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THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. X.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, JANUARY 27, 1890.

No. 13.

Editorial Comments.



CONSIDERABLE dissatisfaction has been, and is, expressed among the students at the lack of an efficient mail service at the college. The present system is one that might have done very well when the college was in its infancy and the number of students small, but now it is several years behind the times and should at once give way to a better one. THE VARSITY makes the suggestion that the authorities apply for a branch post office in the building. This has been done in many of the American colleges, not to speak of the large universities where such a system as we are content with would not be endured for a day. For example the cases of Tufts College and Haverford College may be cited. These are but preparatory colleges but they have post offices, and the plan has been found to work admirably. Then why not do likewise in the largest educational institution in Canada? Some change for the better is necessary, and the plan proposed seems feasible and remedial. There is not the slightest doubt but that if the authorities were to make application for such an office they would easily obtain it, and by so doing they would confer a great boon on all connected with the University.

It is a pleasure to note the very active interest the Honorable Edward Blake, the Chancellor, is taking in the affairs of the University. Not content with showing his sympathy with and devotion to his *Alma Mater* by the magnificent donation of \$20,000, he is making a thorough study of all the needs of the University, and his guiding hand is being felt in all departments of the work that lies before those in charge. His wide experience at the Bar and in public life cannot but be of incalculable service in deciding the many important problems which are now pressing for solution. We honor our Chancellor and have every faith that, with him at the helm, our *Alma Mater* is secure.

The continual mutilation of the notices placed by professors and students on the notice-board is nothing less than a disgrace. A stranger passing through the halls and seeing the state in which are the notices now on the board would form but a sorry opinion of the good sense of the students of the University of Toronto. Those guilty of such vandalism doubtless fancy they are doing something very cute, but could they but know the disapprobation of such actions all right-thinking students feel and the contempt with which they view such exhibitions of small-mindedness they would see themselves as others see them and be forced by very shame to desist.

The site for the new library has not yet been chosen, but it is understood that the structure will be erected on

the east side of the lawn and to the right of the carriage-drive leading to the main building. Overlooking, as it does, the ravine to the west and the spacious lawn to the east, and in close proximity to all the academic buildings and magnificent new home of the Ontario Legislature, the spot admirably fulfils the requirements of both picturesqueness and convenience. One thing only is lacking, the provision for which want can be an addition to both natural beauty and convenience of the spot. We refer to a suspension bridge across the ravine. By this means there would be easy access from the Biological building to the library and main building and from the University to the Provincial Parliamentary library, and at the same time a shorter route to College street. The scenic effect of such a bridge over an already beautiful ravine would satisfy the most æsthetic, while the presence of the bridge itself would confer a benefit on all classes of students and the public generally.

Mr. J. C. Robertson, of Owen Sound, is the first to take practical steps to improve the elementary teaching of Classics. He intends to publish a new text-book for the study of Latin, based on a method which he has been testing for several years and claims to have found successful. In his circular issued last month to the Classical Masters throughout Ontario, he builds up a very strong argument against the text-books now used in teaching Latin to beginners. His own method is largely inductive, and his system aims at giving the student from the very beginning an ever increasing reading power in the language. He is fully alive to the fact that typical Latin Grammar in which the language is treated like a subject in Natural Science, is by no means the kind of book to be put into the hands of the learner. Mr. Robertson's system may do violence to the conventional ideas of some teachers of the old school, but the good sense of the younger generation will no doubt recognize it as a step in the right direction.

The letter of Mr. Chant in another column is a distinct contribution to the controversy on the Medals question, and will be read with interest by all who have followed the articles and letters on the subject. Some very strong proof will be necessary to show that no injustice has been done to somebody. THE VARSITY promises some further interesting contributions on the subject if no attention is taken of this appeal for a hearing.

Instead of the rush and the nightly hazing tours, it is the custom at Wellesley for the Sophomores to serenade the Freshmen at the beginning of the year.

Yale's professors and graduates have been prominently identified with the work of preparing the edition of Webster's Dictionary that is soon to be issued, ex-President Porter having been the chief editor.

THE LORELEI.

[Translated from Heine.]

Whate'er it may mean I know not,
And yet I am sad at heart;
A legend of the olden time
Will ne'er from my thoughts depart.

The air is cool and it darkles,
And calmly flows the Rhine;
The peak of the mountain sparkles,
The even sun doth shine.

Up there a maiden sitteth,
And she is magic fair;
Her golden jewels dazzle,
She combs her golden hair.

With golden comb she combs it,
And she sings a song the while,
That's weirdly sweet and powerful,
And strangely it doth beguile.

The boatman in his tiny boat
Is wildly thrilled with love;
The jagged rocks he sees not,
But looks on the height above.

Boat and boatman now, I ween,
'Neath the waves have gone;
The Lorelei has done it
With her sweet beguiling song.

Breslau.

A. A. MACDONALD.

CLARK UNIVERSITY.

THE VARSITY having decided to present to its readers a series of articles on American Universities, and University life, it is a great pleasure to me to contribute a few facts concerning Clark University.

This University, situated in the busy city of Worcester—the heart of the commonwealth—owes its existence to the liberality and the broadly-conceived plans of a distinguished citizen of Worcester, Jonas G. Clark. More than twenty years ago did Mr. Clark entertain the idea of endowing a college devoted to the pursuit of higher and special studies. To Mr. Clark increase of fortune meant a growth of plan, and after devoting eight years to the study of the objects, methods, and equipments of the most distinguished American and European universities, he gave his purpose to the world. A charter was obtained in 1887, and in 1888, Dr. Stanley Hall, of Johns Hopkins University, was called to the Presidency. Dr. Hall gave a year to the study of the educational ideals and methods of Europe, and in October, 1889, Clark University was opened to students.

