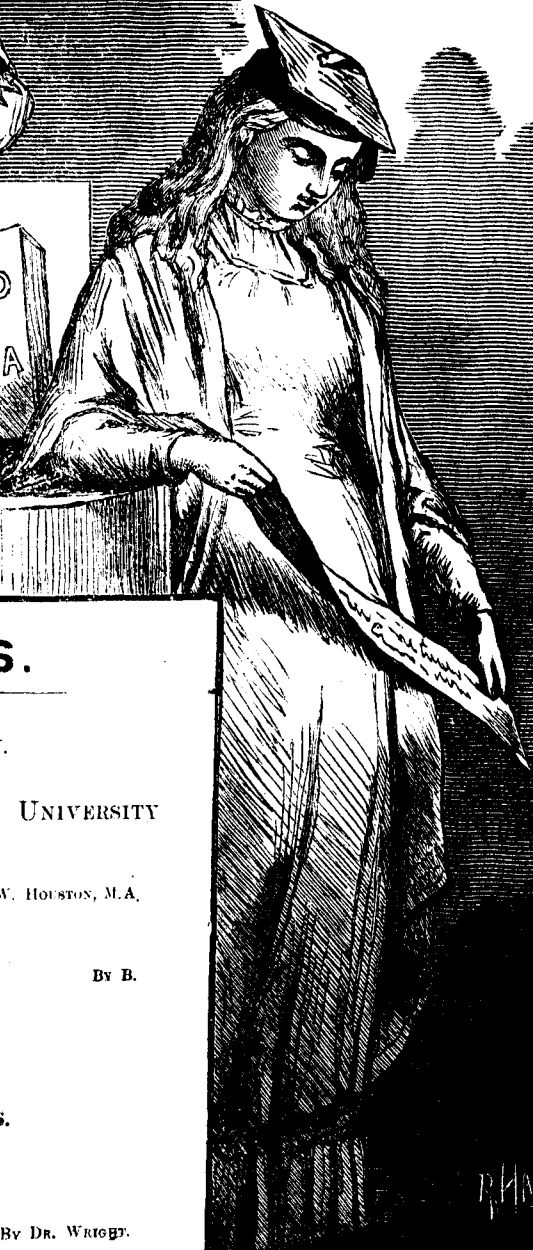
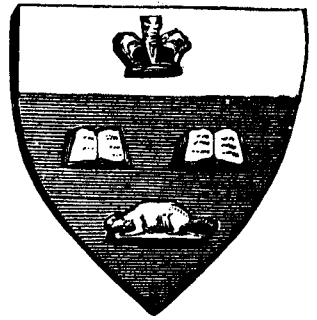


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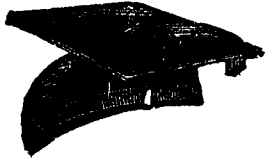
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# THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

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February 3, 1882.

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## THE MEETING OF CONVOCATION.

Once more after the lapse of a year has Convocation met; once more has the privilege of discussing University matters been exercised, and the efforts of a few enthusiasts have for a moment galvanized into activity the almost inanimate mass. What is the cause of the apathy and lack of interest in University matters which has so remarkably distinguished our graduates? It is incomprehensible to us. The subjects proposed for the consideration of the meeting were vitally important. They involved questions of organization, of executive management, of finance, and yet, out of all the graduates in Toronto, only enough could be got together to justify the holding of a meeting with the number required by law. There must be something wrong. Is it that while undergraduates little is done to teach them to have an affection for their college—a pride in their Alma Mater, and a spirit of *camaraderie* for one another? We fear that there has been in the past too much reason for this suspicion, and that here we have one cause for this undeniable lack of interest. Is it that the commercial spirit of the country is so strong that men of letters are ashamed of their acquirements? We are afraid that there is something in this reason. Is it true that time and again efforts have been made by a few zealous spirits to counteract such a disastrous state of things, and that as often as the attempt has been made it has been sneered at, laughed at, caballed against, and suffered to die from want of support by those in authority? We fear that this reception has been given too often to the well-meant attempts of those who desired better things. The issue presented before graduates is very clear. Do they desire that once they are entitled to add a couple of letters to their name, that from that moment they should drop their studies—forget the noble lessons which they learned in pursuing those studies—deprive themselves of wealth greater than riches can give—allow their college, for want of sympathy and material support, to lag behind in the line of advance in knowledge, when by judicious and well-directed united effort they could place that college well in the van of those noble institutions whose object it is to spread the light of knowledge over the darkened minds of men. What higher aims could be proposed? What course of action could be indicated more fitted to advance not only the mental but the material condition of their country? There is nothing so expensive as ignorance; there is nothing more valuable than knowledge.

We believe that those who press the claims of Convocation have these views, and we rejoice when we behold the signs of a determination on the part of graduates of the University to assert their rights to be heard in regard to her affairs. The meeting on Tuesday was conducted in a way which augurs well for the success of future meetings. If it be once understood that work is to be done—talk to be frowned down, while a fair chance is given for the expression of divergent views—and the battle is half won. The recommendations carried by the meeting were:—

1. An assertion of the right of the graduates and the public to know what is being done in the way of legislation on University matters. The original resolution moved on this point was too vague in its terms. The amendment carried was precise, and showed by its wording the real desire that exists on the part of the graduates, at all events, to be fully informed of what transpires at Senate meetings, without any attempt at interference with questions of discipline or management.

