

THE VARSITY

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TO CAROLA IN SORROW.

How often in the dusky twilight hour, dear friend,
When day grew faint and slowly yielded to the night,
I've sat where I could see thy winsome face
Lit in the gloom by starlight of thine eyes.
Then, as thy fair fleet fingers struck from ivory keys
Strains of that music that will ever heartward go—
"Songs without words," that yet so plainly speak—
How trouble fled and care obeyed the charm.
To-day, as dark of sorrow closes round thy life,
No witching music can I make to comfort thee :
This simple rhyme, to speak a thought that's true
And breathe a prayer, I send thee with my love.

Not pleasure's treble trilling on alone
Could make the music of thy life complete ;
And now comes mingling sorrow's minor tone
With deeper strains and chords more grandly sweet.

While thus the player makes full harmony,
With slow, sad movement following close the gay,
May one bright theme flow through it all for thee—
A peace the world can never take away.

Riverside, N. B.

R. H.

MR. STEWART'S VOLUME OF POEMS.*

It is as inspiring as it is unusual nowadays that a young poet, in his first book of poems, setting himself resolutely to disregard readers who "consider poetry a diversion," should devote all to the hazard of song instinct with imaginative vitality. Mr. Stewart's work gives evidence of a notable restraint from artifices of mere technique ; having within him the consciousness of a message to deliver, he will venture the lonely heights, and lift up his voice with at least a lofty purpose in his singing. There is not a line of *vers de société* in his book ; not a ballade, not a rondeau ; none of the sparkling, delightful, metrical trifles we have come to look for in new volumes of verse ; not the faintest echo suggestive of Swinburne either in form or theme.

Mr. Stewart's inclination is largely towards the classical, his singing most often a minor strain of sadness and melancholy. The first of the present collection of poems, the blank verse "Lines to my Mother," a train of musings in the shadow of past years, is marked by a fine union of intellectuality and delicate beauty. The characteristic harmonies of which suggestions comes to one's inner sense from all the poems, the chords which recur again and again to the last stanza of the "After-song," are in this prelude modulated up to and held by the poet's intense subjectivity. Of the succeeding poems, "Good Night," "De Profundis,"—the title of which was originally "Ocean Thoughts,"—"Keats" and "To a Winter Bird" are reprinted from THE VARSITY of last year. "At Sea," "Fame," "Morn," and "Home" will be familiar to those who remember the poem which won for Mr. Stewart the College prize three years ago.

The longest poem in the volume, "Corydon and Amaryllis," which is in blank verse, is taken up almost too largely with melancholy introspection. While certain conventions will always

be indispensable to art, it may well be doubted whether pastoral and descriptive poetry is not a form that has become outworn. Turner and Cimabue are not to be judged from quite the same standpoint, nor Wagner and Palestrina ; all art must take up with its life its line of advance, assuming what has been done in the past. Even in landscape "we have reached the stage where human feeling," as Stedman points out, "pervades the most favoured work." We want the objective portrayal and illumination of life ; individuals, men and women, various and real, striving for intense sensations and continuous development must be set before us in being and action,—above all in that mutual play on one another's destinies which results from what has been termed "the dramatic purport of life." As I have said, Mr. Stewart's work does not seem to have been envired by the conditions most favourable and helpful towards this. He is at all times supremely subjective.

But the springs of poetry are indeed perennial, and subject to no law ; and our poet's melancholy, in such lines as the following, moves the heart like the gathered grieving of Beethoven :—

"And thou,
O robin, with the mellow flute so full
Of melody, 'twas almost to forget
That this fair world of ours could know one pang
Or tear, it was so beautiful, so full
Of joy. How my young heart did wildly bound
With thee in warbling greenness of glad spring !
My youth hath been attuned to thy sweet song ;
We have together roamed by mossy streams
Whose gladness mingled with our own, through fields
Where buds and berries ripened into bloom,
And by the leafy greenness of cool woods.
Our lives were like a merry dream, serene
And shadowless ; passion and apathy
Were far away, when thou wert breathing forth
Thine ecstasy. With thee I drove the kine
Howard along the lane, whose winding way
Left far behind the tangled trees and gloom—
That daisied lane, how like the tender thought
Of early home ! Then did the brown-armed maids
Come tripping with their ample pails, calling
The kine with simple names, until they drowed
In girlish laughter and low, sweet-lipped rifts
Of song. In happy rivalry we stood
With eager eyes, and linked our childish dreams
Unto the first-born star. The moonlight brought
Dim fairy tales and June's rose-heavy wreaths
By fragrant doors, and lingering good nights.
Thy merry song was wont to wake the morn
To eager-footed play and careless joy :
But time hath brought a spiritual change,
The light of sadder thought. Now, when I leave
The dream-paved palaces of sleep, thou art
A Dorian flute of wordless grief and pain,
A feathered memory of the vanished years.
One night I could not sleep, but knelt beside
The window sill. The red sun rose behind
The hedge ; thy song became an elegy
Of dying love. O God, how little do
We cling to what we have, how much to dreams !