Enough has been said to indicate that the University thus instituted has before it high aims—that it is not a mere auction room where the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may be purchased—and “cheap.” The fixed resolve of the founder and those associated with him is, that Clark must be a university devoted to higher studies and original investigation and research. Its professors and lecturers must be men who have distinguished themselves in their special lines of study, men who, workers themselves, can fill their students with high desires and high hopes. The only students admitted are those whose university qualifications are such as to ensure a reasonable measure of success in the work of the college, so that Clark is purely a post graduate university. To such students every facility for work is afforded; it is no fiction to say that the resources of the University are at their command.

Up to the present, work has been carried on in only five lines. (1) Mathematics; (2) Physics; (3) Chemistry;

(4) Biology; (5) Psychology. The professors at the head of those departments are, Dr. Story, Dr. Michelson, Dr. Nef, Dr. Whitman, Dr. Hall, each of whom, as is sufficiently known, has won a high place in his special work. In each department several courses of study are followed. For example “Psychology” includes courses in Neurology, Experimental Psychology, Anthropology, Education, Philosophy, and Practical Ethics (Criminology). Along with each professor are several associate professors and lecturers: thus in the department of mathematics associated with Dr. Story are, Dr. Bolza, Dr. White, Dr. Taber, and M. de Perott. Work will be begun in other courses as the demand for it arises, so that before long, it is hoped, the name “university” will have its justification. The methods are, I understand, those followed in the best German universities. Lectures are given by the professors and instructors just as in Toronto University. Along with each course of lectures a great deal of directed reading is done. References to important texts, journals and memoirs are expected to be patiently and honestly worked up. The value of this last can hardly be estimated. The reading of a paper communicated to some learned body, by some original thinker, is more than the mere reading of a paper, or the mere learning of a fact—it is an inspiration. It need scarcely be said that the Seminar is an important feature in the methods of instruction, but into a sketch of its work there is no need to enter; it would be but doing poorly what has often been done so well, and, besides, the Seminar is now well known to all students in Toronto. There are no examinations to confine the work of the term to that narrow coffin—the prescribed text. The Doctor's degree is awarded after three years' study on the favourable report of the professors; in addition the candidate must submit a “thesis on some approved subject to which it must be an original contribution of value.” This description of the methods of Clark would be far from complete if it were not said that each student is expected to associate himself closely with the professors in his department, and seek their advice and direction.

The library is not large—only about 10,000 volumes—yet additions to it are being rapidly made. It is very select, well arranged, and accessible. It is divided into sections corresponding to the courses of study, and an orderly and reliable catalogue gives definite information as to the book sought. To give an idea of the care taken in the selection of books, it may not be out of place to say that in the section of mathematics, in addition to the standard English, French and German texts for the courses of study, there are complete sets of the collected works of the most famous mathematicians, and also of all the leading mathematical journals, so that, if one chooses, one can see just how any principle has been developed. No doubt, other departments are quite as well equipped. Besides, the leading current magazines—special and general—are on the library tables. Now, what about getting the books? A Toronto student on coming to Clark walked guilelessly into the library, and, in an innocence born of a limited acquaintance with a certain library, asked, what were the library restrictions. To his great surprise, he was assured by the obliging librarian that there were none, and that it was felt to be of greater importance that the book should be read, than that they should look nice on a shelf. The library is supplemented—if one dare use that word in this case—by the Worcester Free Public Library (75,000 volumes) and the library of the Antiquarian Society (85,000 volumes) and of the highest value to the anthropologist). The regulations of the Public Library are very liberal, six books being allowed at the same time to one person, and for a period of two weeks; besides a person of average intelligence can learn in a short time how to apply for a book.

Of University life—as ordinarily understood—there is none at Clark. The number of students is small—too small to expect the club of the regular American College.

Then the demands of special study seem not to leave the time, or the desire, to spend an evening of the week in smoking, story-telling and the like. Then, too, only a remnant of us are unmarried. There is no College Society like our Literary Society; in March no stormy election, a breathing spell before examinations—but then there are no examinations. With the exception of a little tennis, there are no college games, yet we should not expect too much in so short a time. As said, the number of students is small, yet among them are men from Japan, Colorado, Dakota, Michigan, Maine, and Canada. The Canadians here are Dr. Playfair McMurrich, Docent in Morphology, A. F. Chamberlain, W. H. Metzler, Dr. T. P. Hall, — Holdgate, and the writer.

There are two college buildings. The main one is plainly constructed of red finished brick and stone, and presents quite a contrast to Toronto University; the School of Science even is quite gaudy compared with Clark. Its rooms are large, and well lighted and ventilated, and looks like a place for work—like a factory, some one has said—well, be it so. The second building is the Chemical Laboratory, and is even plainer looking. The foundation for a third building has been laid.

In closing this sketch, necessarily incomplete, and very likely uninteresting, let me have a few words to express a hope that in my love for Clark and its methods, I may not have overstated anything; also the hope that this University may ever be not far from the purpose of its generous founder.

ALFRED T. DELURY.

Clark University, Worcester, Jan. 5, '91.

THE CLASS OF '92.