2. The increase of elective Senators from fifteen to eighteen—the election of six each year instead of three—the change of the term of office from five years to three. This vote is only a re-affirmance of what Convocation once before requested, and almost succeeded in getting carried. That it did not succeed is largely owing to its own supineness. Had there been the keen desire for the change, that there should have been, a proper committee would have been appointed to follow the matter up. But that was not done. A committee was appointed which neglected to press the recommendation, and after being embodied in the first reading of a Bill, probably for the very purpose of giving the supporters of the reform an opportunity of urging their views, in the second reading it was withdrawn, and no change was made. We are glad to see that this time the fault has been remedied, and a strong, well-chosen committee appointed to work the matter up. Possibly this time again there may be a failure to secure the reform, but we imagine that if the body of graduates once understand that such a moderate request has been twice baulked, no power in this Province will be able to resist their united action in its favour on another occasion. But we hope to see the Minister of Education and the Legislative Assembly pursue a course of liberal and enlightened acceptance of the deliberately expressed wish of graduates.

Other minor amendments were carried, valuable as accessories in working out a measure of reform.

The introduction of a discussion on the subject of the financial position of the University led to a disagreeable conflict of opinion. Upper Canada College has so many friends in Convocation that the proposal of a spoliation of that institution in favour even of the University, could not but lead to a breach of that harmony which should characterize such a body as Convocation. Moreover, it would be prudent for those who advance the idea of the spoliation of Upper Canada College to recollect that University College has plenty of enemies, and that *mutatis mutandis*, the arguments applicable in support of the plundering of Upper Canada College are also capable of being used in support of the despoiling of University College. We earnestly hope that whatever position graduates may be compelled to take as politicians, they will not forget that as graduates they should be very cautious before they proclaim any doctrine of the spoliation of any sister institution. To say nothing of the iniquity of such a proceeding, it is imprudent. The adjourned meeting is to be held on the eighth instant, at the same place, and it is hoped that there will be a full attendance, and a deliberate discussion of the best means for the assistance of the University. We will ourselves endeavor to discuss the subject at an early date.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO.

In a series of papers which I contributed to the 'Varsity a few weeks ago I endeavored to make clear all that is implied in

the term "affiliation," as used to describe the relation between the University of Toronto and those colleges which are "affiliated" to it. In this paper I propose to explain more particularly the relation existing between the University of Toronto and University College, and as this is a question on which there is some confusion of thought, I shall appeal to higher authority than myself for confirmation of my views. The University of Toronto is an examining and degree-conferring body which is prohibited by statute from teaching, and which is directed by statute to admit to its examinations on reasonable conditions all who make application, no matter where they may have received their education. University College is closely connected with the University financially since they subsist on the income derived from the same undivided endowment, but it is under separate and independent academical management, and while its special function is to teach it has no power to confer degrees. That the majority of graduates and undergraduates of the University have been educated in the College while the majority of the College students have passed or intend to pass the University examinations, does not in any way destroy the distinction between the two—a distinction which the recent affiliation of other colleges to the University has brought into much greater prominence than it formerly had.

I am happy to be able to cite in support of the above view of these institutions the opinions of two eminent men who have long been honorably and usefully connected with the University of Toronto. In 1860 a Parliamentary Committee was appointed to consider petitions from the supporters of certain denominational colleges for a share of the income from the University endowment. This application was resisted by both the Senate of Toronto University and the Council of University College, Mr. Langton, who then held the position of Vice-Chancellor, appearing on behalf of the former, and Dr. Wilson, then a professor in and now President of the College, for the latter. Their statements are amongst the most valuable commentaries we have on the University Act of 1853, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of directing to them the attention of all who wish to understand the real functions and mutual relation of the two institutions. Speaking of the above statute, and comparing it with the one passed in 1849, Mr. Langton said :\*

The Act, therefore, goes on to establish the University as a distinct body ; to constitute University College out of the teaching staff of the former University as a College supported by the state endowment ; and the 17th Section enacts that all existing colleges in Upper and Lower Canada, and such others as may afterwards be so declared, shall have all the rights of affiliated colleges, and that students who have pursued in any of them the course of study prescribed by the University shall be as eligible for degrees and other distinctions as those educated in University College.

The passages I have emphasized state with admirable precision the true theory of the University of Toronto as defined by the Legislature. Mr. Langton went on to say that under its constitution, "instead of pursuing all their studies in Toronto, students might be allowed to pursue them anywhere, as in the University of London," and added :

I entirely concur in the views stated by almost all the gentlemen who have appeared before the Committee, that the true policy is to have one central body for conferring degrees which judges of candidates only by their proficiency in the subjects of examination prescribed without regard to the college in which they have pursued their studies, or indeed whether they have been students in any incorporated college at all, a point strongly insisted upon by the Oxford Commissioners (p. 213 et seq., Heywood's Edition) and sanctioned by the revised charter of the University of London. For such a system of university education the Amendment Act makes provision, and the statutes framed by the Senate are adapted to give it effect.

The last assertion was quite true at the time Mr. Langton made it ; but any one who looks at the regulation in the Arts

\* The quotations are from the Parliamentary Blue Book published at Quebec in 1860. The italics are my own.

curriculum respecting attendance at lectures can see for himself that it is not true now. The liberal intentions of the Legislature in this respect have been defeated by the requirements there laid down, so that no man\* can now take a university degree without spending at least one session in an affiliated college. Mr. Langton, in continuation of his statement, dwelt strongly on the fact that no "exclusive privileges" in relation to the University of Toronto had been conferred on University College by either the Government or the Senate, and that the University scholarships were as open to non-students as to students of that institution. "A student of Queen's or Victoria may hold one, if he can obtain it, and may continue to pursue his studies there ; or a young man who can come up to the standard may hold one, whether he belong to any college or not." As no student of Queen's or Victoria can now hold a scholarship in the University of Toronto and pursue his studies at his own college ; and as no "young man" can now hold a scholarship and pursue his studies without attending an affiliated college, Mr. Langton's statement on this point will serve as a valuable indicator to show how much narrower the University of Toronto is in its twenty-eighth year than it was in its eighth. The only other citation I shall make here from Mr. Langton's evidence is the assertion, put in the form of a question to the Provost of Trinity College, "that the Oxford Commissioners strongly recommend that students unconnected with any college should be admitted to the University, specially to meet the case of persons of maturer years, and that the same system is pursued in the London University ;" and the following expression of his opinion on the position of University College :

I entirely concur in the general principle of the London University, that students, wherever educated, should have the same facilities for obtaining scholastic honors—the principle upon which our University was constituted, and which has been fully acted on by the Senate.