Pale melancholy, faithfully thou lov'st
The human soul when youth and passion fail,
How precious all things grow beneath thy smile !
Sad sister of the poet's lonely hours,
Thy clinging arms embrace us all, thy feet
Are in all paths, and nature saddens 'neath
Thine eyes. The lotus and the poppy have
Thee in their dreamy veins, thine image dwells
For ever in the jewelled wine ; thou art
The hungry beauty of Love's crescent eyes,

* Poems. Phillips Stewart. London : Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.

The tremour of white hands, the ashy gleam
Of noble brows, and thou dost startle Love's
Young dreams into a dying swoon and strew
A flowery sadness on some new-made grave."

This passage—which does not at all surpass in beauty and power many others of equal length even in the same poem—may show the quality and artistic value of Mr. Stewart's work perhaps better than the many shorter passages I had also marked for quotation. "The Last Sleep," "To a Blind Singer," "The Poet," "Hope," "The Painter to his Picture," "Evermore," and "Love's Dream" are poems strong in motive and expression, and alive with emotion. I may be allowed to quote from the last stanza of the "After-song" the words which bring the book to a close :

"I came again and all were gone,
And I lingered there by the sea alone.
Why is the poet's pipe wed unto saddening thought?
O the unsung songs that might have been mine,
As the waves beat up in splendid rhyme.
Why beats the heart in the breast
Like the sea on the stones in unrest?
In feverish hands the foam of the waves I caught.
'Are we not more than foam in the hands of Time?'
I said, 'Is there not more for life's clinging vine
Than idols and dreams, more in death than dumb sleep?'
But the waves came in with their mighty sweep
And eternal cry, 'We are weary of toil and of strife,
We have toiled forever under a spell;
We have built the land where the nations dwell
And the mountains that dwell with the cloud,
Both the small and the great.
What is the use? Man ever threads the maze
Of life in the mists of fate,
While Beauty sits in desolate ways,
While Greed is king of th' ignoble crowd,
And the world is wan with the war of creeds,
Oppression, tyranny, martyr-filled flames,
Unsatisfied love, and forgotten dead,
Fields of war where the soldier bleeds,
And pillars sculptured with deeds and names
That tell of darkness and dragon dread.
We have toiled for ever under a spell,
We have built the land where the nations dwell;
We are weary of toil and of strife.'

O wind-tossed waves that wander for evermore!
O weary waves by the winding shore!
The life that turneth no thoughtless eye
On the glories that round us lie,
On the myriad grandeurs of earth and sky,
And the wonder of changing sights,
Can feel that the lowliest worm hath rights,
And a broken shell on the beach
Hath sadness deeper than speech."

"Dreamy and inconclusive," in the words of a late writer, "the poet sometimes, nay, often, cannot help being, for dreaminess and inconclusiveness are conditions of thought when dwelling on the very subjects that most demand poetical treatment." Yet one could wish that the poet of "Corydon and Amaryllis" were a little less dreamy and inconclusive at times, a little less melancholy and despondent—for many moods of sorrow are reflected in his verse. Some of the poems thrill one with a note of desolate sadness, more exquisite than I can express.

W. J. HEALY.

HOW HRÖTHGAR CAME HOME AGAIN.

Beowulf, 1897-1914.