The second social meeting of the Class of '92 eventuated on Saturday evening, and proved one of the most successful and enjoyable yet held by the Class. Mr. Lamont, the energetic President, occupied the chair.

The literary programme was a genuine treat, and was thoroughly appreciated by the large gathering present. College songs were sung by the Class Glee Club with great vim and spirit. Miss Annis displayed marked ability in the recitation with which she favored the audience, and both hers and those of Messrs. Evans and Govenlock who followed received well-merited applause. The solo by Mr. Wales was rendered in his characteristic style. But the palm must be awarded to the Ladies' Quartette, composed of Misses Hillock, Rogers, Climie and Smith, whose rendition of two splendid selections was exceedingly good.

After the presentation of the programme refreshments were served, and the remainder of the evening spent in social intercourse. The meeting adjourned to the strains of "Good-night, Ladies."

CLASS OF '94.

A regular meeting of the Class of '94 was held last Tuesday afternoon in the hall of the Y. M. C. A. Under the guiding hand of President Brown a considerable amount of business was transacted, and in the discussion concerning an emblematic class-pin some new-fledged members gave symptoms of eloquence. The members were then refreshed with a debate on the motion: "That the Christmas holidays should be devoted to amusement rather than to study." The cause of pleasure was upheld by Messrs. Pease and Glover while learning found earnest advocates in Messrs. Lamb and Reeve. The decision having been relegated to a select committee, they awarded the palm to the champions of toil. The class has good reason to be proud of its poetess, Miss Evelyn Durand, who recited some beautiful stanzas on "A Winter Morning at Varsity." Miss de Beaugard's sympathetic voice then delighted her audience in a well-appreciated solo, with instrumental accompaniment by Misses Withrow and Topping. As the meeting closed, its unmistakable loyalty was demonstrated by the singing of our National Anthem.

OFF FOR THE FAR WEST.

Mr. H. Rushton Fairclough, M.A., lecturer in Greek and Grecian History in University College, has accepted the position offered to him in the new school that has been established in British Columbia, and left last night for the West. The school to which Mr. Fairclough goes as Classical Master is to be of a very high grade, and will, it is expected by its friends, develop into the provincial university, in which the chair in classics is assured Mr. Fairclough. It is understood that if he so desires Mr. Fairclough may return to Toronto in the fall. Though regretting the loss of such a valuable member of the staff, every undergraduate will feel pleased at this deserving recognition of Mr. Fairclough's ability as a classical scholar and as a teacher.

The position of Mathematical Master in the same school has also fallen to one of Toronto's graduates, and one whom most of the undergrads will remember, Mr. A. T. DeLury, B.A., of '90. As will be seen by his article in another column Mr. DeLury has been engaged at Clark University, but will now join with Mr. Fairclough in educational work in the far western province. Mr. DeLury is specially well adapted for the work that lies before him, and will not belie the hopes of those who have accepted his services. THE VARSITY extends to both gentlemen the heartiest congratulations and good wishes of the undergraduates of the University of Toronto.

MATHEMATICS.

The Mathematical and Physical Society held its first meeting of this term on Tuesday, 20th inst., the President, J. McGowan, B.A., in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. On motion the order of business was invested, and the President called upon Mr. Sanderson, M.A., F.I.A. ('87), who gave the Society a very able paper on "The Mathematical Law of Human Mortality and its place in Science."

After explaining the term "Law of Mortality," and giving reasons for the supposed existence of such a law, he deduced the celebrated formula of Gompertz and Makeham from their different hypothesis, viz.: "The force of mortality increases in a geometrical progression" according to Gompertz or as Makeham says "a geometrical progression plus some constant."

Mr. Sanderson thoroughly explained their difference and the superiority of Makeham's hypothesis and formula over that of Gompertz, as it fits with wonderful exactness many tables of mortality over the extensive limit of from twenty years to the utmost limits of life. To illustrate the accuracy of such laws and calculations, he cited several cases of statistics of expectation of certain crimes, deaths, etc., and compared them with the actual statistical occurrences, the error of reckoning before hand in most cases being less than one in two thousand, while in one case the calculation reached the almost perfection of an error of only one in over eight thousand.

Mr. Sanderson having spent some considerable time since graduation in England studying actuary work, and at present being engaged by one of the leading life insurance companies of the city, thoroughly understood his theme, and he presented a difficult subject in a remarkably lucid manner. We hope to get some more such papers ere long.

Mr. Anderson's motion for changing the day of meeting from Tuesday to Friday was unanimously carried. We were pleased to see so many of the first and second year represented, and we hope that more will take advantage of the opportunities such a Society affords.

The Cornell Central Club is trying to raise \$50,000 for an Alumni Hall. If they are successful in raising that amount ex-President White is to add \$10,000.

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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JANUARY 27, 1890.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



HOSE who attended the meeting of the Literary Society held last Friday night witnessed a good sleight-of-hand performance. The Society was juggling with itself. Now we are the Literary Society, see? with nothing to trouble us but our by-laws and constitution" and—presto!! "Now we are the House of Commons in Parliament assembled, see? weighed down by our country's future and our own past."

Really, we looked like a Parliament—the clerk stringing off the orders of the day, the Government benches and the long files of fighting members. We had all the pride and pomp and paper of Her Majesty's most faithful Government and Her Majesty's most loyal Opposition. Even the heads of the members had a Parliamentary look. The embattled fronts of the ministers told of prae-Confederation days and the enlarged capita of the younger members breathed of battles in the back townships—they dined on blue books and lunched on each other's reputation and the promises made to constituents.

