see the things thou dost not."

"Sober he seemed, and very sagely sad,
And to the ground his eyes were lowly bent,
Simple in shew, and void of malice bad,
And all the way he prayed, as he went,
And often knockt his breast as one that did repent."

AD SOPHIOMORES.

"The young man shall faint and be weary, and the strong
man shall utterly fail."

AD TYRONES.

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!"

"May with alle thy flowres and thy greene,
Welcome be thou, full faire fresche May,
I hope that I some grene gete may."

AD FEMINAS.

"Two women shall be grinding together; one shall be taken
and the other shall be left."

"Faire Lady, hart of flint would rew
The undeserved woes and sorrows which ye shew."

AD BEDELLUM.

"And forth he comes into the common hall,
Where early wait him many a gazing eye."

"Such joy he had their stubborn hearts to quell,
And sturdie courage tame with dreadfull aw,
That his beheast they feared, as a tyrans law."

AD OMNES.

"The bird of Time hath but a little way
To flutter and the bird is on the wing."

AD NOS IPSOS SCRIPTORES.

"Thus children and common people are accustomed to
transform the great and sublime into a sport, and even a jest:
and how indeed could they otherwise abide and tolerate it."

CRYPTOGAM.

LITERARY NOTES.

The latest addition to the Great Writers series is the "Life of Crabbe" by T. E. Kebbel.

There are a number of important publications announced in the literary reviews of this week. Of interest to those who have read the "City of Dreadful Night" will be the life of its author, James Thomson, written by his friend Mr. H. S. Salt.

The review on Whitman's "November Boughs" in the *Literary World* concludes thus: "We are far from admitting that Whitman has succeeded in carrying out the principles which he proclaimed at the beginning of his literary career, nor do we believe his ideals better than an idle dream; but at the same time we can never come into his presence without feeling that he possesses great powers which he might have turned to better uses."

Edmund Gosse is the author of "A History of 18th Century Literature." The book has on the whole been well received, but it has received some adverse criticism. From reading reviews upon it we should judge that for the scholar it is too full of information easily gathered elsewhere, and that the student would be mystified by the incessant cross-fires of criticism. But Mr. Gosse is a critic of established reputation, and a work on which he has bestowed earnest labour should not be judged without close perusal.

THE VARSITY.

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THE NINTH VOLUME.

The present issue of THE VARSITY is the last that will appear until the usual Commencement Number in June, when examinations and all that the term implies are over. Comparison of our editorial columns with those of former years would reveal a difference existing between them; but it is a difference adopted upon considerations that experience has prompted. We have endeavoured to make this volume appeal more widely to the Undergraduate body by a risky lowering of the price, and owing to an anticipation of an enlarged student audience we have devoted our four editorial columns exclusively to the discussion of University matters. And now we take advantage of our last editorial opportunity for the year to recall to our readers the reforms we have advocated and the institutions that we have condemned with much apparent and gratifying result. The review is a satisfactory one, for a retrospection proves that our more important contentions have been respected, and that where the suggested improvements have not been consummated nor show immediate signs of this, we have the more material for our next year's welcome labour.

Such varieties of subjects have been dealt with both in communication and in editorial, that we can only reconsider the most important of these. In our early numbers the absorbing topic was undoubtedly the subject of Class Organization. This has been our most cherished whim for the year, and though it has borne success, much still remains to be done in the direction of the simplification of the machine, and in a harmonious adjustment of this new and powerful factor in College life with the existence of its predecessor in usefulness, if indeed the Literary Society be destined to a new and invigorated lease of life. If we believe "Mutamur," the soul of this venerable body has expired in the arms of the new birth, and has metempsychosed its sered and palsied soul into the developing form of the ambitious Class Societies. The desirability of this prospect we have not time to discuss, but as an opinion hazarded by one of the most prominent men of his year, it deserves a close investigation. But with his outspoken opinion must be considered the more hopeful project that our correspondent of last week proposed, whereby the encroachment of the College Societies upon our attention need not withdraw the vitality from the older organization, but might even inspire it with greater energy than it has hitherto possessed.