No one ever makes the blunder of regarding London University and London University College as practically one and the same institution, and the sooner the time comes when no one will either intentionally or unintentionally confound our own University with University College, the better it will be for both institutions, unless we are to have a complete consolidation of the two.

Dr. Wilson's statement before the committee was briefer than Mr. Langton's, and it did not deal so fully with the relation between the University of Toronto and its affiliated colleges, including University College. On this point, however, he made a few remarks which amply corroborate Mr. Langton's view of that relationship. Speaking in defence of the system of options in the University curriculum he said :

In reference to the whole system of options, I am surprised that the gentlemen who advocate the interests of Victoria and Queen's College fail to perceive that, so far from involving any injustice to affiliated colleges with an inferior staff to University College, they are the very means of placing all on an equality. . . . Permit me to add that no opinion is more unfounded than that which supposes that the professors of University College desire any monopoly of the University of Toronto, its examinations, scholarships or other privileges.

Dr. Wilson even went so far as to disclaim on behalf of himself and his colleagues in University College any "desire to monopolize the endowment of the Provincial University," and speaking of State aid to denominational colleges, he made the following significant statement :

In England also the London University confers degrees and university honors on students presenting themselves at its examinations, from Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Wesleyan Methodist, Congregationalist, Baptist and other denominational colleges ; but they neither receive nor claim any other share of the University funds, excepting the common right enjoyed, not only by all their students, but by every one possessed of the requisite knowledge wheresoever acquired, to compete for the University Scholarships. In these respects, therefore, the University of Toronto fully carries out the plan adopted by the London University.

It certainly did so when this statement was made ; just as certainly it does not do so now, as I have already pointed out. In another part of his evidence Dr. Wilson said :

If, therefore, the Province provides an adequately endowed and well-appointed Provincial College to which every youth in the Province has free access, without any distinction of sect or party ; and also provides a University to grant degrees, not only to such students but to all who are found

\* The softer sex have in this respect a decided advantage, for which, however, the ladies are primarily indebted to the illiberality of the College Council rather than to the liberality of the University Senate.



qualified to pass the requisite examinations in like manner without reference to sect or party, they can have no just ground of complaint who, declining to avail themselves of the Provincial institutions to which they have free access, choose to take their preparatory training under professors and teachers appointed by their own denominations.

In view of the unmistakable intention of the Legislature, as embodied in the University Acts of 1853, 1873, and 1877, and of the above interpretation of these statutes by men of admitted eminence and experience, it is to be hoped that we have heard for the last time that Toronto University and University College are practically the same institution. They are very different institutions; and were the policy of those who seek to identify them allowed to prevail, the result would be speedy disaster to both. In that event the proper course would be to make them one in name as they would then be in reality.

WM. HOUSTON.

#### OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

"THE work of editing a College paper is freely given, without thought of reward or even of praise." *Berkeleyan* (University of California). Since reading the above the Firm is conscious of a just feeling of pride. We know the work is given freely, but we had been all in the dark as to the reward and praise. Now that we know about these also, can we remain in a virtuous state of indifference to their seductive influence? Every one of us, from the Chief down to the Imp, has nobly decided that he can.

Of course, when the mouse dies a natural death, it's quite another matter as regards the tail. A Wellesley student (those Wellesley girls are such swells at science) has advanced the theory that it's to act as a tombstone when mousey's buried. I am inclined to believe this theory to be little better than a mere assertion. At the same time I am at a loss for a more plausible explanation. Perhaps the *Cornell Review*, which seems to know (what nobody else does) all about the doings of people who lived before Tlion was burnt, might condescend to give a solution of this un-Homeric problem.

MISS DIMPSEY declares that, whenever she reads of the wrongs of Ireland, her heart goes "pity Pat."

SOME naturalists at Yale are concerned as to why the cat invariably swallows the mouse head first. They evidently know nothing of the native genius of cats, or they would not ask such silly questions. It is in order that the tail of the mouse may come in at the end of the meal as a tooth-pick.

*La Verité*, the semi-official Ultramontane organ of Quebec, well represents its kind. The columns of the paper are taken up with sensational alarms as to coming religious and political revolutions, the inevitable consequence in the abandonment of the principles of the Ultramontane party. In the last issue there is published, at the wish of the Archbishop of Quebec, the letter of Cardinal Simeoni, which rebukes the turbulent faction at Montreal, who opposed the establishment in that city of a branch of Laval University. In transmitting the Cardinal's missive, the Archbishop requests that no editorial comment be made thereon. M. Jardivel carries out the behest with very bad grace; in fact, though observing the letter of the command, he practically eludes it, as I judge from the following ebullition:

"Certain persons, who certainly ought to know better, have it seems sneered a good deal at our articles in which we spoke of the four streams of opinion which are beginning to flow in the country: Gallicanism, Liberal-Catholicism, Indifferentism and Radicalism. In the view of these persons, all this is pure delusion. All very fine, good friends; you may laugh whilst there is peace. But twenty-five years hence, when education shall have been secularized, and our schools, colleges, and our Catholic University passed under the control of laymen, your laugh won't be so loud."