It was truly a deliberative assembly. The Speaker—the sad-voiced Speaker—looked as if he was thinking, the members of the Government as if they thought they were thinking, and the members of the Opposition as if they thought that everybody else thought they were thinking. It was remarked when the ministry was formed that it was a remarkably strong one, and so it has proved. It is

supported by Webster's eloquence, the Pontiff's influence and the deep voice of the bellowing member may at least be relied on for interrupting the Opposition. The Minister of Militia and Defence fairly bubbles over with the statistics of his department, and the whole anti-clerical vote will, no doubt, be captured by these two cabinet ministers, who swear every time they sign their own names.

In the Speech from the Throne, the Governor-General shook the red rag in the face of the United States Government, and complimented the Finance Minister on the livelier iris of his complexion. The hon. gentleman has just returned from Jamaica, and he proposes to import the well-known products of Jamaica free of duty.

Mr. Wood, '94, and Mr. Peas, '94, moved and seconded the adoption of the address in reply. They delivered good speeches in good form. They spoke of the valuable prosperity and laid down the three planks of the Government's platform—prohibition, Imperial Federation and eight-hours-a-day labor.

The leader of the Opposition followed, and as he spoke of the country's misery and of trade's decay, the sound of the member's big tears bouncing on the floor seemed to the country members like the noise made by the chickens feeding on their barn floors at home.

Messrs. Buckingham, Cooper and Perrin made very effective speeches. Buckingham has a very winning way of pawing his opponents. He is a thorough partisan, and his arguments are never off-side. His speeches are bright, and yet they have a strength of conviction which make them very telling. Cooper's are buttered with the marrow of economics, and Perrin marshals out his periods with as much pomp and circumstance as if he had timed them to the tap of K Company's drum. Mr. A. McMillan devoted his time between political questions and the "other elements." Social questions have a peculiar charm for Mr. McMillan, and his field is probably that of social reform. He will succeed as a politician when he confines himself to strictly political questions, but in the meantime he should remember that these are "mere girls."

Just before the members rose the Leader of the Government made the announcement that the voice of the sweet singer of Perth would not be heard this year outside of his native shire, and when the wild cheering of his followers was over the House swallowed itself and became the Society again. It is admitted by all that the Mock Parliament surpassed itself last Friday night. There was less better in the saddle, and the Opposition hit harder than ever before.

It was moved by Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. Fairchild, that \$25 be granted to the Engineering Society. It was asked on the ground that the exhibit of the Engineers had always been one of the most interesting features of the conversazione, that the Society of Engineers was open to all the students of the college, and that such a grant would be in the interest of the whole student body. It seemed to be a foregone conclusion that the Society wasn't going to take Mr. Deacon in earnest. Anyone could tell there was danger in the Society's eye as it tilted forward its long hairy ear and listened to the speeches on this motion—it kicked—and fragments of the motion have since been falling east of the Don and west of the Humber. The Class of '94 had a \$25 motion on the board also, but the Society smiled "a smile that was wary and weird," and Mr. Reeves, when he couldn't get the subsidy, subsided.

Mr. Cooper gave notice of a motion that the Society hold a course of lectures and invite the Professors of our own and other universities to lecture, but as it seemed to be the general opinion that the season was too far advanced the notice of motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Pope, convener of the Athletic Committee, promised to hand in the report of the Committee next Friday night so that if necessary the constitution of the proposed association may be published with the Society's constitution. The meeting then adjourned.

THE MEDAL IN PHYSICS.—WHY NOT AWARDED?

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—With your permission I shall give you an account of my attempts to find the correct answer to the above question—attempts which closed just a few days ago in a flat and reasonless statement that the medal had not been granted.

In the latter part of last August I wrote to the Registrar, enquiring if a medal would be given in Physics. He replied that there would not likely be an award. "No recommendation has been made," he wrote, "it being practically impossible to discover who is the best man. Of course you understand that first-class men in the fourth year examination are all considered equal. The medal in Physics has been withdrawn for next year." Thinking that the "impossibility," above stated, was the result of a tie, I wrote to Prof. A. C. McKay, stating that I supposed that the two of the class who had led also on previous examinations had been considered equal, and asking him if he did not think that those two should be bracketed on the Convocation list, even though no medal was given. That gentleman promptly replied that "No recommendation was made this year, because none was asked for—as was done in the past." Notwithstanding this, there appeared on the list of medallists, after the name of the medal in Physics, the monstrously unjust words: "Not Awarded," as though none in the class had obtained first-class honors. This may not have been intended for a direct snub, but by many it was considered such. A short note of enquiry in the *Mail* of October 3, and the mildest and most gentlemanly requests of THE VARSITY for a satisfactory explanation were not noticed.

On the advice of several friends I petitioned the Senate. I argued that in this case the class-equality regulation and the offer in the Calendar were in opposition, and I asked them to decide which to follow; but stated my belief that the offer of the medal in the Calendar was the more just. My petition was presented on Hallowe'en, and on the following Monday I received a card saying that the Senate had no jurisdiction in the matter. When I sent my communication I also wrote to Prof. Loudon, informing him of what I had done, and when he saw that I had petitioned the Senate, he wrote informing me that the College Council was the proper authority. He continues, "I think you are taking the proper course in view of the offer made by the Council in their Calendar. They cannot plead that I made no recommendation, because I never have done so in previous years. The point is if they gave the medal in previous years on the advice of the University Examiners, why did they not do so this year?" Prof. McKay, writing a few days afterwards, also stated that he thought I was taking the right course in demanding a definite reason.

