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THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

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No. 21.

Editorial Comments.



At the last meeting of the Senate a statute was passed providing that in the pass course Greek or French and German be required in each year of the course instead of two of the three as now. This change is no less important than surprising; what it involves will be more apparent after consideration of the phases through which this question has passed. Let us review them.

When the first regulation on the subject was made we cannot say, but as far back as 1880 it was felt that pass men should know something of French or German before being granted their degree, for the regulation was then in vogue that in the first and second years some *two* of the three languages, Greek, French, German, should be taken; there was a slight difference in the second, the pass men being required to read the honor work of French or German but to take only a *pass* standing. At the same time there was the option of Hebrew in place of either the French or German, but this is a minor matter and does not affect the question at issue. Thus, a pass man might take Greek and French without the German or Greek and German without the French; he had the further option of taking French in place of the Greek or German in place of the Greek. Plainly Greek was considered nothing more than the equal of French or German in the first and second years. This is the way the matter has stood for the past ten years until last spring when a change was made. Up till then no options had been allowed in the third and fourth years; Latin and Greek were required. The Senate then decided to allow an option in these years and of course the same one that they had been allowing for many years in the first and second. The equality of French, German and Greek having been thus long recognized in the lower years, the same principle was applied in the higher. The regulation was made that in the third and fourth years and consequently throughout the whole course two of the three languages French, German and Greek would be required. This was in no way a question of the equality or inequality of the three languages, for this, as has been shown, had been decided long before; it was merely a question of making the practice in the third and fourth years conform to that of the first and second—a very desirable thing indeed.

But the last enactment of the Senate changes all this and upsets everything that has been the practice for so many years; it takes us back to the position in which affairs stood ten or fifteen years ago. The new regulation provides that Greek or French and German be required. Under the new law, therefore, a man can get his degree without knowing a word of either French or German—a thing no one has been able to do during the past decade. This is undoubtedly a retrograde step, one distinctly opposed to the whole tendency of the age. Can the University of Toronto afford to take such a step? And why take it? What reasons have been shown? When and whence has the new light come to show that the modern languages aren't equally as necessary and as useful to the modern educated man as Greek, or, in fact, the Classics? The significance of such an action and its effects on the courses and curriculum cannot have been thoroughly realised or there would certainly have been some discussion in the public press. True, there has been a one-sided discussion in *The Educational Monthly* of the question of

the equality of Greek, French or German, but certainly nothing has been said on the much more important question of whether the University of Toronto ought to graduate men in Arts without requiring a knowledge of at least one of the two greatest living languages.

Should the question be re-opened, of which there is every prospect, there will probably be a more thorough discussion and this retrograde regulation, it is to be hoped, repealed.

The second year students in all the honor departments except Classics, Orientals and Modern Language have a grievance. They are required to take second year pass German, and they say that the work laid down in the curriculum is very much more than they can do, and they therefore propose to petition again to be relieved of some of it. We cannot but have a fellow-feeling for our brethren in distress, and cannot help hoping that they may be successful; their case certainly deserves to be considered with attention—even with leniency. There are, however, a few points suggested by such an action as the sophomores have taken, to which we wish to refer. There seems to be no question as to whether German should or should not be required of those taking honors in the second year; every one will admit that, in making it compulsory in all but two courses and optional in these, the Senate did what was right. The only question is as to the amount of work required. The petitioners claim that there is too much of it, and that what there is is very difficult. There is certainly more than ever has been on before, and some works that were formerly honor works are now on as pass work; on the other hand, the first year and matriculation work has been increased correspondingly, so that the conditions of these examinations being fulfilled, there is no especial difficulty in the second year work.

But are these conditions fulfilled and can they be? The latter certainly, but the former probably not. It is this fact that gives weight to the petition. To a great extent the petitioners know very little about German; perhaps very few of them, if put to the test now, could take more than a bare pass at matriculation, and yet they have to take second year work. What does this mean? It means that to-day almost the rudiments of French and German are being taught in the University—a most absurd but yet, under existing circumstance, a necessary proceeding. And why necessary? One reason is that a student can matriculate by taking Latin and Greek without the necessity of either French or German. But the real cause is behind this. The fault lies in the Collegiate Institutes and High Schools and in the methods of teaching there. Without wishing to reflect in any way on the good work done by the teachers in those institutions it must be said that to them is greatly due the state of affairs that exists in the University. For the most part the departmental rather than the matriculation examination is made the aim of most students of the great majority of these schools. Boys and girls with no particular aim other than the acquirement of a good education are, immediately after passing the entrance, directed to take third-class certificate work. Passing this they proceed to second-class and then decide to go to the University. Coming up weak in one department of their honor work they are weak students throughout their course; or not having taken the right languages for their after course they find themselves in the position that the second year students are to-day. And

all this could be avoided by a little judicious oversight on the part of the High School teachers. Let the latter make the matriculation their regular course and let them learn early the proclivities and intentions of each scholar and thus direct his or her work so that it won't be wasted. There are some schools whose teachers do this, but they are notable exceptions; the good results following from their work is but a proof of what might be universally so. Let the University be made in fact as well as in name the top stone of our educational system and many of the evils of which we have been speaking will disappear.

Space will not allow us to make more than a mere mention of the plan that has been proposed to the Senate looking to the more effective teaching of the pass subjects in the first and second years. For a long time it has been seen that something had to be done to relieve the jam in the pass subjects of the lower years; the classes have become so large that it is almost impossible to do any really effective teaching. To overcome this it is proposed to divide these large classes into smaller and more workable ones, to exercise a supervision over the pass work, and to allow marks for attendance at lectures and class work done during the term, to count on the general result. Relative standing will be allowed the candidates being ranked in grades as are the honor men. To carry out this plan additions to the teaching staff will have to be made in the language and mathematical departments. These are certainly moves in the right direction. It is to be hoped that the new plan may be put in operation next fall.