There on the sand was
A sea-worthy ship
Freighted with war-gear,
The iron-ring'd prow
With horses and treasure:
High the mast towered
Over Earl Hröthgar's
Store of hoard-jewels.
He on the boat-ward,
Bounden with gold,
A broadsword bestowed;
That he was thereafter
More worthy on mead-bench
For that same heir-loom,

The relic of yore.
Then he boarded the sea-boat,
To plow the deep water,
The Danes' land forsook.
There was, the mast along,
One of sea-mantles,
A sail sheeted home.
On surged the ocean-tree,
Not there the wave-swimmer
Winds over water-floods
Stayed of her going;
On gat the sea-ganger,
Fleeted the foamy-necked
Forth o'er the billows,
The carven-stem ship
Over the sea-rivers,
Till that the Geat cliffs
They could descry,
The well-known coast-nesses.
Up drave the keel,
Sped up by the breezes
She shoaled on the shallows.

BOHEMIEN.

SLANG.

There is an art in slang. It is an embellishment or ornamentation; a sort of lower grade or detritus of poetical embellishment or ornamentation. Professor Masson has defined poetry to be the addition of secondary concrete to prior concrete. The same holds good with regard to slang. It differs from poetry in the character of the added concrete, and bears much the same relationship to poetry that folk-lore does to mythology.* A slang phrase is one torn from its original signification, fallen from its high estate, degraded. "Degraded?" perhaps you exclaim, "degraded, when slang, pure and simple, may be found in Shakespeare, in Juvenal, in Terence, in Aristophanes, in Plato† even?" What I mean is, we find it in comedy, not in tragedy; in satire, not in ode; in familiar colloquy, not in moral disquisition; in the mouth of Pistol, or Bardolph, or Falstaff, not in the soliloquies of Hamlet or Cato. Like detritus it is found on the lowly plain, not on the mountain-top.

Perhaps the essential difference between the secondary concrete of poetry and that of slang is the inappropriateness or inapplicability of the latter. Slanginess, in fact, varies inversely as appropriateness. "Bob up serenely" applied to the natatorial antics of visitors to Dieppe or Coney Island,—spots dear to the advocates of co-nation of the sexes—is scarcely within the confines of slang proper. But in the unauthorized version, even in the revised version, it would be worse than slang. "It makes me tired" is in some instances a very sensible remark; it is not until it becomes wholly inappropriate that it becomes slang. So in concoling with her Grace, the Duchess of So-and-So, on the occasion of some bereavement, one would hardly address her as "old girl," or request her to "come, come," or to "keep a stiff upper lip," and "stand it like a little man;" and yet cases might occur when to some "dear old chappie" they would be the exact phrases used. The difference between slang and poetry is the difference between *Punch* and the *Times*. *Punch* gives the news always with a smile on his face, and never in the "grand" styles. The *Times* is always tremendously sober and serious. Poetry is the portrait; slang is the caricature.

T. A. H.

A BRIEF COMPARISON OF THE PLATONIC AND KANTIAN VIEWS OF THE ABSOLUTE UNITY IN THE COMPLEX PHENOMENAL.

The history of Philosophy from the days of the Sage of Miletus to the times of the prince of German transcendentalists is but a record of the labyrinthine wanderings of the human soul goaded on as Ió of old, by a maddening gadfly of necessity, to struggle through the mazes of the complex Phenomenal to the higher unity, all embracing. Down the ages can this toilsome path be traced, by the whitening bones of decayed philosophies, that have shed their dim, often uncertain light upon the ever-widen-

*See Max Muller, *Chips*.

†*Zette*, De Quincey.

ing expanse of the realms of thought. Baleful beacons are they serving well to warn the unskilled, or to deter with forbidding glare, the venturous mariner for Charybdiid reefs and whirlpool of Scylla. History repeats itself. In To-day already walks To-morrow.

The same ontological problems, the same enquiries into the capacities, the *δυναμεις*, the conceptions, the desires, the aspirations, yea the destiny of the soul, face the eager enquirer of the 19th century—so it would seem to us—which vexed the mind of the broad-browed philosopher of the Academy—for do not we find in the Thætetus a shadowing forth—in dim outline, it is true, and with at times imperfect apprehension on the part of its author—of the ideas that even now voice themselves in iron-whispers of the thinker, fearless and often discordant with the utterances of oracles received with reverence in the old world—and indeed they have taken root in the virgin soil of our own land. For why should it be doubted that it is given to prophetic souls, bringing forth with many parturition pang it may be—conceptions big with promise of future development—realizing themselves in the minds of men on whom destiny has flung the mantle of their illustrious forerunner. Thus was it given to Plato—then whom, after the misconceptions of centuries have in large measure been cleared away, none shine in the world of thought with lustre more undimmed.