I then wrote to ask the Registrar how I should approach the Council, and when they met. In reply he said he would state the reasons why there was no award, and as they are very interesting to the University public I give them fully: "The medals are at the disposal of the College Council, and in other departments where medals were given the recommendation of the professor was taken as the sole ground of the award. No reference to the relative standing of candidates at the Exams is possible beyond the indications of relative merit given by the class lists, where the only distinction is that of the class of honors. In the Department of Physics there are three candidates besides yourself placed in first class in both divisions of Physics. It is therefore impossible for any one to say which of the four is the best man by the test of the Exam. Prof. Loudon declined to recommend anyone as decidedly first on class-work during the session. There is therefore nothing by which the Council may be guided"—and therefore all were snubbed. This letter requires some explanatory remarks. In the first place, if the recommendation of the professor is taken as the "sole

ground," I think the professors should be so informed; but in conversation Prof. Loudon said that if such were the case this was the first year of the arrangement, and that he knew nothing of it. I might ask, who makes the recommendation in Moderns? Again this reference to those in the same class being considered equal I think little removed from absurdity. The very essence of a medal is distinction, while the effect contemplated in the class-equality statute is "levelling." Moreover, if all in first class are to be considered equal why should a professor or anyone else proclaim that it is all a hoax, that they are not equal at all? Also, if all are considered equal, should not the one who started, perhaps in second class, and graduated equal to the best, be given the medal? Has he not done the most creditable work?

But let us take Physics. In both 1888 and 1889, the winner of the medal did not receive first class honors in Practical Physics, thus taking precedence of those who were in the first class in both departments. In 1889, both in Moderns and in Metaphysics the medallist received some second class honors, thus showing that the class lists were not considered at all, and that the average first class, necessary for a medal, must have been obtained behind the printed lists. This same thing occurred in 1890, when Mr. Kerswill was in second class in Philosophy, and yet received the medal. I think this shows that the class list was not the final authority (except perhaps in Physics) even in 1890. I might say, right here, that the *exact percentages* in Physics could easily have been obtained as the Examiners reported them to the Registrar. Why were they not consulted?

But there is something more serious. I would ask you to compare Prof. Loudon's words above with those of this letter. And further, Prof. Loudon told me that he was not consulted in the matter! But the above statement about "class-work of the session" is absurd on the face of it. There is no such thing. In some subjects no lectures at all were given; and in those lectured upon there was no attempt to mark the candidates.

I, therefore, prepared a petition to the Council. After stating some of the above facts, I said that I thought there had been some misunderstanding; and so I asked that body to "determine whether the medal was really won or not; and if it be found that it was, that it be presented to the winner." This was presented on the first Friday in December, and the Registrar informed me that it was referred "to the Professor, with a request that he would, if possible, make a recommendation for the medal." The Council met again on the 16th inst., and the result is that all the "communications on the subject were referred to the Professor of the Department, but that no award of the medal has been made." Why? Did the Professor so decide? He told me that as he was not consulted before he declined to be consulted now. He did not say that no award *should* be made; he simply declined the Council's "courtesy." When the Council referred the matter to him, with the request above-mentioned, did they not acknowledge that an error had been made? The Registrar says I misconstrue that action, but from my other information I cannot but think otherwise.

Now, Mr. Editor, why was there no award? I have stated the case as fairly as I can. I have made every effort to find a satisfactory reason; you see the result. And from considering the above facts, as they were given me, do you think I speak without sufficient reason when I say that I consider the action of the Council—and I cannot name two members of it—in withholding the medal in Physics last year was unprecedented, arbitrary, and unjust? Very truly yours,

C. A. CHANT, '90.

Ottawa, January, 21, 1891.

A plan is on foot to establish in New York city a national university on the European plan, with an endowment of \$20,000,000.

Things Generally.

II.



THE Young Men's Christian Association of University College is a large institution. Whatever may have been our opinions as to the advisability of organizing it one thing is certain now—it has come to stay. Only the destruction of the University, or the destruction of Christianity, both rather improbable events, can bring it to an end. Down through the future, it may be for hundreds of years, it will be among us, exercising its influence upon generation after generation of students, and determining to a large extent the character of university life. It is therefore of the gravest importance that we should understand it and for the sake of reformation or encouragement criticize it adversely or favorably as we honestly think it deserves. Nothing among us should be above criticism, and I for one am longing for the time when we can speak out more freely and boldly what we think without being silenced as we are in many directions now by that cowardly truth-withering whisper "Hush! Hush! Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ascalon."

Then, for our Y.M.C.A., what is its position among us? What good is it doing? Whither is it tending? One thing we may notice with mutual congratulation at the outset, the sneers that were made at the original members, when few in number, on the mistaken ground that they were setting themselves up as models of morality, have faded from the face of its opponents. Now the individual member is swallowed up in the numbers of the organization and all we see is the latter standing strongly and firmly, not with pretence of better morals, but as a great, earnest protest in favor of them as the outward expression of an inward yearning for a purer and a nobler life. This I take to be the great work of the Y.M.C.A. in its outward relations to the student world. I believe that so far it has done that work well; and I am sure that many who are not members of the organization will recognize its beneficent influence.