In our article on University Publications in last week's issue we inadvertently neglected to state that the Engineering Society of the School of Science publish a pamphlet in which the papers read at that Society are preserved. We have much pleasure in congratulating the Engineers on their enterprise; we hope their good example may be followed by the University.

Well, it's done! For the last time we have filled the editorial page, solicited literary articles, rejected poems—by the way, we are just escaping the deluge of spring poems which was about to fall upon us—read and revised reports, written locals, filled and refilled the waste paper basket and satisfied the voracious and impatient printer—and all for the last time. To-day the last number of the current year is issued, and now it is the time to write the orthodox valedictory after the orthodox fashion. To do this will not take much space nor time. We have worked hard to make *THE VARSITY* a success. We have done our best. If we have done any good we are glad; if we have failed it was not for lack of good intentions. We have praised some things and criticized others; in doing this we have not assumed that we knew everything and that we alone were right, but from the data at our disposal we have drawn our conclusions and expressed our opinion. The professors and instructors have shown an interest in our paper, the graduates have been sympathetic, the undergraduates enthusiastic; all this has been especially pleasing and helpful to us. Of the future we are hopeful. The new editor-in-chief is the man for the position; his staff will doubtless be the best he can procure. If faithful work is done and the same feelings entertained towards *THE VARSITY* as in the past success is certain, and we have one announcement to make. A Commencement Number will probably be published on June 9th, the day we graduate, the powers being propitious. And now we are done. The editorial pen is exhausted—it will write no more.

The editors hope to be able to publish a Commencement Number of *THE VARSITY* on June 9th.

LINES.

Whence come those visions beautiful and tender,
Stealing within me, bearing me along,
Holding me captive, when, in rapt surrender,
I strive to paint them in melodious song?

Whence come those thoughts, that like a river flowing
Stream o'er my spirit in a silver flood,
Why do they vanish, whither are they going,
Fading forever with a fickle mood?

What is that music every sense eluding,
Those soundless melodies only souls can hear,
What is that Presence o'er me cloud-like brooding,
Unseen, unheard, but felt in spirit near?

They are the fair forms of a vast creation,
Whose celestial beauty man hath never seen,
Ever around him, with their inspiration
In the artist's vision and the poet's dream.

W. W. E.

BROWNING'S RING AND THE BOOK.



THE Ring and the Book is one of the most important poems to me that I have read, and also one of the most unsatisfactory. Like most early students of Browning, I had first attempted his lyrics and shorter studies, which seemed very perplexing and uninteresting after the reading of more spontaneous poets. Then, on the advice of a friend, I plunged hopefully into the longest of his works, and now that I have accustomed myself to his manner of thinking, I possess, as it were, a key to his mysticism. This result, together with the deeper understanding of human action which the poem in its entirety produces, constitutes the importance of the poem. The unsatisfactory element referred to is this, that whereas any other poem that possesses the like power of appeal, repays and demands constant perusal; the present work, owing partly to its stupendous length and partly to the uncouthness of the structure, forbids a second reading. Portions of it I can recur to again and again—passages of the most supreme pathos, passages incisive with keen-edged satire, or afire with vehement narrative. Throughout the poem there are the drollest dramatic touches abounding in a kind of titanic humour—I remember most vividly the rollicking description of the rival advocates. Still, in the confined limits allotted to me I must forbear to dwell upon much that is beyond my power to forget, notably the picture painted in Stygian hues of Guido's ghastly household, a companion picture of Guido with the death-dew on his brow (B. R. I. I. 1272 foll.), and the pale, pleading face of Pompilia lying in the solemn hospital like a devastated flower. Her piteous presence haunts us through all the narrative, and literature has nothing more pathetic than the book designated by her name.

The philosophy of the poem is the philosophy of fact, its Protean and evasive qualities, and the vain opinions it evokes from the foolish.

"the world's outcry
Around the rush and ripple of any fact
Fallen stonewise, plumb on the smooth face of things."
—(B. R. I. I. 840.)

This philosophy is foreshadowed in the introduction, illustrated in the many-sidedness of opinion upon one and the same occurrence throughout the poem, and is culminated in the concluding statement:—

"our human speech is naught,
Our human testimony false, our fame
And human estimation words and wind."

The significance of Fact existent and informing all our

actions and the operations of the mind is apparent enough. But who shall sufficiently estimate the value of Fact rescued from oblivion, this dead tale made to live again with mighty influence by the inspiring breath of the poet? Something there is in the story of humanity that mixes with our daily bread, works upon our sympathies, passes, and seems to die, and, in proportion to its magnitude, affects in memory or oblivion the tone of forthcoming years. It is the dignity and high duty of the historian to rebuild the old universal life of public institutions. The poet has another function—the resurrection from the past of whatever may affect, not in so great a measure the mould of national institutions as the conduct of the private life. So by the infusion of his invigorating insight into this shapeless mass the poet relates all its constituents to those ultimate truths which humanity finds so hard to grasp. He never blinks at the appalling realities that meet him on the threshold of inquiry, the malignity of man and the fearful price we pay for living. He can account for our perverted vision and the hap-hazard progress of our history, solving all deficiencies by his scheme of a tentative humanity for which perfection is too mature a product. Again and again he insists upon the fact that man was born to fall and to rise by falling. He prefers the honest, disinterested opinion of the bystander, Half-Rome, though wide of the truth to the specious reasoning in a good cause of the advocate who pleads for Pompilia's life and after her death stabs her dearest interests. It is a humorous picture that he draws of the average mortal passing confident judgment upon current events (it is still in life, for man seems born to talk whether wisely or no) and the exasperating indication of the hollow insincerity of the pleaders is also placed in vivid contrast to the just insight of the one mortal who is sincere among all the spectators—the good and honest Pope. How much Carlyle prizes this quality of insight and capability of prompt action even when inherent in a man like Mirabeau of dissolute life! There is something consolatory in the idea of this serene vision unobstructed by prejudice and partiality piercing to the core of things and unhesitatingly pronouncing the decisive judgment.