Our correspondents have been most energetic in their demands for a reasonable revision of the Curriculum. In our Editorial upon the condition of the Modern Language Department we echoed this plea in insisting upon a further specialization of subjects in the Fourth Year of the Modern Course. Reasons for this step were clearly enough expressed when it was contended that thorough knowledge of little was preferable to little knowledge of much. The labour and expense of a post-graduate course would be rendered less necessary by thorough treatment under the guidance of competent teachers of some one branch or another. In the lower years of this same course the one crying abuse is the presence of much history of many lands where it is not in any sense required. This inconsistency has been attacked from time immemorial, and now, at least, it is thought remediable owing to the existence of a course that is in need of it. This universal desire of the students is expressed and strengthened by the resolution

in condemnation of the abuse lately passed at a meeting of the Modern Language Club.

An innovation, or, as it has been said, an imitation of the practice of lesser Universities than our own, which would be in the highest degree pleasurable and profitable to students and citizens alike, would be, and, may we say it, *will* be the establishment of Lecture Courses to be regularly delivered during the College term by men of fame and distinction. The benefit which would arise from this custom is easily conceived. We need not assure the moving spirits in this University that the enterprise would be furthered in every way possible by the students individually or organized into Class Societies. It was once proposed to entrust the management of such a movement to the Literary Society, but as we cannot prophesy of the near destiny of this once powerful body, we direct our request to the Class Societies and ask for concerted action in this enterprise. Of course the question is too important to be thus dealt with at this late season, but it may at least with much profit be debated upon and ripened till it shall bear its fruit next year.

Other subjects dealt with more or less repeatedly are such matters of interest as the proposed establishment of a Dramatic Club and the projected enlargement of Residence. The former proposition is in the province of the reformations that the classes should deal with in a generous spirit; it affords much good matter for debate, and the success of the scheme will be another notable proof that the organizing spirit is not dead among us.

We breathe a sigh of relief with a sense of something accomplished when we see that the Baseball Editor has not laboured in vain. His efforts are soon to be rewarded, may we hope, by a successful tour which will be its own argument for its repetition in subsequent years. We are glad, however, that our cricket team has not been discomfited by the intended desertion of some prominent members, as the report of the meeting on Wednesday last will show.

THE NEW BIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Students, especially of the Natural Sciences, must feel considerable interest in the progress of the building for the Biological Department, which is so rapidly approaching completion. Externally, thanks to the University architect, Mr. Dick, it is a handsome structure well worthy of its important site in the Park, and, what is of greater moment for a scientific building, this has been secured while keeping the architectural features in strict subordination to the internal requirements. It is also a matter of congratulation that the University has been able to erect at a very moderate cost—\$45,000—such a substantial nucleus for a future group of Scientific Buildings.

The two public entrances to the Biological Department are on the eastern frontage, that in the tower on the north giving access to the Lecture Room and Laboratories for the larger classes, while that towards the south admits to the smaller working-rooms. In the absence of a staircase in the tower, it is not possible at present to see the arrangements which have been made for the convenience of students, but it is understood that there is a large cloak-room in the basement, and a similar room for ladies on the ground floor communicating by a separate staircase with the lecture-room. The main staircase in the Tower gives access to the top of the Lecture-Room, and higher still, to the Elementary Laboratory, which extends over the Lecture-Room. The seats in the latter (upwards of 200 in number) are to be separate chairs, and they are to be arranged on such a curve that the occupants of all will see and hear equally well.

The southern entrance opens into a wide corridor, to the south of which are the physiological laboratories, and to the north the Lecture-Preparation-Room, a small Library and the Professor's private room. On the first floor are the Third and Fourth Year Laboratories as well as special rooms for the study of Bacteriology and Vegetable Physiology, and for Micro-Photography, which is now an important method of research in Biology.