But there are two dangers to be avoided in any institution of its nature and in its situation. The first is the danger of forgetting its real work of influencing the hearts of men and aspiring to temporal power. Fortunately the wisdom of its managers has so far kept it free from all charge of endeavor to exercise a direct influence or control upon the course of undergraduate events. The second danger is that after expansion and elaboration there may grow up within stagnation and decay. I am eager to admit the great influence for good that the Y.M.C.A. has had upon our general life by discountenancing the breach of the common A, B, C rules of morality; but when I look within and enquire what influence it has upon its own members, how it helps *them* to go onward to the observation of finer rules, to the removal of less obvious stains, I confess that I am often gravely disappointed. We have many committees and associations announced in pencils red and blue; we have many secretaries, travelling, general, international, inter-collegiate, inter-provincial, and what not; we have many reports that never utter a discouraging word, for that would *never* do, even if the work has been most foolishly undertaken and cannot reasonably promise to succeed; but I do not know what good they do, what strength they bring to *each individual soul*. Indeed, I am afraid that the conditions are very unfavorable towards mutual improvement by the present methods. The Y.M.C.A. is composed of all sorts and conditions of men, and when a promiscuous crowd assembles to listen to an ordinary student, it is one chance in a hundred that he will strike a chord of sympathy in any breast. It needs the powers

of a master-mind to go deep into the nature of things and influence such a motley throng. You need not tell me they are one in Christ, for there are, as a matter of fact, various stages of belief, various mental temperaments, that can scarcely sympathize with and help each other. It is from the quiet communion of sympathetic friends in some private room that real assistance is derived, when those who do not understand each other at all, who are fresh from the many "obstinate questionings of invisible things" that arise in the lecture rooms of science and philosophy, some troubled one way and some another, when these meet in a public room and listen to the halting sentences of one who knows not the hearts of his audience, and perhaps could not help them if he did, what light do we receive, what strength is imparted to us? Could not some better system be devised on the basis of similar needs and similar temperaments? Or can any inner good be derived from system at all? Or am I wrong in supposing that no good is derived from the present one? After all, each man can only answer this last question for himself.

NUNQUAM NOSCENDUS.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The first meeting of the club was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall on Monday, the 19th inst., and was rather poorly attended. The meeting was a French one, having as a subject, "18th Century Sentimentalists."

Miss L. L. Jones read a very comprehensive essay on "Paul et Virginie," of Bernardin de St. Pierre. Miss Jones read with a distinctness that made it a pleasure to follow her. Miss Lye read a selection in French, and read it well, though somewhat fast. Mr. T. D. Dockray's essay treated of "Julie ou La Nouvelle Eloise." After the program the members spent some time in French conversation. This feature of the club is being neglected by most of the members of the club, especially in the lower years. It is to be hoped that the neglect will be only temporary.

In THE VARSITY's report of the last meeting of last term there was a very important omission, and one for which we hasten to make amends. All those present will remember how Miss T. C. Robertson, of the second year, delighted them with her reading from Cable's "Bonaventure," and must have felt surprise at not noticing her name among those who took part at that very successful meeting. As the President said: "It is the misfortune of the club that Miss Robertson cannot be heard more frequently." The omission of Miss Robertson's name was one of those mistakes that occur once in the life of every reporter, and will be better appreciated by those having experience than by the public generally.

THE NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The postponed meeting of this Society took place in the Biological Department on Friday last; the second Vice-President, Mr. Thomas McCrae, in the chair.

A communication from Mr. F. T. Shutt, M.A., of Ottawa, was read, approving of the manner in which the Cawthorne medal was to be disposed, and congratulating the Society on its growth and prosperity.

Mr. A. F. Hunter, '91, read an excellent paper entitled "Cell division—direct and indirect." He reviewed the history, and gave a general survey of the Cell doctrine, and then went minutely into the processes of Cell division, calling special attention to the part played by the chromatin in the nucleus.

Mr. E. C. Jeffrey, B.A., spoke of the great difficulties scientists had to encounter in this study. He spoke also of the Physiological importance of chromatin, and referred to Dr. A. B. Macallum's discovery of the presence of iron therein which gives rise to the red pigment in the red blood corpuscles. The chairman thanked Mr. Hunter very heartily on behalf of the students, and the meeting then adjourned.

ADDRESS BY DR. NEVIUS.

The regular meeting of the Y. W. C. A. held last Wednesday afternoon in Y. M. C. A. Hall was one of unusual interest. As Rev. Dr. Nevius, a lately returned missionary from China, was to address the meeting, the ladies very thoughtfully invited the members of the Y. M. C. A. to attend. Accordingly there was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen to greet the distinguished speaker. Sir Daniel occupied the chair.

After the customary devotional exercises Dr. Nevius was called upon. Long years of familiarity with his subject had given him a thorough knowledge of it, and his address was particularly well arranged and tangible. Influenced no doubt by the academic surroundings, he chose the educational aspect of Chinese life as his especial theme. It was a proud day in the life of a Chinese boy when he was first sent to school. He realized that he had entered upon a career which, if his ability were sufficient, need not stop short of the highest office in the gift of his emperor. A series of competitive examinations of the strictest and most searching character were the test of fitness for official preferment. Only a very few of the cleverest were able to complete this series.