There is nothing more precarious and nothing more tenacious than opinion. It shapes itself upon events which are most often connected in a prejudicial degree with self-interest, and hence our judgments are oblique. Still remains the Fact to be the butt of ignorant minds till the perfect opinion rescues it from oblivion, even if to exist only as a law-precedent. The poet-soul of Browning has for the first time conceived completely what is the righteous opinion of the events in this intricate drama, and the world will be loath to let such opinion die. Facts are at bottom obstinate things, yet pliable enough when superficially regarded. In the domain of natural science exact results can be obtained by methods equally exact, and without deeper fathoming we have Fact or Truth as substantial as the human understanding can digest. But in the shadowy field of Ethics, where unsubstantial shreds are blown about by the breath of shifting opinions, and too rarely inwoven into the veritable garment of the Deity, it is the chiefest glory of the poet to perform this duty, and like the mysterious Erd-Geist of Faust

Zu schaffen am sausenden Webstuhl der Zeit,
Und wirken der Gottheit lebendiges Kleid.

PELHAM EDGAR.

The United States Government is now expending \$100,000 in erecting a gymnasium for the West Point cadets.

It is said that Charles K. Landis, the founder of Sea Isle City, has presented to the University of Pennsylvania a tract of five acres of ground there, whereon he proposes to erect a grand marine aquarium. The buildings are to be completed by June 10, and when finished will be under the direct charge of the Biological Department of the University.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The last meeting of the Modern Language Club for this year was held on Monday last. The meeting was English, the subject Arthur Hugh Clough. The programme began with a thoughtful essay by Mr. Munro, '91, on Clough's "Amours de Voyage." In speaking of the "modern school"—in which Clough is classed with Matthew Arnold—the essayist says: "In the treatment of the subjective side of human nature Browning may be considered a great master, but in him there was far more of the 'human with his droppings of warm tears.' In these writers, however, we see at once the shadow of intellect falling across the heart. The *sentiment* of life which may lead us away from the heights of abstraction must be deserted for the guidance of the intellect in its search for the 'Absolute something.'" Of the poem "Amours de Voyage," which is minutely treated in the rest of the essay, he says: "On the one hand is the restlessness of mere intellectuality to escape and be free, on the other the instinct of the human for the social; these are continually striving with one another. Herein is formed the dramatic interest. No mere lifeless conversation concerning right and wrong is this poem, but a well written drama of life and of sorrow, of unsatisfied aims and of withered ambitions; self-satisfying beliefs, long cherished, go down in the contest, and two hearts are left yet unsatisfied, both suffer, but one has caused it all—the one in whom is represented this contest of mind and heart." The next number was a piano solo by Miss Hart. It was brilliantly executed, and heartily enjoyed by all.

An essay was then read by Miss Phelps, '91, on Clough's life. It was filled with interesting facts regarding the life and character of Clough; and was the more enjoyable because it contained so much that was entirely new to most of the members. We can give only the closing sentences: "Constant in the performance of what he considered to be his duty, honest in his desire to discover truth, absolutely without prejudice, unselfish and peculiarly lovable, we cannot but regret deeply that lack of the faith which could alone make him a perfect man. This utter failure in the solution of every problem, this doubt and uncertainty which is breathed forth in all his poetry, is doubtless the reason that it has never become popular, nor produced the results which his genius promised.

"Perplexed in faith and pure in deeds,
At last he beat his music out."

At the end of the programme the election of officers for the coming year was held with the following result: Honorary President, D. R. Keys, M.A.; President, H. W. Brown, '92; First Vice-President, F. B. R. Hellesms, '93; Second Vice, Miss Hillock, '92; Recording Secretary, J. W. Baird, '94; Corresponding Secretary, F. G. Crosby; Councillors, fourth year, O. P. Edgar and A. L. Lafferty; third, Miss Lye and A. Beatty; second, Miss McBride and W. J. Lingalbach. After the result had been announced, the retiring President called upon the newly elected President to take the chair. A motion was presented thanking the retiring committee for their efforts on behalf of the club. After thanking the Society for their expression of gratitude, Mr. McLay gave a report of the work done during the year, and closed with the wish that the next year of the Society might be a very prosperous one. The meeting then adjourned, to reassemble in October.

Harvard College has recently established a course of systematic reading which includes the principal works of all the prominent English authors. The course will extend throughout the regular college course.

Women at present constitute fifty-five per cent. of the undergraduates in the United States. Wellesley College has an endowment of \$2,500,000, Bryn Mawr of \$1,100,000, Vassar of \$1,200,000, and Smith of \$400,000.

The Varsity

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BY

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Anonymous contributions will be published if approved by the Editor. This does not include letters to the Editor.

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S. J. McLEAN, '94.	J. W. ODELL, '92, Secretary.