In the best interests of the sister Province, it is to be hoped that the time allowed by M. Jardivel for the fulfilment of his prediction may be shortened. If the French population of Quebec have to wait another quarter of a century for the blessing of an unsectarian university, their fate is a hard one. Without that acquisition the Lower Canadians must continue to possess inviolate the worst educational system on this continent.

SPOT has a definition: GRAVE, an ugly hole in the ground, which lovers and poets wish they were in, but take uncommon pains to keep out of.

It is rumored in the college press that a Cornell man has been seriously hurt by an accidental discharge of his duties.

CALIFORNIA. The Faculty of the University of California has suspended for the rest of the term fourteen sophomores convicted of hazing, and has voted that in future all culprits shall be visited with summary expulsion.

PRINCETON. Some twenty freshmen have appeared at the bar of the civil court, to answer to the charge of stoning a professor's house, breaking young trees and demolishing sixteen street lamps. It is thought they will serve a term in the State prison. Some of the juveniles of this institution once indulged in rather a similar freak. For the sake of the institution we published nothing about it; still these young men will gather from the action of the aggressed at Princeton how leniently they have been dealt with.

MCGILL COLLEGE. A meeting of the corporation of McGill University was held on Friday, 25th of January, when the examiners for the year were appointed and several important alterations made in the curriculum of the University. Last summer it was rumored that sweeping reforms were about to be carried, but no more was heard of the matter for a long time, and most people thought that it had fallen through. Quite an excitement was therefore aroused on Thursday when it became known that the change had been effected. The most important features seem to be as follows: The Matriculation has been made more difficult, as candidates must now pass in two Latin authors and in two Greek authors, although if they pass creditably this will allow afterwards greater exemptions than at present. In the Third Year mathematics may be exempted like other subjects, and some foreign language or Hebrew may be substituted for Latin or Greek. Optics have been removed from the ordinary course in the Third Year, and in the Fourth Year it has been made possible for ordinary candidates for B.A. to receive an exemption from mathematics. The rule for exemptions too has been changed, so that they may be granted to students who have passed first-class in their selected subject, although they may not have passed second-class in all the rest.

The committee appointed by the governors to inquire into the library dispute, have recommended that Prof. Markgraf be removed from the position of librarian at the end of this session, and that Mr. Taylor, the present assistant, be raised to the post. This arrangement is sure to give general satisfaction, as Mr. Taylor has been well known since his connection with the college for his affability and administrative tact.

Messrs. Green and Street, Applied Science, are at present in the hospital with typhoid fever, Mr. Street's being we believe a very serious case. Mr. W. Hunter, President of the Junior Year in Arts, is also laid up with pleurisy.

The question is beginning to be asked, why McGill cannot support a college paper when even the Presbyterian College is able to do so. We certainly cannot see why another attempt should not be made to start one, and if possible to get the Presbyterian journal to amalgamate. If this were done, and if all the other affiliated colleges were asked to co-operate, a very fair monthly could be published. The great point would be to select able men to take charge of the undertaking.

The usual meetings at the debating societies came off on Friday evening. The subject of Mr. Weston's lecture to be delivered before the Undergraduates Literary Society on Friday, 10th inst., is "A trip up the Pacific to Alaska, with some sketches of that great land."

THERE are over one hundred and fifty college papers published in the United States. Many are monthlies, more fortnightlies, and fewest are weeklies. Yale has one daily, Harvard two and Cornell one. There are eleven college papers in Canada, at least: the *Acadia Athenaeum*, from Wolfville, N. S.; the *King's College Record*, Windsor, N. S.; the *Dalhousie Gazette*, Halifax, N. S.; the *Spectator*, St. Laurent College, Montreal; the *Queen's College Journal*, Kingston; the *Acta Victoriana*, Cobourg; the *Rouge et Noire*, Trinity College, Toronto; the *Knoxite*, Knox College, Toronto, (manuscript); the *Hamilton Portfolia*, Hamilton Ladies' College; and the *Helmuth World*, Helmuth Ladies' College, London.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. The Glee Club is to sing *Alouette*, and the Drum March, at Osgoode.

An ordinary meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society was held in Moss Hall last Friday evening—the President in the chair. Messrs. J. J. Elliot, H. E. Reid, and R. R. Cochrane were received as members. In the Senior Division Mr. Baird read an interesting essay on "A Query on Punishment." Messrs. Wiltsie and Hughes gave readings, which showed that it is no easy matter to read well without preparation. The debate was on the question, "Is Hereditary Aristocracy Beneficial to a Country?" Messrs. Ames, Balderson and Bowes spoke on the affirmative, and Messrs. Wissler, Levisonte and Leslie on the negative, the speeches showing no lack of originality, but sad lack of preparation. After a few remarks from the chairman on the debate and the question, decision was given for the affirmative.

In the Junior Division (the 2nd Vice-President in the chair) Mr. J. L. Campbell read an essay on "The Life and Works of Wordsworth;" and readings were given by Messrs. Bristol, Dewart and Wilgress. The same question was debated as in the Senior Division, by Messrs. McPherson, Buchanan and Ormiston on the affirmative, and Messrs. McIntyre, Osler and McLeod on the negative. The decision was left to the meeting, and given in favor of the negative. On the society coming together again some discussion took place as to the advisability of having another public meeting this year, and it was decided that on account of the conversazione and "Antigoni," no further public meeting will be held. The President read a communication from the President of the Harford Union, sent with their Constitution. The Corresponding Secretary was instructed to acknowledge the receipt of the communication and establish a correspondence with the Harford Union. Roll call showed an attendance of nearly 100 members.