Connected with the Elementary Laboratory are preparation and store rooms for the material required, while the attic has

a small hothouse and the basement an aquarium for the preservation of the forms of life studied by the various classes.

Steam-heating is employed throughout the building, an ingenious arrangement having been adopted in those rooms which are likely to be most crowded for automatically cutting off the steam when the rooms become overheated.

The remains of Moss Hall still form an undesirable appendage to the west, but it is hoped that this will eventually give place to suitable additions for other scientific buildings. When these are completed, and a handsome Gymnasium erected the students will have reason to feel proud of this group of University Buildings. It is to be hoped that the government, which it is understood is about to erect additional accommodation for the Engineering Department of the School of Science, will put up a structure more worthy of a site in the University grounds than the present School Building.

A MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.

That some steps should be taken to honour Professor Young's memory is a proposition which, we think, will meet with no opponents. It were useless to recapitulate here his qualities, his attainments, or his services. Somewhat of the general sorrow for his loss has found public utterance, and that which has remained unexpressed is none the less sincere. It is not necessary, then, to discuss at length the reasons for such a movement, since they will be obvious to all.

The question is, accordingly: What palpable form should our appreciation of Dr. Young's worth assume? In view of the late Professor's wide intellectual acquirements, his whole-souled interest in the cause of education at large and in especial in the University which was proud to count him among her professoriate; further, in consideration of his own modest but substantial generosity, it seems to us that no more fitting manifestation could be chosen than that of establishing a scholarship in University College, in the Department of Philosophy, which scholarship should bear his name.

We feel sure that there would be no difficulty in raising the amount requisite to found the scholarship. Five thousand dollars at five per cent. would yield one hundred dollars annually, and this sum we are confident in saying would be readily subscribed among the graduates alone. But the scheme should meet with the approval of the whole university public, of graduates and undergraduates, of all those in Ontario who are interested in education, of all who knew and recognized the real greatness of the Professor and the inestimable benefits which he conferred upon those within the circle of his influence.

It only remains to give a practical impetus to the movement. A meeting of the graduates and undergraduates might be called directly after the examinations, at which the scheme could be discussed and measures taken for its furtherance.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents. No notice will be taken of unsigned contributions.

THE LADIES IN THE LIBRARY.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—I desire to say a few words in reply to your correspondents "S.P.Q.R.," and "Anthropos" on this subject.

It seems to me that Burke's Anathema is being verily realized in this humane University Society of ours. The age of chivalry seems truly in decadence and to be followed by that of economists and base calculators—of pettish examination excellence. I cannot persuade myself that the objections to the presence of the ladies in the Library owe their origin to anything outside of a jealousy felt for the enhanced advantages given the ladies. It seems as if these cavaliers were afraid to allow such an advantage (which is after all not of the most

momentous importance) as a prelude equipment for this unchivalric joust with the ladies for class-position.

I presume that one reason at least why the College authorities do not grant this privilege to the gentlemen also, is derivable from their conservative belief in the vandalism of the male nature, which might display itself in full force within the Library walls. If I am not greatly mistaken we have within our Library annals accounts of actual appropriation of College property by the noble male section of University life. I think even our anti-ladies champions will admit that the Senate justly lose a good deal of their conservatism of view in dealing with the ladies.

If these same gentlemen, and those others whose sentiments they voice, will admit of more altruism in their philosophy of life, I think that they will be right in leaving the ladies unmolested to enjoy that *summum bonum* which is at present denied to themselves.

Without seeking to drag the personalities of these gentlemen too much before public view, it occurs to me that their very *noms de plume* are suggestive.

"S.P.Q.R." seems to proceed on the principle of the two tailors of Tooley St., in characterizing himself the "Senate" and "We—(are)—the people" of—Varsitydom. "Anthropos," if my knowledge of Freshman Greek serves me aright, is a name fitly chosen by gentleman the second as distinctive quite from the hero and cavalier *anér*.

It may be said too hastily that I append my own name as a bid for the favour of the oppressed lady undergrads., but now that the elections are over and the Federal Party ensconced in power, my bidding for favours, gentlemen, is a thing of the stormy past.