MARCH 24, 1891.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



THE Literary Society met as usual last Friday evening, with the President in the chair. It was the elections meeting with the elections left out. Everything was very quiet and sedate. The House Committee, however, had apparently been in fear of a popular uprising, or something of that nature, for they had convened the Society, not in its everyday Y.M.C.A. quarters, but in a hall down town, as is the custom in cases of great public emergency or danger, when the Society wants to elect something. The meeting was at the corner of Cecil Street and Spadina Avenue this time, in Cecil Hall, an oblong apartment of moderate size, with a canopy and a chair of state at each end, and the walls hung with lodge charters and impossible landscapes, composed mostly of clasped hands and torches and widows, and with pictorial representations of the shades of departed Most Worthy Grand Masters of some insane combination or other. The Society, in so far as it was present, sat in a weary row around the walls and listened to one committee report after another. It appears that these things come up regularly at every annual meeting. Heretofore we had not noticed their presence, owing no doubt to the distractions of the moment.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. The report of the General Committee was read. After some discussion the report was adopted. The report of the Treasurer was read. After some discussion the report was adopted. The report of the House Committee was read. After some discussion the report was adopted. The report of the Nomination Committee, to the effect that

Messrs. J. W. McIntosh, W. H. Bunting, D. M. Duncan, H. A. Moore, and W. E. Lingelbach, be the Literary Society representatives on the Athletic Association, was read. After some discussion the report was adopted. The report of THE VARSITY Directorate, appointing Messrs. J. A. McMurchy, '92, J. A. Cooper, '92, and N. McDougall, '93, directors, to fill up vacancies caused by appointments to offices of the staff, was read. After some discussion the report was adopted. The report of the Business Manager of THE VARSITY was read. After some discussion the report was adopted. At this juncture Mr. Cooper, struck no doubt by a certain sameness in the proceedings of the Society up to this point, attempted to create a variation by moving a vote of thanks to the staff of THE VARSITY. After some discussion the motion was adopted.

The gentlemen nominated for office at the last meeting were then declared elected by the President; and Mr. Irwin, the President-elect, was called upon for a speech. He addressed the meeting at some length and was received with enthusiasm. He was followed by Messrs. Perrin and Wheaton. Mr. G. H. Ferguson then introduced a resolution dealing with the Athletic Association question, and expressing the Society's desire to arrive at some settlement of the matter satisfactory to all parties concerned. After a few changes in its phraseology the resolution was carried unanimously and the meeting broke up with three cheers for Mr. Gibson, the retiring President.

THE DIRECTORATE.

The newly appointed Directorate of THE VARSITY met in the Sanctum to make arrangement for the management of this journal next year. G. E. McCraney, '92, was elected Chairman, and E. B. Horne, '93, Secretary. The following officers were appointed: Editor-in-chief, J. A. McLean, '92; Business Manager, W. J. Odell, '92; Assistant Business Manager, W. C. Clark, '93. The following were then appointed Associate Editors: W. H. Bunting, '92; S. J. Robertson, '92; O. P. Edgar, '92; R. H. Knox, '92; F. B. R. Hellems, '93; R. S. Strath, '93; D. M. Duncan, '94; S. J. McLean, '94; C. H. Mitchell, '92, School of Science. The medical editors will be appointed next term. To fill the places on the Directorate, rendered vacant by the election directors to other offices, the following were chosen: J. A. Cooper, '92; J. A. McMurchy, '92; N. McDougall, '93, and J. W. Baird, '94.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SEMINARY.

Prof. Ashley has favored us with the following report of the essays read during the winter in the Political Science Seminary:—Oct. 28: "Ancient Ideal Commonwealths," Mr. Brigg; "Modern Ideal Commonwealths," Mr. Buckingham; Reporter, Mr. Pope. Nov. 4: "Sir Henry Maine's Patriarchal Theory," Mr. Ferguson; "McLennan on the Patriarchal Theory," Mr. Dockray; Reporter, Mr. Rose. Nov. 11: "Mediæval Constitutionalism," Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Harris; Reporter, Mr. Ross. Nov. 18: "Hobbes and his Relation to Contemporary Politics," Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. MacKinnon; Reporter, Mr. Scott. Nov. 25: "Filmer's Patriarcha," Mr. Pope; "Locke on Civil Government," Mr. Rose; Reporter, Mr. Stuart. Dec. 2: "Rousseau and 'The General Will'" Mr. Ross and Mr. Scott; Reporter, Mr. Wilson. Dec. 9: "Bentham's Theory of Government," Mr. Wilson; "Bentham and Modern Reform," Mr. Stuart; Reporter, Mr. Briggs. Jan. 27: "The Agricultural System of the Middle Ages," Mr. Harris; Reporter, Mr. Wilson. Feb. 3: "The Trade of the Middle Ages," Mr. MacKinnon; Reporter, Mr. Ross. Feb. 10: "Craft Guilds," Mr. Rose; "The Manufactures of the Middle Ages," Mr. Stuart; Reporter, Mr. Harris. Feb. 17: "The Peasant Revolt of 1381," Mr. Kirkpatrick; Reporter, Mr. MacKinnon. Feb. 24: "The Enclosures of the 16th Century," Mr. Ross; Reporter, Mr. Pope.

COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—We cannot help regretting that "Nunquam Noscendus"—as a member of the Modern Language Club—should have felt it his duty to place the Club in the ridiculous light in which he has attempted to place it by his recent article. We feel quite assured that nothing but stern duty could have induced a member to the performance of so unpleasant a task—almost as if one were to expose to ridicule the foibles of an intimate friend. It must, then, have been with a worthy purpose; but we cannot help feeling that an *active* member, with the inventive genius which this member seems to possess, might have turned his talents to better use, in pursuing the course which one would have a right to expect of a member, in trying to inspire the society with new life. May we not conclude safely that none but a *nominal* member would feel it his duty to act in so unusual a way? And if this be so, we hold that this opinion should have no more weight than that of an outsider. Our regret is that there are so many Modern Language students who have never taken an interest in the Club, who have never attended more than the public meetings, and hence are not prepared to see the large element of humor in the description of the proceedings. One might almost fancy from the attitude of many of the students, that it is a Secret Society, open only to the officers and a few of their friends.

The Society has done good work in the past; it is possible even that some might be found who would acknowledge having obtained benefit from the meetings of the past year; but they will be those who have made it a matter of duty to attend regularly, and even to take some part in the proceedings. After all, is it not for such that the Society is maintained? And though it cannot benefit people who refuse to attend regularly and to do their share towards maintaining it—we need not take it as a sign of dissolution that the attendance has decreased. It may even be the more helpful to those who choose to stand by it.