Let us proceed to give a succinct statement—and with diffidence we do so, as indeed we may—of the salient features of the systems of Plato and Kant.

Here we take high ground in the bold statement that their differences are few and often but apparent, while their points of agreement are fundamental and far-reaching. For instance, we find them essentially agreeing as regards the absolute necessity of the *a priori* element, thought, or idea, as a constituent of every practical cognition. This they agree in claiming to be universally and unvaryingly real, in the highest flights of the world-compelling philosopher, as in the first faint flutterings of the infantile imagination,—in other words, that “the *Ego* appears now as the pit in which the various sensations, perceptions, conceptions, ideas are put away—the *Ego* that is present with them all, that is the centre in which they all concur. Spirit as conscious individuality, as *Ego* is the object of the Phenomenology of consciousness (which in smaller compass reappears here as intermediate between anthropology and psychology). One feels the difficulty in treating a theme so lofty and abstruse, of expressing oneself with clearness and yet with accuracy. The alternative is forced upon one, of either expressing oneself in language technical but accurate, or of using forms of expression which, though they might be plainer and more popular, would necessarily be vague and inadequate. We have chosen the former.

Let us proceed to specify. And first, in the region of the Transcendental Æsthetic, we are at the outset met by a demand for definition. The former being, and both agree in this indeed, an epithet applied to any cognition which shows us how a certain synthetical knowledge *a priori* is first, possible, or second, capable of application to objects. The latter designates the capacity for feeling, as distinguished from the understanding (*verstand und vernunft*), the region of the higher faculty of the purely mental being excluded from the comparatively limited sphere of our ordinary apperception. The existence of *a priori* sense elements is indisputable—elements, namely, that are universal and necessary.

Into the shady walks of the Academy there fell a beam of glorious light. Again it shone with renewed lustre upon the stone-paved streets of Koingsberg, “a light which never was on sea or land,” thence deflected with united ray have they, through all the years shone even to the day in which we live; and now they stand arrayed with serried rank presenting an unbroken front to the seething waves of crass materialism and shallow experientialism, which rise malarious from the reeking fens of the philosophy of Mill and Spencer.

Secondly—The question—Can the knowledge of nature itself be a part or product of nature—must not be confused with that commonly supposed to be at issue between spiritualists and materialists. We have here to cross the line from a particular genus of Infinitude, belonging to a single attribute, to the absolutely Infinite; but in doing this, it emerges from parallelism and, through the perennial conflict and concurrence of mind, secures an ideal equilibrium. There can be no doubt that the general trend of philosophy is in the direction we have indicated, while it is but fair to state that the following is the opinion of Hegel—“We have a knowledge of a world that is

external to us, the thinking subject. When we analyse this knowledge we find that what we directly know are objective mental representations, formed of certain sensations related to each other. It is discovered, that these relations do not exist among the sensations *per se*. The impressions succeed one another. The subject must be timeless.” But even Hegel himself, in his later philosophy, found reason to recede from this position and to return to the more solid foundation of the philosophy taught by his two illustrious predecessors whose affinities we are now considering. For he says: “Spirit is absolute so far as it has returned from the sphere of objectivity into itself, into the ideality of cognition, into the perception of the absolute idea as the truth of all being.” We feel that we are warranted, at this point, in formulating our conclusions from these premises which we modestly submit are impregnable.

I. To know it, consciously, brings us into closer and nearer relation with the past—the whole past being a possession of the present.

II. The actual true is the sum of all these :

Large elements in order brought,
And tracts of calm from tempest made ;
And world-wide fluctuation swayed
In vassal tides that followed thought.

M. D. T. H. G.

NISI PRIUS.

THE LAWYER'S WOOING.

It is a learned old Q. C.
That on the threshold stands ;
And first of all he rings the bell,
And then he wrings his hands.
In dread suspense he waits until
The door is opened wide,
He wipes the sweat from off his brow
And then he steps inside.