J. D. SWANSON.

Knox Coll., March, 21, 1889.

THE LIBRARY.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—It is very evident that the dissatisfaction with regard to the Library is somewhat general, and that many of the students go on the principle that it is perfectly right "to kick a man when he's down," and so condemn the whole management without the least thought or desire to improve the existing state of affairs.

Still, the question is one that cannot be lightly passed over, and therefore there is the more reason why all should lend a hand, if possible, in devising means to increase the usefulness of the Library.

It is the constant cry among those who have to deal with University interests, whenever any movement in which money is required is mooted, that "there is no money for such a purpose." Let it be taken for granted that the Library is similarly situated; then if the University authorities cannot improve matters what is to prevent the students from doing something? Among those who are loyal sons of their Alma Mater there cannot be any reason why they should not contribute their share to the support of the Library. If we compare our position with the American colleges we may see in what way this assistance may be derived. Owing to their numerous endowments and the high fees required from students these institutions can control very large incomes. Fees range from \$75 to \$150. Whether a portion of these fees are devoted to library purposes or not cannot at present be known. But if even a small portion be so used one can easily see that they can grant unusual library privileges to their students, that a permanent library staff can be employed who do nothing but attend to the business of the library. I can see no reason why the Senate, the Council, or whatever body has control of such matters, should not increase the fees paid by the students and devote the amount added to the improvement of the Library. The experiment is well worth trying, and no one should grumble at such a movement when the privileges would be much greater than at present. There would be difficulties in the way, no doubt, but surely there is executive ability enough to overcome these, which I see very well must arise, but for which there must be some remedy. Students would then have greater privileges, but the rules would require to be rigidly enforced.

One of the first moves should be a thorough revision of the catalogues, or what would be better, a new system; and if the cost be too great to do the whole library at once, let it be done gradually as time and means would permit.

Such a plan will, I expect, meet with no small amount of opposition from chronic grumblers and will be called chimerical and utterly impossible, but I think the time has come, or is at least fast approaching, when some steps must be taken to increase the usefulness of the Library. Let such action be gradual, if need be, but let it be as soon as possible or we shall be—if we are not already—cast in the shade by institutions whose primary object is not to provide students with the works they require in their University course, for it is well-known that the Public Library with its 50,000 volumes and the Legislative Library are used very extensively by our University students. The time has come for action and the sooner it begins the better. It might be well to have the opinions of students on this matter.

R. S. V. P.

THE NORTHFIELD SUMMER SCHOOL.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—Exams. are approaching, and after them—the holidays. Every student is by this time considering what he will do, or where he will go to spend them. In view of this I would like to call the attention of your readers to the peculiar advantages of the Northfield Summer School. I cannot conceive of a place more attractive to a college student.

He has the opportunity of associating for two weeks or more with college men from all parts of Canada, England and the United States assembled at as beautiful a place as there is in New England. To call this convention a summer school is apt to give a very wrong impression of what it is. We can dismiss the "school" part of it by saying that it consists only in one meeting in the morning and one at night,—about three hours in all. You are not compelled to go, but if you do, you will hear addresses from some of America's most eloquent divines. All the rest of the time the boys do as they please, and with a regularly appointed director of sports to superintend affairs it can easily be imagined what a time two hundred or more college boys would have. On one part of the field six or seven tennis courts are continually occupied. The foot ball is seldom allowed to rest. Baseball matches are frequent, while in the intervals "scrub" games are unceasing; occasionally the "Britishers" muster for a quiet game of cricket, at which the lively Yankee gazes for a few moments and then walks off with an expression of impatience. One day we set apart for an athletic competition, like our annual games, and the various colleges encourage their men with their "Rah rah rah's" and their "boom-a-lac-a-boom."

The Connecticut River flowing by at the bottom of the field furnishes every opportunity for bathing and boating. The accommodation in the large brick halls—Residences, I suppose we might call them—is everything that could be desired and the prices are moderate. Special arrangements will probably be made with the railways as to reduction of the fare.