We must congratulate this member, however, on his very unique argument. Among all the indifferent ones, we doubt if one could be found who would refuse to get what good may be obtained from the meetings, because of his absorbing desire to "search the depths of his own heart." By all means do so; it is a most praiseworthy proceeding; if it is in the state which the article indicates, it is certainly time it was looked after; but, we cannot see that this will do away with the advantage of knowing something more of Literature outside the range of our curriculum than the average student is apt to learn during his course. We wouldn't pretend to include this member among the "average students"; moreover, we are quite prepared to admit that it is beyond the power of the M.L.C. to benefit him. But there are others, who are still in a position to obtain benefit—even from a society such as this; and it is for these that we propose to maintain it.

ANOTHER MEMBER.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—The writer of "Things Generally" thinks that some of the societies around the college should be served with writs *quo warranto*, and at once singles out the Modern Language Club as the one, to his thinking, most open to attack. "What good have ye done?" is the question he puts to all. Judging by this standard there is no fear but that the Modern Language Club will be abundantly able to answer the writ.

To demonstrate this, consider the amount of work done by the club during the past year. There have been seven English meetings, at which fourteen essays have been read; two of these were public meetings at which addresses were delivered by Dr. Rand, of McMaster University, and Prof. Alexander. There have been five French meetings,

with nine French essays, one English essay on a French subject and one address in French. There have been four German meetings, with five German essays and two English essays on German subjects. This gives a total of sixteen meetings with a total of thirty-one essays and three addresses. Now, aside from the question of whether those who have listened to these essays and addresses have been benefitted thereby, no one will deny that the writers of the essays received a direct and substantial benefit therefrom; inasmuch as none of these would have been written had there been no club, the credit of having done this much good can certainly be claimed with all justice by that organization. Now as to the other question, take the case of the English meetings. At these, it can be fairly concluded, the audience has received some benefit from the addresses and the essays. When "Nunquam Noscendus" attacks these meetings he is not attacking the Modern Language Club alone but the English seminaries, and in fact the whole system of English education in vogue here and elsewhere; it is not necessary for us to defend this. As far as the question at issue is concerned, most of what he has said on, or rather off, the subject is pure "twaddle"; in itself it is very fine, but as a contribution to the discussion of no consequence.

But every one will admit that the English meetings have done some good. The case of the French and German meetings is, of course, different. The difficulty of understanding the essays is, no doubt, a drawback. But this can to a great extent be overcome. Though inaccurate in many respects, the description of the position of the members at one of the Club's meetings is fair. Some sit back in the corner, where, of course, only stray sounds of what is being said reach their ears, while others, though nearer the front, apparently make no effort to understand. All this is, of course, disheartening to those who really want to, and who consequently do, get some good. Ask those who have taken no interest in the Club—of which number, from the tone of his letter, I am afraid "Nunquam Noscendus" must be considered—and doubtless the answer will be that the Club has done no good. But what weight can their opinion have? What right have they to be heard? Not having put themselves into a position to know, they are certainly not justified in condemning what they know nothing of. But ask the real, live members, the ones who ought to know, and I am certain that quite a different answer will be given. These are the ones who make an effort to understand the French and German essays, and who see their efforts crowned with success. The individual experience of these members alone can decide. As one who has taken a somewhat prominent part in the Club's proceedings during the past year, I can add my testimony to the worth of the Club.* I would have no hesitation whatever in allowing the question of the existence or non-existence of the Club to depend on the vote of the active members; the answer, I am sure, would be unanimous in favor of its maintenance.

But, to conclude, I am free to confess that there are faults in the Club, and yet I am certain that these can easily be remedied. The system is all right, but some of the members are not equally so. "Nunquam Noscendus" sees some faults; wherefore let it die. There is the unpractical dreamer; he is very ready to put out the hand to destroy but is impotent to construct. Instant death is the only end that he can suggest for the only *literary* society in the College; the only one to the meetings of which the friends of the University with the confidence that their enjoyment will not be spoiled by their being prevented from hearing the programme, the one farthest removed from anything technical, special or narrow. I differ. Success is the best goal, and one that can be attained. Let every Modern Language student resolve to make the Club a success, for its sake and their own, let them devote their energetic attention to its work, and success is assured.

Thanking you for the space, I am yours truly,

WALTER S. MCLAY,
Ex-President M. L. C.

BURNS—A SONNET.

Like some North Star, thou Bard of Caledon,
Uprising through the lab'ring Lowland mist,
By thee, unkindly Fortune, high upthrown
O'er burn and brae, and ben and Highland tryst!

From Cheviot's earthy wave to Pentland's blue
Thy sparkling rays make cheerier peaty fires,
And notes of pibroch—wet with mountain dew—
Old midnight solace of the shepherd sires.

The Trossach pine in giant majesty,
The heather-bedded hare-bell in her dreams,
Have caught new music, while the minstrelsy
Of Love's sweet music quivers down thy beams.

Thy rays a myriad silvery silken strings
Uncurtaining deepest soul-imaginings.

B. W. G.

THE LAST SACRIFICE.

[There is a legend of Niagara that before the displacement of the Indians an annual tribute of a young maiden was imposed by the spirit of the Falls upon the neighboring tribe.]



WHEN Canada was first settled, the country enclosed by the Great Lakes was held by the Hurons, a nation of agricultural rather than of warlike habits. They had a settlement on the Niagara frontier, a few miles from the Falls, and it was from this settlement that the Cataract God demanded his sacrifice. The victim had to be a maiden in her eighteenth

year, and was chosen by the will of the god through the will of Murom, the medicine-man at the time of our story, but the will of the god, as a rule, corresponded with that of the chief.