According to announcement, a meeting of the students was held in Moss Hall last Friday afternoon to choose representatives to the Students' Union. There were about 150 present. Mr. Creelman occupied the chair, and Mr. Dewart acted as Secretary. It was moved and carried that the representatives be chosen according to years, viz., two from the Fourth, Third and Second, and one from the First Year, seven being the number to which the College is entitled. The ballot was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows: Fourth Year, Creelman and Clark; Third Year, Lobb and McPherson; Second Year, Bowes and Holmes; First Year, H. E. Irwin. A membership roll being opened, 32 were enrolled as members. The first meeting of the representatives will be held in Temperance Hall, Temperance Street, next Saturday, at 8 p. m.

The University College Natural Science Association met in the School of Science on Wednesday evening. Dr. Ferguson was elected an honorary member, and Mr. W. P. McKenzie an ordinary member. Mr. G. A. Smith gave to the society a new classification of Silicates, which compares favorably with the classifications now in existence. For the purposes of students who are preparing for examination it is especially adapted. Mr. W. Bradley read a paper on a Section of South Joggins, in Nova Scotia, in which he described the different strata of the place and their surroundings. He also mentioned the more common fossils, illustrating by examples collected while there last summer.

Rehearsals of the Greek play are held every Saturday. To-morrow, Convocation Hall will be used for this purpose.

The translation of the "Antigone" that will be used for the libretto is by Lewis Campbell, M. A. Oxon., LL.D., Glasgow, Professor of Greek in the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, and has kindly been lent to Professor Hutton.

The conversazione tickets are now in the hands of the committee for distribution, and work is progressing favorably. It is expected that no difficulty will be experienced as regards finances, though no efforts will be made to build up as large a surplus as last year. The scientific display will be much more elaborate than last year, and promises to be one of the most attractive features of the entertainment. The Music Committee has found no difficulty in making up an excellent programme. On the whole, the conversazione promises to be a grand success.

The armory is to be one of the points of interest at the approaching conversazione.

Miss McManus and Miss Millie Hillary are to sing at the conversazione.

Miss Alice Cummings, of Hamilton, who carried off the scholarship in Moderns at the Junior Matriculation examination of 1880, is to play at the conversazione.

Company drill was resumed last Tuesday under Lieutenant Acheson.

The battalion is likely to go to Kingston on the 24th May.

The annual dinner of the University Rifles takes place to-night at the National Club.

TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—At a general meeting of students held on the 26th ult., Messrs. R. M. Coulter and J. H. C. Willoughby were appointed to represent the school on the executive committee of the Students' Union. At the same meeting a committee of one from each year was appointed to receive the names and fees of those wishing to join the Union; and it is confidently expected that the Toronto School will have a larger percentage of her students on the roll of the Union than any other affiliated institution.

A business meeting of the T. S. M. Medical Society was held on Friday evening 27th ult. with the 2nd Vice-President in the chair. The roll of the Society was increased by some twenty new members, and among the names proposed for membership was that of our first lady candidate. Several new publications were ordered for the Reading Room, the constitution was ordered to be printed, and other business of an important character was transacted.

## DANDY-LINES.

On a charming summer night,  
When the stars in lustre bright,  
Took advantage of the absence of their queen;  
A fourth year Mathematic man,  
With sunken eye, pale face and wan,  
Invited by the sparkling skies,  
Which winked at him with myriad eyes,  
Went forth to view the scene,

But fatigues of calculation,  
Had brought on great prostration,  
So he gently laid his form upon the ground.  
Then this mathematic nob,  
Opened wide his hairless gob,  
And there settled in his face a look profound.

Then he raised his thoughtful eye,  
To contemplate the sky,  
And solve astronomic problems in his brain;  
And he soliloquized, "I'd fain,  
Skip that man this coming May,  
But the thing's as plain as day;  
There's no blessed neyrotat,  
Nor any such as that,  
Can ever get my coveted B.A."  
So as it was near a river,  
From care himself to deliver,  
He quietly rolled himself therein.

## MORAL.

If in mathematic men,  
Such aims predominate,  
Let them take a gal away,  
To the smooth and glassy bay,  
There to freely skate.

B.

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

(By the President of the Toronto School of Medicine, Medical Society.)

Before commencing my brief remarks, which will be included under the rather formidable title of an "inaugural address," allow me to thank the members of the Toronto School of Medicine Medical Society for the pleasing mark of confidence which they have shown me by electing me to the position of first president of a society which has been established under such auspicious circumstances. I will consider it a great pleasure and high honor to act as your president during the remainder of this year, and I will cheerfully add my efforts to yours to make this organization, what I feel assured it will be, a perfect and thorough success.

I shall say something about—(1st) The objects and prospects of our society; (2nd) The school with which we are connected; (3rd) The profession we have chosen.

The society will include the teachers in the school, who will be members *ex officio*, and all students and graduates from the school, who are admitted under the conditions laid down in the constitution; and it is hoped that this will include all the students who are at present, or may hereafter be in attendance, together with a large majority of the graduates. In order to encourage the graduates to join, it has been decided to admit them as life members upon one payment of the ordinary annual fee. Our objects are to have a literary and scientific medical society, whose members will read original papers on medical subjects, which will be followed by discussions, or give critical readings from scientific medical authors, or present clinical cases and pathological specimens for examination. Some may think we are ambitious, and undertaking too much. I don't think so. I see no reason why we cannot conduct the society in the same way as ordinary medical clinical societies are conducted. Although we may not exhibit the ripe wisdom of a Jenner or the oratorical abilities of a Paget, still we may have papers and discussions both entertaining and instructive. I have too much confidence in the zeal, energy and ability of our class of students to believe that they will recognize the possibility of anything like failure in connection with this undertaking. I place great reliance in the enthusiasm of undergraduates, and I believe that this society will not only be successful, but will be able to set a good example in many respects to some of our societies throughout the country, including the Toronto Medical Society, which, in a city containing nearly 200 doctors, can barely muster an average attendance of 20. If we have any such miserable number present at any of our regular meetings, I shall indeed feel sadly disappointed.