In view, then, of the opportunity of association with students of other colleges, of the pleasure of two weeks' continual athletic sports, and the remarkable cheapness of the trip, it should commend itself strongly to the consideration of every undergraduate who intends taking a trip this summer at all.

C. A. STUART.

THE BASEBALL TOUR.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS: As there are some few of your readers who hold the game of baseball in estimation, allow me to report progress thus far.

The Varsity team will play the Torontos on their grounds on Saturday, April 27th; this being the first game which the Toronto team will play in this city, it is expected that, should the day be fine, a large attendance will greet the prospective champions of 1889. It need scarcely be pointed out that it

should be a point of honour with every student in Toronto to turn out and encourage our team on that occasion.

On the 24th of May the team will play two games in Kingston with the "Park Nine" of that city; one in the morning, and one in the afternoon.

This will be the beginning of the regular tour which it is expected will embrace the following *en route*: Rochester University; Hamilton College, at Utica; Harvard, at Cambridge; Brown, at Providence; Amherst; Cornell, at Ithaca; Wesleyan, at Middletown; and several other places which may be arranged for, satisfactorily, later on.

But this venture will cost some money. Although we have, at present, very satisfactory guarantees promised, the preliminary expenses will be large, and will have to be met before the team leaves the city. For instance: suits have to be bought—these will cost about \$75; the professional "coach" will have to be paid—say \$20, railroad fares have to be secured as far, at least, as Kingston, say \$90. An outfit of balls, masks, etc., will cost, say, \$25. These preliminary expenses, then, will amount to about \$210. How is this to be raised? It is expected that the financial returns from the Toronto Varsity game will cover considerably more than half of this sum, or about \$125. The remainder, \$85, will have to be raised by subscription. Is it too much to ask Toronto graduates and undergraduates to contribute? considering the fact that the Baseball Club has never bothered the University public before, I think it is not too much to ask graduates and undergraduates to subscribe this amount in order that the success of the tour may be assured financially. The success of the team in the field may be looked for, as Captain Wardell will have a fine lot of men under his control when the season regularly opens. I bespeak for the canvassers for the Club a kindly and generous reception from the University public.

F. B. HODGINS, Manager.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—In a few days the dazzling sphere will be speeding through the balmy air to the tune of the well-intentioned home-run click, but the sprightly fielder, with backward dart and unerring judgment, thrusts his "feelers" into the clouds and dims the sunny hopes of the prospective circuit chaser. The "touch me not" curve winds past with aggravating sinuosity, and the breezy slash of the vengeful willow leads the small boy from the bleaching boards to "rattle" the hapless batsman with witty chaffing, to the effect that "that fellow couldn't hit a balloon if you held it over the plate," etc. These diamond musings, that with each spring are mercilessly sprung upon an inoffensive and unsuspecting public, are offered on the present occasion with the most honourable intentions. There is no mist-shrouded motive sneaking 'neath the coverlet of the seeming sincerity of this missive, and if you have patiently held thus far, the breath-abducting assertion is ventured that this article has a veritable purpose in view, and here it is in all its undiminished glory.

Newspaper gossip with the concluding items "to be heard from," in the vernacular of election epochs, has been expended without end on the Varsity Ball Club. They tell of its securing important dates and "announcements" look upon it in the light of a pleasing attraction. But does the club recognize the responsibilities of its fixtures? Does the nine intend to practice earnestly? These are leading queries and upon the answers depends the success of the entire prospectus.

No ball player of account belittles the significance of team-work, and the personnel of the nine must fully value this factor of a "win" and strike a speaking acquaintance with each other's peculiar tactics before anything hopeful can be honestly looked for. Team-work is therefore the first consideration.

A professional coach has been engaged in the person of W. W. Andrews, captain of the Buffalo League Team. This move was regarded as advisable, not so much as a means of profiting from valuable experience as to subdue the team to full measured discipline.