The chief's tyranny had made him odious to his followers, and they were gradually becoming estranged from him, and looked to Walhallon, a young warrior, as their hope in the crisis they felt drawing near. The chief became aware of this dissatisfaction and of the growing popularity of Walhallon, and sought to devise some means to injure the latter. Now, Walhallon had fallen in love with Montela, a popular maiden of his tribe, and the chief, in his schemings, believed that he could strike him most effectually by depriving him of his betrothed, who happened to be in her eighteenth year, and hence a suitable victim to the god. A short interview with Murom settled the matter entirely to the chief's satisfaction.

Walhallon suspected some evil design, and upon seeing him and Murom together, and hearing a chance word or two, he became aware of the wrong that was to be done. He immediately set about to save her. He planned to meet her to make arrangements for her escape and for the flight of both to the other side of the river, and through the forest to the nearest settlement of the Iroquois, which was distant three or four days' journey to the east. But the chief had anticipated any such design by sending Walhallon on a hunting expedition to lay in stores for the winter which was approaching, and when he returned no difficulty at all was found in keeping the two separate for the few days that were yet to come. Any violence at all on Walhallon's part would now frustrate his aim, if not bring about the premature death of both, and consequently he was forced to wait until the day of sacrifice, when he hoped that some opportunity might present itself, and his plan of escape yet be carried out.

All the tribe felt that these sacrifices were drawing to an end. The restlessness of the young warriors as a consequence of the arrival of the French in Canada, a general feeling of the approach of a new era in Indian life, and perhaps the influence of the seeds that Father Hennepin had scattered in his transitory stay a few years before, all

tended to give birth to and to foster this growing aversion to their superstitious offering. But the god of the cataract was remorseless and the chief and his medicine-man decreed that it must be made, for they dared not interfere with the traditions of their fathers.

The day finally came. It was one of the most beautiful of Indian Summer, the last few hours of the expiring harvest-time when all nature calms, as though silently awaiting the end of the year, the forests crowned with garlands of variegated splendor as a tribute to her prodigality in bestowing her plenteous fruits on man. Birds of bright hues flying southward lingered a few more days to drink in the departing grandeur, and even the scattered clouds took on new tints from the setting sun as their offering to the rich profusion of color. Gentle breezes whispering through the leaves added harmony of motion to harmony of color; the fitting birds did not intrude upon nature's impressive stillness with their songs, and the clouds above moved slowly onwards unwilling to leave the scene of calmness spread below.

In the midst of such majesty was chosen the place for their most solemn religious rites. The space for the selection of the offering was a semi-circular clearing on the edge of the bluff overlooking the Falls. The ceaseless roaring of the god in honor of whom the sacrifice was to be made was to-day louder than ever, a fact interpreted by them as the impatience of the spirit for his victim, now known to us as the precursor of the storms shortly to follow. As evening approached the Indians began to assemble, the oldest warriors lining the edge of the forest, in front of them their squaws took their position, and again in front of these the youngest of the tribe—the unmarried—all solemnly awaiting the chief and Murom.

About two hours before sunset their arrival was announced by the beating of drums, and, silent as they all were before, there now fell upon them a deeper silence, that of the solemnity of death. Both the new-comers went to the edge of the clearing overlooking the cataract, the chief remaining some paces behind, while Murom made an invocation to the spirit of the Falls to enter his body that he might be guided in making an acceptable selection. Then walking back to the midst of the clearing he fell on his face with his head towards the opening, when all the maidens fulfilling the conditions demanded by the god, slowly arose and formed a new circle around him, remaining a short distance apart from one another. There were nearly a score of these, and the circle formed was about thirty feet in diameter. When all the preparations had been made the drums again commenced beating, whereupon Murom arose and started a mystic dance, slowly at first, but soon increasing in speed, gradually widening his circle until it was almost equal to that of the maidens around him. And now faster and faster was he urged on by the Spirit, the sound of the drums ever increasing, and the beating growing more and more rapid, while his excitement turned first to fury and then to frenzy, finally overflowing and spreading to the assembled tribe, whose bodies waved in shorter circles as the dancer sped on in his. The strength of the religious emotion gradually drove out all feeling and pity for the victim, and left the multitude insensible to all but zeal for making the offering. Walhallon alone remained unaffected, his hatred overpowering the superstitious part of his nature; he calmly awaited the opportunity to carry out his plans.

All now could see that Murom had reached the height of his excitement, and that he was commencing to grow weaker. Feeling this, himself, he made one final dash around the circle when the Spirit hurled him at the feet of Montela. Her shriek as she fainted, and the violent emotion of Walhallon were unnoticed in the terrific din of the drums which continued until the rest of the maidens, overcome by the severity of the ordeal through which they had passed, had rushed back to their companions, forgetting to keep their wonted composure. Then Walhallon, smothering his passion, asked the chief as a special favour to be allowed to accompany him and Murom to the final scene.

The chief, suddenly believing that a way was open to get rid of him, granted his request. Two other warriors, who had remained faithful to their chief, were summoned to bind Montela and carry her in a sort of litter about two miles up the river to a place opposite the sacred island upon which was to be enacted the final scene. The chief and Murom, with Walhallon between, followed the litter closely, the rest of the tribe remaining on the lofty clearing from which could be seen the ensuing events.

Upon reaching the place of departure the bearers placed Montela, who was still insensible, in one of the two canoes specially provided for them. The chief whispered a few words to his faithful men, who, watching their time, sprang upon Walhallon unexpectedly and bound him before he could make any resistance. They placed him in the other canoe in which the chief and Murom were already seated, and the latter immediately began paddling for the island, towing the canoe in which was Montela and leaving the two warriors behind. The island to which they were going, now known as Navy Island, was considered sacred to the Cataract God, and none but the chief, his medicine-man and the sacrifice dared touch it.