We are also to have a reading room and library, which is to be managed by the officers of our society. The need of something of this kind has long been felt, and the students have raised funds during late years with which to procure a number of daily and weekly papers, but the results have not been in all respects satisfactory. Such papers have been destroyed before the majority have had any chance to read them, or used for various ignoble purposes, such as making them into balls to shie at each other's heads; and rumor says that these deadly weapons have even found their way into the lecture rooms during lecture hours, and narrowly escaped falling on the devoted heads of some of our lecturers. Under the new *regime* all papers and medical journals will be placed on files, and carefully protected in the large and commodious room set apart for that purpose. At the same time

a commencement has been made towards a library, a number of books having been ordered; and it is expected that in a comparatively short time, this library will become very valuable to both the students and the undergraduates living in the city.

Of the school with which we are connected I need say but little. After a vigorous existence of 39 years it occupies to-day a place in the front rank of our medical institutions in America. I will not refer to anything in its past history, excepting the fact that its present prosperous condition is due to the faithful and untiring exertions of the senior members of the faculty, under the most adverse and discouraging circumstances, for many years after its organization. Their indefatigable zeal, industry and perseverance, together with their well known ability—each being a thorough master of his department—overcame all obstacles, and advanced the institution to a position which commands the respect and confidence of such large numbers in this and other countries. The school must certainly be congratulated on the fact that these men are still able to take charge of their departments; still exhibit the same energy which carried them through difficulties years ago; still take the same deep interest in the welfare of the students under their charge; and in teaching you are able, through their long and broad experience, to make their instructions thoroughly practical in a way that the mere bookworm knows nothing of. Allow me to express a wish which I am sure is yours as well as mine: may they long be spared to occupy the positions they have filled with so much ability and with such successful results for many years; and may it be the highest ambition of the younger members of the teaching staff whom they have associated with them, to so work that they may become fit successors to such worthy men.

The Toronto School of Medicine never occupied a better position than it does at the present time; it never had a more faithful and earnest class of students; and there never existed a more kindly feeling between teachers and students than now. I was much pleased with a remark made by a member of this society when discussing the subject of the election of a president. I suggested the advisability of choosing some one outside the teaching staff of the school for the position, as done in other societies, as, for instance, the University College Literary and Scientific Society. His reply was that, although such was the fact, there appeared to exist more intimate relationship between teachers and students in this institution than generally existed in other colleges, and the members of the society preferred a member of the teaching staff to act as their president. Nothing can be more gratifying than the knowledge of the existence of such a cordial feeling, and nothing can do more to insure and increase the popularity of the school. May it ever continue; may the teachers ever welcome in the most kindly manner every new student who casts his lot among us; may they ever be courteous, considerate and patient with those to whom they impart their instructions; may they ever take the deepest interest in the success of all who graduate from this institution!

We look upon our students as reasonable intelligent beings, young men who have completed their general education, and after careful deliberation have chosen the profession of medicine as the work of their life, and we endeavor to inspire confidence by working faithfully for their advancement. We make no attempt to command respect by clubbing them, after the manner of those valiant men, the members of the Toronto Police Force; in fact, so far as I am personally concerned, notwithstanding the authority vested in me as the president of this society, I would deem it highly imprudent under any circumstances to make an attempt to club the stalwart curator of our reading room and library.

The profession we have chosen! It is often called the noble one. We are very fond of calling it such ourselves. Perhaps some would like to think the logical inference follows that we are all very noble in our character, disposition and conduct towards our fellow-creatures; and yet I fear that men exist in our profession of whom it would take an exceedingly critical examination, both macroscopical and microscopical, to discover much that is truly noble. I don't care to hear too much about such nobility; I don't care to see the members of any profession endeavor to surround themselves with any such pretentious mantle, and fancy that they hold a monopoly of all that is just, virtuous and charitable; I prefer to think that true nobility of character may be exemplified in any man, whatever his profession, calling, or occupation may be, and must be judged solely by his own individual actions in his own peculiar sphere.

It may be interesting to consider the opinions held by the public concerning our profession in the past, and compare them with those existing at the present time. Four hundred years ago the occupation of a surgeon—or a "bleeder," as he was then called—was considered one of the most menial, and placed on a par with that of a butcher and executioner. Long after this time, or about 300 years ago, we may get a good idea of the status of the physician by reading an advertisement which appeared in one of the newspapers. I take this item and others which follow from Dr. Whittaker's exceedingly interesting introductory lecture on physiology. The following are the words: "Wanted, in a family who have had bad health, a sober steady person in the capacity of doctor, surgeon and man mid-wife. He must occasionally act as butler, and dress hair and wigs. He will be required to read prayers, and to preach a sermon every Sunday. A good salary will be given." The writers of those days were in the habit, when they did notice physicians, of referring to them in the most contemptuous way as ignorant knaves or fools. It is scarcely pleasant to contemplate the fact that our profession, which we consider at least a respectable one, should within comparatively recent times have been held in such contempt. Perhaps it would become us to feel and show something like violent indignation over the fact that our predecessors should have been placed on a par with butlers, barbers and preachers, but we would do well to first inquire as to the causes. Let us examine some of their methods of treatment. The following elegant prescription, Sterne tells us, was given to him by his physician: "A cock flayed alive and boiled with poppy seeds, then pounded in a mortar and

afterwards passed through a sieve. There is to be one crayfish in it, and it must be a male one; a female would do more hurt than good."