The management has done everything to excite enthusiasm, taking upon itself no small share of anxious labour in attending to the preliminaries of the proposed tour and results are in the hands of the team above.

S. D. S.

ROUND THE TABLE.

The following memorial verses appeared some time ago in the *Japan Weekly Mail*. The poem is a beautiful lament, and has the great charm of simplicity through all its passion. It may surprise by its delicacy and refined expression those who did not imagine that poetry existed in that remote and little-known country. It bears the title

LAMENT OF THE PRINCE OF CHOSHIN ON THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE.

(From the Japanese.)

Waking at midnight when the world is still,
Alone I seem to drift upon a tide
Of dreary waters, while the dying moon
Sinks slowly gathering all her tender rays,
And leaving the dark-visaged night forlorn.
Moans the wild wind; the air is filled with frost;
My eyes are dull, but solitude and cold,
Like cruel-throated watch dogs, scare away
The timid traveller, Sleep.

I cannot rest;

A dear face shines upon me like a star
Through death and darkness. Poor sweet, lonely love!
Oh, I would be the stone upon her grave,
Or the least flower that blossoms on her dust,
But for the blessed hope that I shall meet
My darling somewhere in the silent land.
The rock of death divides the rushing wave,
But the twain streams shall surely meet again.

Through the dim world the village temple bell
Touches my ears, and every solemn sound
Repeats her name whose pensive thoughts were prayer.
My arms are empty, but my heart is full,
And shall be full forever more.

* * *

Very sober, discreet and decorous has The Table been at the pleasant weekly gatherings of which it has been the centre throughout the year. No triolets or ballads, the fizzing, sparkling champagne of literature, have been served to the guests; never an ode, the drowsy port and sherry of the elder bards; love lyrics, the claret, the drink for boys, have you ever been offered these? A few nondescript poems, the *vin ordinaire* of verse, have now and again been handed round; and once, O memorable day, the College News Reporter treated the company to "a meat pie!"

* * *

Now, however, that our year is drawing to a close; now that The Table is about to be given over again to the dust and cobwebs; now that we are about to part, all of us, for six months, some of us, perhaps, for ever, we may be allowed to celebrate our last session, as old friends sometimes do, by discussing a bowl of punch which the Foreign Editor has brewed for us, after Schiller's famous receipt. If he has made mistakes, if Prussic acid has crept in in place of lemon, if the sugar is remarkable for its scarceness, if the spirits are not of the oldest, nor the water of the hottest; let us be charitable, let us believe that he has meant to entertain us well.

* * *

Here is the bowl of Punch.

SONG.

(After the German.)

Fill up again. 'Tis my advice
To drink till we see double;
For till we've seen a brother twice,
To love him it were trouble.

CHO. Then, boys, drink deep,
While yet to drink we're able,
Before we sink, and sleep
Forgotten 'neath the table.

Let sober fellows ne'er relax
Their toiling after money;

While they are busy moulding wax,
We drones will sip the honey.
CHO. So, boys, drink deep, &c.

They say that men who live like this,
Arrive at old age never;
'Tis true. For while we drink, I wis,
We keep our youth forever!
CHO. So, boys, drink deep, &c.

And when at last we reach life's edge,
With unrepented errors,
Be our last toast, to rise and pledge
The grisly King of Terrors."
CHO. Then boys, drink deep, &c.

And so, dear readers, The Table bids you a fond farewell, wishing you a happy issue out of your afflictions, and looking forward to the fall in the hope that, if it is not handed over to the bailiff, it may again welcome its friendly guests of the past year.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

ALL reports from Societies must reach us by noon on Thursday to insure insertion.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

At the closing meeting of the Club in Y.M.C.A. hall, Mr. Rodd moved, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, "That the following memorial be forwarded by the Club to the Senate of the University:—

"While we wish to acknowledge the great benefit to be gained from pursuing the Modern Language course as at present laid out, yet we feel that to those who are desirous of making a special study of the great living languages, our course does not at present afford as great an opportunity as we deem it might, with but a few most important and most desirable changes in the constitution of it. We need hardly refer to the fact that during the past few years the Modern Language course has been enlarged, not only by an increase in the number of text books in each subdivision, but also by the addition of Spanish and the growing importance of Italian, and since there has not been a corresponding decrease in honour work, which is foreign to the course which we are desirous of making a special study, nor a corresponding increase in the work required for matriculation, we submit that we have not as great an opportunity of making a careful study of the Modern Languages—especially of English—as we would have were our course a Modern Language course not only in name but in reality.