Dr. Nevius also outlined the theory of Chinese ethics. The heart of the emperor was the spring of virtue. Purity of intention was essential in the heart, and the emperor was the model for all his subjects, a kind of moral ideal. According to Confucius there were five virtues, the order of which is remarkable. Like the Christian virtues the Chinese were headed by love. This was followed by righteousness, justice, etiquette, and what may be approximately described as faith. The inclusion of etiquette among the cardinal virtues is noteworthy. That quality is among us rather an embellishment of culture than an intrinsic virtue. These five virtues found their field of operation in the five relationships as classified by the sacred books, viz., that of emperor and officer, father and son, man and wife, elder and younger brother, and man to outside friends and acquaintances.

The westerner will observe in this catalogue no moral relationship between man and God, nor do the Chinese conceive of such a thing. Further, in the Chinese language there is no word for religion nor for God as a supreme personal deity. These facts throw a strong light on the spiritual degradation which possesses that idolatrous people. So devoid are they of spiritual ideas and vocabulary that the Bible when put into their hands is a complete puzzle. It is bought by them eagerly, not because it contains the word of life, but because they fancy it will teach them the foreigner's magic. Dr. Nevius expressed the opinion that it was not by the dissemination of Christian literature among a people who could not comprehend it that China was to be evangelized, but by the foolishness of preaching. At the conclusion of his address Dr. Nevius answered a number of questions which were put to him in an interesting manner.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed and the meeting broke up.

Dr. Nevius, however, kindly consented to stay and tell those who wished to hear about the missionary of the Y. M. C. A. in Corea, Mr. Gale. A number of the most enthusiastic remained. Dr. Nevius had spent two happy weeks with Gale, whom he reports as in good health and progressing as fast as possible in his great work. He gave the officers of the Y. M. C. A. some information which will be of great value to them in securing the comfort and efficiency of Mr. Gale.

In point of artistic beauty we must give the palm to the Christmas issue of the *Argosy*, a Canadian exchange from New Brunswick. With a very chaste frontispiece, photographs of its staff and eminent graduates and very timely Christmas papers and poems, it makes an excellent number, and a splendid souvenir of Mt. Alison College.

EXCHANGE NOTES.

The High School *Echo* is a bright little exchange that arrives regularly from Manchester, New Hampshire.

The Christmas number of the *Chronicle-Argonaut* contains more literary matter than any of its regular weekly numbers. There are a couple of pages of "U. of M. verse," all of a light, airy character, but devoid of much thought. The editors probably know best what suits their readers, but we must express surprise that there are not more literary productions in a paper representing so large a university as the U. of M.

We expected something good in the Christmas *Owl*, and we were not disappointed. It contains about seventy-five pages of very fine reading matter, interspersed with choice cuts and illustrations. The poetry is of a very high order, and the prose articles scholarly and instructive. The article on "The Greeks and the Romans," with the further title of "An Heroic Episode in the History of Foot-ball," is enough to excite the enthusiasm of even those least devoted to the "grand old game," while the illustrations are, to use a slang phrase, simply "killing." Its exchange column is composed of a cut of the *Owl* sanctum, with all its exchanges hanging on the wall or on its table, and a poem, after the style of "Hiawatha," entitled "The *Owl's* 'At-Home.'" The only defect in the *Owl* is its cover, which, though well designed in detail, yet gives one the idea of a patent medicine almanac rather than of a journal of literature.

THE ONTARIO RUGBY UNION.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Rugby Union, which will be held next Saturday, promises to be a most important one, as many alterations in the rules are contemplated, which, if carried into effect, will vitally change the present style of play. The tendency to Americanize the game has, in a large measure, disappeared; but it is still generally agreed that the present rules require very extensive alteration. It has been suggested, with a view to remedying the present defects, that a team should comprise eleven or twelve men instead of fifteen; that penalties should be imposed for lying on or touching the ball in a scrimmage, and for various off side plays; that the "5 yard rule" should be abolished or amended; and that no appeals should be made to the executive, but that the referee's decision should be final; and that many other alterations of minor importance should be made.

It is altogether improbable that the number composing a team will be reduced, as the preponderance of opinion seems to be against it. It is curious to note that there is at present in the book no rule stating the numerical strength of a team, an omission which reflects little credit upon the framers of the rules. The imposition of penalties for certain objectionable methods of play is a good move and should certainly be carried into effect. The proposal to abolish appeals to the executive on the referee's decisions is not generally regarded as expedient, it being contended that in a difficulty a committee can give a better ruling than a single individual.

Besides making changes in the rules, the meeting will probably discuss other questions relating to the events of last season in connection with the final matches. The Queen's men have been considering the possibilities of forming a collegiate league, thereby evincing dissatisfaction with the present state of things; and a move has been made towards the formation of two leagues, one in the east, taking in the Montreal clubs, and another including Toronto and the clubs west, the winners in each series playing a final for the championship. This scheme has met with a good deal of approval. A spirit of reform seems to be abroad which threatens to materially change both the game and the existing constitution, and will undoubtedly make the annual meeting of '91 a very interesting one.

MIDST THE MORTAR BOARDS.

Miss Wilson, B.A., who is visiting in the city, paid a visit to her lady friends at the University last week.

R. J. Bonner, B.A., '90, has been added to the teaching staff in classics, and commenced his duties last week.

Mr. L. F. Anderson, '93, has been appointed assistant in the Library, in place of T. H. Cornign, who has resigned.

The members of the Class of '94 will soon be sporting class-pins with the figures "94" in the most prominent position.

At the Philosophy Seminary on Tuesday last Mr. R. M. Thompson read a paper on Kants' "Critique of Teleological Judgment."