We have an account in the Annals of Louis XIV., two centuries ago, of the illness with consumption of one of the principal ladies in the Court. "On consultation the doctors bled her in the arm; next week they bled her in the temple. Strange to relate, she was still worse on the following week, and the consultation was more anxious still. But there were resources in medicine in the days of the Great Emperor. The doctors bled her again, this time in the toe." It is believed they never bled her any more; but there is no record of the doctors having been hanged.

We are further told by Dr. Whittaker that small-pox was treated in accordance with the doctrine of signatures. The bed-covers were red to bring the pustules to the surface. The bed furniture and bed-hangings were all red, and red substances were to be looked upon by the patient, and the very drinks were red. John of Gaddesden, physician to Edward II., directed his patients to be wrapped up in scarlet dresses; and he says that when the son of the renowned King of England (Edward II.) lay sick of the small-pox, "I took care that everything around the bed should be of a red color, which succeeded so completely that the prince was restored to perfect health without a vestige of a pustule remaining."

Under these circumstances, can we wonder that a profession should have been held in contempt when its members totally ignored the necessity for scientific research, when they did not even exhibit the first grain of common sense or good judgment. We turn with a great deal of pleasure from this sad though rather ludicrous picture, to a consideration of the position held by the profession at the present day; and in doing so, we find a marked change. I don't wish here to be led into anything like self-glorification, but I think I may be permitted to say that at the present day, on this continent at least, no member of society commands more love and greater respect from his fellow-citizens than the faithful physician who does his work honestly and well. At a recent medical school dinner I heard the Premier of the Ontario Government, while eulogizing the profession, refer to the fact of the large number of doctors in the Local Legislature, there being eight, and out of the eight seven were good Grits, and the other doctor was such a jolly good fellow that he ought to be a good Grit too. This was of course a dreadful way to speak of that poor solitary Tory medico, but as far as I could understand, the whole tenor of his speech was to show that the great strength of his government, which had for so many years so successfully withstood many violent Tory onslaughts, was entirely due to the strong support that he received from the medical members in the House. I suppose, on the other hand, we may infer that the strength of the Dominion Government lies in the fact that the Minister of Railways is a doctor, and the hope of the country is that he may carefully watch and administer a suitable pill, when required, to that huge and dreadful monopoly, the C. P. R. Syndicate, which it is feared will devour every green thing in the land.

As to the opinions of the public, I will say nothing more, but quote the words of England's noble Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone, in a recent speech: "And speaking of the body of the profession even as an observer from without, it is impossible for us not to notice the change; it is impossible for us not to see how far more strongly now than of old the medical man of to-day conforms to those general laws of common sense and prudence, which are, after all, universal laws of human life in every one of its departments. It is impossible not to see his greater and more sustained earnestness of purpose, that elevated sense of the professional dignity, that general exaltation of his aims in the exercise of his profession."

Why is it that in a couple of centuries such a marked change has taken place in the sentiments of outsiders respecting the profession of medicine? The reasons may be easily found in the wonderful advances made during the interval in the various departments pertaining to medicine, especially mechanics, chemistry, physiology and pathology. Many able and industrious men, such as Harvey, Hunter, Haller, Bell, and others, whose name is legion, have spent their lives in laborious scientific investigations, and the result of their labors is the knowledge which we may now possess respecting the circulation of the blood, respiration, the nervous system, and the various organs of the body with their functions. The invention of the microscope alone has opened up a vast and formerly hidden field for examination. Dr. Perre, of University College, London, says: "Hippocrates' patients measured only six feet by two, and the external inspection of them with the unaided eye was a matter which could be accomplished in a few moments. At the present day, when, magnified by the higher powers of the microscope, man is practically as high as Mont Blanc and about a mile in width across the shoulders, we physicians, metaphorically speaking, laboriously crawl over him like pigmies on some huge hill-side."

From accurate knowledge, thus founded on a scientific basis, we are now taught the rational treatment of diseases, which presents such a strange contrast when compared with the ignorant and absurd empiricism of the past. As this scientific basis on which one's knowledge rests distinguishes the medicine of to-day from that of the past, so will your scientific training, I trust, distinguish you from the ignorant quack and dishonest charlatan, who may for a short time flourish by your side. While, however, it is of the greatest importance to acquire a thorough scientific knowledge of your profession, it is equally important that you also devote your energies to the acquirement of an acquaintance with the practical. In an obscure case you should, in the first place, make every effort to arrive at a correct diagnosis, and when you have reached this point, or as near it as you can, you should go on to pursue your treatment with equal assiduity. If, after a thorough examination of your patient, you look as wise as an owl, and explain in very scientific terms, which he cannot understand, and which perhaps you don't understand yourself, that grave complications exist in connection with his internal economy, and possibly he may collapse, or, in another event, taking an opposite view of the case, possibly he may not collapse, and do not at once put forth your most strenuous endeavors to effect a cure, your patient may become disgusted, and send off for your neighbor, Dr. Praxis. It is