"We would wish also to call attention to the fact that our course is less efficient as a special department than it should be, from the fact that at present our lecturers are engaged to a great measure in teaching elementary work to the students of other departments, and as a result less time is given to those students who are specializing in Moderns than otherwise would be. Our course in this respect is unique, no other department having to contend against the same difficulties. Every student in our college, not pursuing a course of study in the Honour Department of Classics or Mathematics, is required to pass examinations in French and German, and special elementary classes have to be formed for giving the necessary instruction—work which obviously, and in justice to the Modern Language students, should be done in our high schools.

"In view of the foregoing facts we humbly pray that on the remodelling of the curriculum such changes may be made as shall have in view the attainment of the following objects:—

"1. The removal of history and ethnology as honour subjects from the Modern Language Course.

"2. The re-arrangement of the course as regards Italian and Spanish in order that by taking up the study of these subjects earlier in our course a fuller and more advanced knowledge of them may be gained.

"3. The removal of all obstacles preventing our lecturers from giving their whole time to advanced work in their department, by enacting that all students, not intending to pur-

sue an honour course in the departments of Classics or Mathematics, be required to pass, at matriculation, an examination in both French and German.

"All of which is respectfully submitted."

The motion elicited a long discussion, in which the mover and seconder, Messrs. Squair, Fraser, Bonner, Graham and others took part, and which resulted in a unanimous vote in favour of the petition. It is to be hoped that (when the changes consequent on the appointment of the new Professor in English come to be made) the Senate will favourably consider these propositions. It is self-evident that heretofore the Modern Language Course has not been placed on an equality with other courses even of less importance. The changes advocated by the Club seem to be in the interests of the Department and it is to be hoped that they will receive due attention.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

A regular meeting, held March 28, in Dr. Pike's lecture room, was well attended. Two interesting and carefully prepared papers were read, one by Miss E. M. Curzon on "The Trachea of Birds," with special reference to the larynx in the production of voice. The paper was illustrated by several well-prepared specimens of this organ from various birds. The other paper was read by James Munro, and entitled "The Molecule," showing what chemists exactly mean by that term and the method of its determination.

The nomination of officers for '89-'90 took place, the following being elected by acclamation:—

President, A. B. McCallum, B.A., M.D., Ph.D.

1st Vice Pres., F. G. Wait, B.A.

2nd Vice Pres., W. H. Jenkins.

The election for the remaining officers will take place two weeks from this date.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The Engineering Society held its annual meeting in the School of Practical Science on Saturday evening last, the President, Mr. H. E. T. Haultain, in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary and approved. The report of the General Committee for the session 1888-9 was then read by the President. It showed that the Society was in a flourishing condition and since last session had made several new improvements, notable amongst which was the commencement of a library and placing Engineering periodicals on file. The report of the Sec.-Treas. showed an increase of 26 in the membership roll and that the Society was in a prosperous state financially. The Corresp.-Sec.'s report showed that 12 papers had been read before the Society during the current session, 2 of which were from graduates of the school. The following is a list of papers read: Sanitary Drainage, by E. F. Ball, '88; Scale Calculus, by T. R. Roxburgh, B.A.; Surveying in N.W.T., by T. R. Deacon; Timber Surveying, by Mr. L. B. Stewart, D.T.S.; City Surveying, by D. D. Ianns; History of Steam Engines, by Mr. D. Barnes (Fellow); Stone Foundations, by J. L. Morris, '82; Methods of Making Corrugations on Millstones, by J. L. Leask; Alloys of Steel and Iron, by Mr. F. W. Babington; Wire Gauges, by T. R. Roxburgh, B.A.; Water-Power, by W. H. Shillinglaw; Track-Laying, by T. S. Russell. The various papers read and discussions held were interesting and instructive to the members, as manifested by the large attendance at the ordinary meetings. The librarian's report showed that the newly founded Library contained some 150 books of reference, 5 weekly Engineering papers on file, besides numerous plans, specifications, etc. The Librarian reported also that the members were making good use of the Library. After the different reports had been read and adopted, the election of officers for next year's General Committee took place. The following is a list of the successful candidates:

President—J. A. Duff, B.A. (by acclamation).

Vice-President—E. B. Merrill.

Secretary-Treasurer—J. R. Deacon.

Corresponding-Secretary—F. M. Bowman.

Librarian—T. S. Russell.

Third Year Councillor—J. R. Pedder.

Second Year Councillor—M. Dunbar.

After the election the Society passed a vote of thanks to the retiring General Committee for their services to the Society. This concluding the business of the Society, the meeting was thrown open for discussion on various questions affecting the well-being of the Society and the School. The question of having school colours or other distinguishing badge was discussed at some length and finally carried over until next year.

The President then made a few remarks dealing with the questions of initiation, class organizations, prizes and prizemen. He recommended an initiation in the School; he was of opinion that Class Organizations as they exist now would be of little benefit to the Engineering students, and he brought up the question of whether the present system of ranking men in the class lists and the awarding of prizes as it existed in the School was beneficial. The subject of initiation was thoroughly discussed from every standpoint, and the majority were of the opinion that an initiation properly carried out would be of great advantage in many respects and not so disastrous to the bodies and souls of the initiators and initiated as held by the Non-Hazing Union. In the discussion regarding prizes every one (3 prizemen amongst the number) was of opinion that the students would be better without them. With regard to Class Organizations there was a difference of opinion, but the majority of the speakers held that they are beneficial rather than otherwise. Mr. F. M. Bowman (graduate S.P.S.) then spoke a few words concerning Canadian Engineers in the States. He stated that they were in demand, and where he had been working there were very few but Canadians employed.

The meeting then adjourned till October next.

THE CLASS OF '91.

A meeting of the athletic men of this class was held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the athletic outlook of the year. M. Currie, Athletic Director, presided. It was decided not to organize separate clubs among the men of the Year, but to appoint one man to attend to each game, and, where possible, to assist the Athletic Director in arranging matches with other years. The following are the men chosen: for Rugby, Pope; for Association, Buckenridge; for Baseball, Scane; for Cricket, Moran; for Lacrosse, Northwood. The Class of '91 has thrown down the gauntlet with perhaps justifiable confidence but they may find their hands full when October comes round again, for '92 think, it is said, that they can "clean out" the college on every score; '90, moreover, may "get a move on" by that time, and who can guess the possibilities of '93?

MCMASTER HALL.

An address has been presented to Dr. Castle by the students of McMaster Hall, expressing their sympathy with him in his continued illness, and regret at his being obliged on that account to resign the principalship.

The appointment of Prof. McGregor to the position of President is a very popular one among those studying in the College.

W. N. Clarke, formerly Professor of Greek Exegesis in McMaster Hall, is expected to preach before the Fyfe Missionary Society of this college in the Immanuel Baptist church on the 28th inst.

CRICKET.

The cricket meeting for the election of this year's officers was held in Residence on Wednesday last. The voting resulted in the election of the following officers:

Hon. President, Professor Ashley.

1st Vice President, Professor Pike.

2nd Vice-President, W. P. Mustard, B.A.

Captain, E. G. Rykert, '89.

Sec. Treasurer, P. Edgar, '91.

Committee—H. McLaren, B.A., G. C. Biggar, '89, Theo. Coleman, '90, J. G. McKay, '91, W. Boulton, '91, W. H. Bunting, '92.