News has been received by the Library Restoration Committee of further donations of books from friends of the University in England.

On Thursday, J. J. McLaren, Esq., Q.C., will commence his series of lectures on the Comparative Jurisprudence of Ontario and Quebec.

J. H. Proctor, '90, while visiting in Belleville lately was stricken with a severe attack of typhoid fever. His many friends will be glad to learn, however, that he is now convalescent.

Miss F. V. Keys and Messrs. Donald and McClay have read essays this term at the fourth year English Seminary. Keats, Marlowe and Shakespeare were the authors whose works the essayists treated.

Next Friday night the Class of '91 will furnish the programme at the Literary Society. The members of '91 and '92 will debate the question of justified in seceding.

There will be a meeting of THE VARSITY directorate in the office this afternoon at 4.15. As there is some business of importance to be transacted it is particularly desired that all the members be present.

It is with regret we learn that W. J. Moran, '91, will be unable to graduate with his class. His mother's severe illness has necessitated his remaining at home this year. Much sympathy is expressed for Billy.

The regular meeting of the Modern Language Club next Monday will have for a subject "Canadian Literature." This meeting will be an open one, and all interested in the study of literature are cordially invited to attend.

The first team of the Association Football Club sat for their picture at Simpson's on Saturday. This will probably be the last time that Gordon, Fraser, McLay, Buckingham, Edgar and Breckinridge will appear in a Varsity football group.

The work of restoring the old building goes on slowly, but progress is being made. The workmen have now commenced to put the roof on the west end. From present appearances the south elevation will be ready for occupation next fall.

Dr. Macallum has charge of the consignment of lymph for Toronto University, which was sent by Prof. Ramsay Wright from Berlin. Prof. Wright has secured a position in Dr. Koch's laboratory, and is rapidly informing himself of the method of preparation of the lymph.

In a recent issue of the Woodstock Standard the following notice appeared: "Married—On Dec. 30th, at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. R. Emigh, Holbrook, Mr. J. P. Hoag (undergraduate of the University of Toronto), to Miss Minnie Emigh." THE VARSITY offers congratulations.

Next Thursday, Dr. E. P. Gordon, B.A., leaves the city to enter upon his duties as surgeon of the Canadian Pacific steamer the *Empress of India*. On Wednesday the lacrosse men of the city will tender him a complimentary banquet at Webb's. THE VARSITY joins in good wishes for "Eddie's" success.

The Glee Club have decided to give a big University concert in conjunction with one of the city orchestras. The date has not yet been fixed, but will probably be about the 1st of March. This will doubtless be the musical event of the season, and will assuredly be a success. Let every student wait for this.

At the meeting of the Political Science Association of '92, on Thursday, Mr. J. A. Cooper read a paper on "The Iron Law of Wages." This was commented upon by Prof. Ashley, who presided. The subject for the next meeting, which will be held on Thursday at 9 a.m., is: "Resolved, that Ricardo's theory of rent is valueless."

The Torrington Orchestra gave a concert in the Pavilion on Monday, the 19th inst., in aid of the University Library fund. The audience was large and many friends of the University were among the number. There were very few students present, as the concert had not been well advertised among them, and very few knew that it was to be given.

The Ingres-Coutellier School of Languages is giving a series of lectures on French and German literature. The lectures on French take place every Tuesday. "Le Cid" and "Horace" of Corneille are the works to be treated at the next two lectures. Mr. Coutellier intends to give another lecture in French on Feb. 5th, and to avoid the overcrowding which the interest aroused in his lectures caused, has made arrangements to speak in a

larger hall. Students of the modern languages will do well to avail themselves of this opportunity of hearing spoken French.

CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF '94.—Mr. H. R. Fairclough, M.A., presided over the third regular meeting of this organization, which was held on the afternoon of Monday, January 19th. A motion was passed requesting the classical students of '93 to unite with those of '94 in forming an association for both years. After some further discussion, the Society proceeded with the reading of the *Odyssey*, which enterprise is now engaging its attention. Summaries of the first four books were read by Miss Wigle, '94's sole classical lady, and Messrs. Russell, Green, Eddy and Partridge. These papers were all admirable and evinced considerable knowledge of classical lore, and great skill in English composition. Mr. Reeve closed a very successful meeting with a reading of the famous passage in Macaulay, descriptive of Athens in the day of her glory. This Society has now become a settled fact, for its president has given his zealous support, and its members have shown great energy.

"THE LOVE-SICK SOPH."

She sits in a big, French bow-window,
In the mansion just over the way,
Whilst I sit here in my study,
And read, write and gaze all the day.
I've watched her in winter and summer,
In August, December and May,
I'm just a poor 'Varsity Sophomore,
But I've loved her a year and a day.

I know that she knows that I love her—
The story is writ in my face;
There's love and despair in these features,
Though there's little of beauty or grace.
And yesterday once when I looked up,
And caught her eyes fixed upon mine,
I drank in a message of gladness,
That thrills me with hope that's divine.

It's queer the day dreams a man has,
When at work in his study all day;
And it's queer that the queen of my fancies
Is the charming maid over the way.
It's strange that I dream of Exams, now,
And a scholarship taken next May,
With the possible chance of pay in advance,
And love for a year and a day.

AUGUSTUS O. SOFRESH.

Beautiful Young Lady (at hosiery counter); "These stockings strike me as being rather loud." *Polite Salesman*: "But consider how they would keep your feet from going to sleep." *Harvard Lampoon*.



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.