The preceding events had been well timed, for there were still a few minutes before sunset, at which hour the offering was to be made. The chief and Murom landed, placed the victim on the ground, and then a final prayer was made to the god that the sacrifice might be conciliatory. Montela was now bound upon a light float, which they towed out into the current and there held until the last tip of the sun should disappear. But Walhallon meanwhile had not been idle. While his enemies had been busy on the island, he had managed to loosen the thongs which were fastened more rapidly than securely, but remaining in the same position in which he was before, his freedom was not noticed. And now, just as Murom eagerly stooped to cut the fastening that held the float, and the chief as intent upon the act, Walhallon rose and quickly grasped the paddle—twice it flashed like lightning through the air, and two senseless bodies floated down the stream. But the commotion had overturned the canoe and the last blow shattered his paddle, and he knew that his last hour had come. With a shriek of despair at losing the freedom so nearly won, he gave up all hope but that of dying with his beloved.

In a few moments he was beside and upon the raft upon which she was bound. Out flashed his knife and parted the bonds, in his eagerness happily cutting her arm, for the bleeding restored her to consciousness. In each other's arms they surrendered themselves to the Spirit who seemed so terribly insatiable this time, calmly and even happily going forward to the new life that they were about to commence. As they neared the brink, by a strange coincidence, the other two bodies were thrown near to them, and all four were hurled on together. For a moment they hovered on the brink and then disappeared. Then arose a murmuring, ever increasing in volume and sadness, and, looking up, there could be seen the heavily afflicted people remaining there motionless until night hid the scene with a pall of darkness, when all returned to their homes from their "last sacrifice."

HARRY W. BROWN.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP.

Just as we were going to press the following letter, which explains itself, was handed to us for publication:—

BANK OF COMMERCE,
Toronto, Mar. 12th, 1891.

MY DEAR PROFESSOR ASHLEY,—I am empowered by the banks, whose names are given below, to offer the sum of \$1,200 as the endowment of a scholarship in the University of Toronto, on the following condition: That such scholarship be given upon the result of the examination of the first year for the department of Political Science to

students who shall declare their intention to take the lectures and examination of the second year in that department.

I beg also to suggest, on behalf of the same banks, that in view of the fact that many lads who are intended for a business career are unable to take the full arts course, it might be expedient if the University would furnish a certificate to students who have taken a shorter course; and I am authorized in their name to promise that in appointing bank officers they will, *ceteris paribus*, give the preference to persons presenting a certificate of having taken the first two years in the Honor Department of Political Science. Yours truly,

B. E. WALKER,

On behalf of the Bank of Toronto, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Dominion Bank, Imperial Bank, Standard Bank, Traders' Bank of Canada and the Union Bank of Lower Canada.

W. J. ASHLEY, Esq.,

Professor University College, Toronto.

CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL MEETING.

A large number of the members of the Cricket Club assembled in the Residence Dining Hall on Thursday afternoon, and held their annual meeting. In the absence of the President, Capt. Ivan Senkler took the chair. The monotony of the annual meeting—the business of which generally consists in the submission of uninteresting reports and an election that hardly deserves the name—was relieved by the discussion of closer relations with the great country to the south of us. The proposal comes from Philadelphia to play an international collegiate match, and is contained in a letter, which the Secretary read, from the Secretary of the American College Cricket Association. Provided they can get sufficient guarantee, they contemplate sending a team, chosen from the four cricketing colleges—Harvard, Columbia, Haverford and the University of Pennsylvania—to play a match with an eleven representing 'Varsity and Trinity. If the scheme can be carried out, the American Team will be a particularly strong one, and the match will be played on or about the 15th of July. The departure is certainly a commendable one, and it is to be hoped that the difficulties which at present stand in the way can be surmounted and reduced to *nil*.

The meeting unanimously approved of it, and passed the following motion, which was moved by Mr. Pope and seconded by Mr. Wood: "That the Toronto University Cricket Club approves of the proposal of an annual collegiate international match, and hereby empowers Messrs. Senkler, Bunting and Pope to make such arrangements with Trinity University Cricket Club as they may think fit." A resolution was proposed by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Armour and carried, condemning the constitution of the Athletic Association, which was recently approved of by the Literary Society, and Messrs. Pope, McLaughlin and Cowie were appointed a committee to confer with the other athletic committees regarding it.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, with the following result: President, Prof. Loudon, M.A.; 1st Vice-President, G. A. H. Fraser, M.A.; 2nd Vice-President, Theo. Coleman; Captain, H. C. Pope, '91; Sec.-Treas., A. E. McLaughlin, '92; Curator, W. Gilmore, '94; Committee, W. I. Senkler, '91. W. Cowie, '91; W. L. McQuarrie, '92; O. P. Edgar, '92; A. O. Vickers, '93; P. H. Yoemans, '93; G. Claves, '94; W. Kingston, '94. After hearing a speech from Captain Pope, the meeting adjourned.

The University of the State of New York has received the medal awarded it at the Paris Exposition for the best system for higher education of any state or country.

Professor Harriet Cooke, professor of history in Cornell, is the first woman ever honored with the chair and equal pay with the men professors. She has taught in Cornell twenty-three years.

'MIDST THE MORTAR BOARDS.

Prof. Ashley is happy—Oxford won the boat race on Saturday.

Mrs. Alexander was "At Home" Friday afternoon to the retiring officers of the Modern Language Club and other friends.

Last Wednesday a meeting of the Y.W.C.A. was held for the nomination of officers and general business. Next Wednesday there will be an open meeting addressed by Mrs. McKay.

W. Malcolm, B.A., can now sign himself M.D. The athletes of the College will remember "Billy's" prowess on the Association football field. We wish him success in his new work.