contended by some that the tendency of the age is to pay too little attention to the practical, especially in therapeutics, or in other words, that we cultivate the science of medicine at the expense of the art. I believe that there is sometimes some foundation for such a contention; and I myself have witnessed consultations by very able men, where over an hour was spent in making out a diagnosis, and about two minutes consumed in the discussion of the treatment to be pursued. Perhaps there is not as yet in this country much danger of becoming too scientific, and from this cause not sufficiently practical; but I think there is at the present day a great danger of our students becoming sceptical about the virtues of medicines; and I consider it a grave misfortune for any young man to commence the practice of medicine without a lively and intelligent faith in the remedies he prescribes. If he possesses not such faith, he is less apt to become imbued with that enthusiasm which invariably leads to success, and he is less likely to inspire that confidence among his patients which is so necessary for their sake as well as his own. If all I have said on this subject is true, and I think there can scarcely be any doubt about it, the inevitable conclusion follows, that it is not safe to neglect anything in your course, whether it be scientific or practical in its nature. If, however, I were allowed to suggest any omission on your part, I would ask you to refrain in the future from indulging in any midnight promenades up Yonge Street with your friends the Bobbies. I can hardly think them advisable in any respect, notwithstanding those great *moral benefits* which, under such circumstances, the policemen must derive from their association with medical students. By the way, it is said that rather an interesting episode happened one evening, not a hundred years ago, when a student of this city, while walking arm in arm with a policeman, asked the latter if people ever mistook him for a post and tied a horse to him, to which Bobby replied, not yet, but it might come to that, as he now had an ass fastened to him.

Before concluding, I think I may safely congratulate those students here present upon their choice of a profession. While it is, without doubt, a laborious and exacting one, it, at the same time, presents as many and as varied opportunities for usefulness as any occupation under the sun. While you may not be able to accumulate vast fortunes, you may at least obtain a respectable competency, and save something besides for the necessities of old age. May such be your experience, one and all! Your responsibilities will be great and serious, and you must assume them to their fullest extent as soon as you become settled in practice. At any moment such an emergency may arise that the life of a mother, a father, a darling child, some fondly loved one, may depend upon your sound judgment and prompt action. May you acquire a fund of both scientific and practical knowledge, which will always correctly guide your conduct in such momentous emergencies. Your chances of observing human nature, while studying patients as well as their diseases, will be ever continuous; and you will often find the apparently genial, affable and generous society man transformed into a selfish churl at his own fireside. On the other hand, you may find the man who is thought by the world to be cold and stern, changed in his own home to a cheerful, fond and considerate husband and father. You may find a frail woman at times as weak as water, and yet, when the life of a loved one becomes endangered, she may exhibit, through long and anxious weeks, powers of endurance and physical strength entirely unknown to ordinary giants. May you be keenly and wisely observant at all times, but may you use the knowledge thus obtained solely for the benefit of your patients. In your daily work as a "family physician," you must of necessity be admitted into the houses of those under your charge on terms of greater intimacy than ordinary friends, and you must learn much given to you in confidence which is not intended for the outside world. May Heaven preserve you from making any improper use of such privileges and confidences; may you love your profession above all earthly things; may you be filled with a zealous enthusiasm which will never know any discouragement; may kind Providence give you the strength, courage and the perseverance to overcome all obstacles; may you earn the gratitude of your patients, which is better than gold; and finally, may prosperity ever attend you and yours.

TOMMY GRAY.

A tom-cat sits upon the garden fence,  
And warbles wildly to its mate—  
"Oh! when the world has gone to bed,  
I love to sit and mew-till-late."

But whilst that cat did sit and sing,  
Up springs a boarder mad with hate,  
Who shoots that cat to fiddle-strings;  
He also loves to mu-til-ate.—*Tech.*

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

##### RECENT CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR.—At a meeting of the Senate held on November 25th, a committee consisting of Drs. Oldright, Richardson and Fulton was appointed to consider the question of practical examinations in forensic chemistry and hygiene. It is, however, only with the former subject the writer here proposes to deal. On reference to the latest medical

curriculum, we find that physiological chemistry is required at the second professional, and forensic chemistry at the final examination. It might be interesting to the laity, and, indeed, to the great majority of the medical profession, to know what is included under these high-sounding names. With regard to the former, I believe I am strictly correct, having taken the course, when I say that the only thing of any importance to the ordinary practitioner included under physiological chemistry, is an analysis of urine, normal and diseased, which any one with an ordinary knowledge of chemistry can accomplish in a few lessons, and yet the School of Practical Science demands a fee of \$10 for instruction in this subject.

With regard to the other subject, forensic chemistry, so little is known as to the meaning of the term even by the Senate themselves, that that body has thought it necessary to appoint the above committee to find out. That committee has reported, and yet I fail to discover anything not already included in the practical chemistry of the first year, or the physiological chemistry and histology of the second year. And yet the School of Practical Science demands another fee of \$10 for instruction in this subject.

If the Senate were a body appointed to determine how to obtain the largest amount of fees from medical students, they could not perform that work more faithfully than at present. If, as the writer has heard suggested, it is the desire of the Senate to make a good appearance on their curriculum and class lists by multiplying subjects, they can still do so, and relieve the students of at least one fee by requiring both physiological and forensic chemistry at the same examination.

In conclusion this may seem to be a small matter, but, when taken in connexion with numerous other fees and grievances not so easily remedied, which medical students have to bear, it becomes a matter of considerable importance; and these considerations are offered at the present time in view of the meeting of Convocation on the 8th inst., when Dr. Oldright, who is generally credited with the initiation of the numerous changes in the medical curriculum, may have an opportunity of justifying himself to his constituents.

MEDICO.

#### NOTICE.

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Applications to be addressed to H. S. Osler, Esq., Secretary Finance Committee, from whom all information can be obtained.

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MAURICE HUTTON,  
Chairman of Committee.

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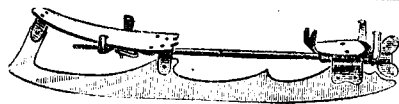
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