The approaches to the University are in a disgraceful condition, it being simply impossible to get to the building without wading through water up to the ankles. Some one has suggested that the city charter a fleet of ships to transport student pedestrians to their destination.

A. F. Chamberlain, B.A., of Clark University, formerly Fellow of Modern Languages here, has been chosen by the British Association for the Advancement of Science to go to British Columbia next summer to make ethnological researches under its auspices. THE VARSITY congratulates Mr. Chamberlain on this mark of distinction and confidence bestowed upon him.

The following is the report of the Treasurer of the Literary Society up till March 20th, 1891: Receipts—Balance from 1889-90, \$513.32; fees to March 20, 1891, \$150; sale of periodicals, \$4.64; total receipts, \$667.96. Expenditures—From May 20, 1890, to March 20, 1891, \$624.73. Total receipts, \$667.96; total expenditures, \$624.73; balance on hand, March 20, \$43.23. D. P. McCOLL.

It is with very great regret that THE VARSITY has heard of the death of George A. Cameron, B.A., of Woodstock, which occurred at Woodstock on Tuesday last, the 17th inst. Graduating from the University in 1886 he commenced the study of law with the firm of Messrs. Finkle, McKay and McMullen, barristers, etc., of Woodstock, and had passed his first intermediate examination when he was seized with a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, to which he ultimately succumbed. Although of a former generation of undergraduates Mr. Cameron was not unknown in contemporary undergraduate circles, being remembered chiefly for his intimate connection with the movements of those days, with which his name is inseparably connected. He is remembered by his friends for his manly character and genial ways, and to these the news of his death will be a

severe shock. Sincere sympathy will be felt for his parents and family in their affliction.

Last Thursday's meeting at the Y.M.C.A. was one of the most interesting of the year. It was a missionary meeting, and Prof. Baldwin presided. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. J. S. Scott, A. Lea, and W. R. McIntosh, about the International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement, recently held in Cleveland. These speakers are to be congratulated on the excellent way in which they represented to their audience the spirit of that Convention. Each one spoke with earnestness, and set forth clearly and concisely the strongest impressions he had received there and the best things he had heard. Prof. Baldwin gave a few personal reminiscences of Messrs. Wilder, Speer and Foreman, the leaders of the Student Volunteer Movement, who were cotemporary with himself at Princeton, and spoke a few appropriate words about the choice of a missionary life.

The Mathematical and Physical Society held its regular meeting Friday afternoon. The programme being one of superior quality attracted a large attendance. A very instructive paper on Dr. Graves' Theorem, with several deductions therefrom, sent to the Society by Mr. A. T. DeLury, B.A. ('90), of Vancouver, B.C., was read by Mr. Henderson. Another paper on the "Composition of Matter," from Mr. C. A. Chant, B.A. ('90), of Ottawa, was read by Mr. W. E. Rand. The Corresponding Secretary was instructed to tender the Society's thanks to the corresponding members for their valuable papers. Having had so many excellent papers which contained much food for after thought, the Society felt the need of a mathematical and physical journal in which to publish the papers and proceedings of the Society. After some discussion, a committee was appointed to investigate the cost, prospects, etc., of such a publication and report at the first meeting of the Society in October. Nomination of next year's officers was the next order of business, in which everybody nominated everybody else, so as to make-up for the lack of a literary election.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.—The first Vice-president, Dr. W. T. Miller, presided at a very large and interesting meeting of this society on Friday last in the School of Practical Science. Important notices of motion for changes in the constitution were given by Messrs. W. A. Parks, T. McCrae and J. W. McIntosh; these will be brought up and discussed at the annual meeting. Prof. Pike gave a succinct account of the storage battery, illustrating his lecture by experiments with the new

battery presented to the department by the (Roberts) Storage Battery Co. In concluding he performed some experiments showing the strength and perfect working of the battery, noticeable amongst which were the decomposition of water using five cells, the brilliant electric light given by the whole twenty-five cells, and the speedy combustion of a large piece of iron wire. Short discussion followed, the chairman thanking the professor for his interesting and instructive lecture. The meeting then proceeded to the nomination of candidates for office, which resulted as follows: President, J. J. Mackenzie, B.A., elected by acclamation; 1st Vice, W. G. Miller, B.A., and E. C. Jeffrey, B.A.; 2nd Vice, W. A. Parks, F. J. Smale, and R. H. Knox; Gen'l Sec'y, R. K. Duncan and R. E. Hooper; Treas., Messrs. Royce, Burton, Stanbury, Cockroach and Sutherland; Curator, W. J. Knox, Rosebrugh, Silcox and Gillies; Councillors '92, G. Elliot, A. D. Chambers and W. L. Addison—'93, Misses Balmer and Hamilton and Messrs. Stuart Edwards, Connor, Simmons and Harvie—'94, Miss Bayne and Messrs. Chrystler, Dent, Lehmann, McKay and Millichamp. Messrs. F. R. Lillie and A. J. Hunter were appointed Auditors, after which the meeting adjourned.

DI-VARSITIES.

A VERNAL RIPPLE.

Sing, sang, sung,
Swing, swang, swung,
Oh!

The man who will sing
Of the beautiful spring
Deserveth to swing,
An inanimate thing,
Hing, hang, hung.

—Trinity Tablet.

"Why is there so much learning to be had in college?" "Because the freshmen bring it in, and the seniors don't take it out."—Ex.

"Are you a drummer?" queried the storekeeper. "Yes," was the reply. "And what do you drum?" "Everything you can possibly want," replied the salesman eagerly. "Then beat a retreat," growled the proprietor, whistling for his bull-dog.—Yale Record.



STUDENTS ATTENTION!

This is a fac-simile of our pins, made from the metal from the College bell, which we are selling at a moderate price. Every student should have one, as they make an interesting souvenir of the fire.

J. E. ELLIS,
Cor. King and Yonge Sts.