And now before her doth he stand,
Nor speaks but to his purpose :
“ My heart is bound in passion's chains ;
Oh, grant its *Habeas Corpus* !
Need I—*de novo*—all relate ?
I loved you *a priori*,
And now again I view your charms
I love—*a fortiori*.
And now, my love, no more ado,
Your answer well I guess ;
Come, let us now adjourn this court,
With ‘ Yes ; oh, yes ! oh, yes ! ’ ”

The bright eyes smiled. “ Alas ! ” she said,
“ How fortune seems to try us ;
But, don't you see, your court must be
A court of *nisi prius* ?
For, not long since, there came to me
A bright-eyed lover, and I
Knew right at once, he came, my heart
With *animo furandi*.
Before the *forum* of my soul
He plead his case so strongly,
That *in futuro* I am his,
And, pardon me, not wrongly.
And now,—forgive me if I err—
We best had part, sir, *i. e.*,
We'd better close this useless court—
Adjourn it *sine die*.”

Sad, sad indeed ; alas ! how sad
His after annals are.
He tried to drown his bitter grief
By practice at the bar.
And, should you chance to question him,
He'd shake his whitening hair,
And tell you (privately) he thought
The fair 'un most unfair.

J. D. S.

THE VARSITY.

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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITORS, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.

Contributions when not accepted will be returned if accompanied with a stamp for that purpose.

A few weeks ago we took occasion to comment favourably upon the action of Harvard in securing the co-operation of thirteen of the New England Colleges in the creation of a permanent Commission to inquire into and report upon the mutual relations of the secondary schools and colleges in that portion of the United States. We also said that such a Commission was very much needed in Ontario, and that since Confederation was only concerned with the Universities of Toronto and of Victoria College, some of the good results of the measure, as originally intended, might be realized by some such combined effort on the part of all the Ontario Colleges, at the same time without interfering with the *status quo* of any existing College. At the last meeting of the Senate communications were received from Queen's and Victoria with reference to a uniform standard for matriculation. Though we are somewhat in the dark as to the precise nature of the propositions made by Queen's and Victoria, we welcome this evident desire to bring about a very useful change, as an indication that, with a better understanding of mutual needs and capabilities, the principal colleges of this Province, whilst remaining independent, may be able to raise materially the standard of university education. And not only will the establishment of an *entente cordiale* betwixt the Colleges be a desirable and a pleasant thing, but it will perhaps bring about a movement similar to that which promises such good results in New England, viz.: the bringing of the Colleges and secondary schools into more direct and sympathetic relation with one another. The creation of a Commission composed of representatives from the various colleges and secondary schools of this Province would do much to raise the general standard, to improve the condition of both, and to stimulate all to renewed endeavours to maintain in an efficient and worthy condition the whole educational system of Ontario. We shall be glad if the proposals of Queen's and Victoria anent matriculation may be taken as an earnest of a future policy of mutual trust and mutual help.

In our editorial on Schools of Science in the issue of the 26th of February, we referred amongst others, to the Worcester Technical Institute as being "devoted to the industrial training of young boys, who serve their apprenticeship, as it were, at this school." Our exchange the "W. T. I.," in a notice of our article corrects us, and goes on to say: "In the first place our students are not young boys, but are of the average age of those in any college in the country. The course here is one of three years for Chemists and Civil Engineers, but for Mechanical Engineers, in addition, six months' practice (seven hours a day) in the wood-room is required. After the six months have expired the Mechanics enter upon the term proper, at which time the Civils and Chemists join them and remain together until graduation. This six months' work in wood is what THE VARSITY refers to as the apprenticeship. In that, it is right; the class during that period being called the Apprentice class. But one of the main features of our school is the practice (of one whole day a week) which is required of each student—this feature being substantially credited by THE VARSITY to another institution." We gladly make the correction, and are indebted to our contemporary for putting us in the right with regard to the Worcester Institute. The "W. T. I." concludes as follows: "The cause THE VARSITY advocates is a noble one. The question of the expediency of technical education has ceased to be a debatable

one in the United States, and industrial schools are springing up on every hand. It was only a few weeks ago that news came that an institute modelled after ours is to be started in Atlanta, Georgia. If such a school can be carried on with profit in the south, how much more so in the more active manufacturing districts of Canada."

It seems to be a matter of some uncertainty whether or not there will be a Senate election this year. Some of the *quidnuncs* say that until the question of Confederation is settled, the elections for the Senate will be held in abeyance. If this be so, and if Confederation means the re-organization of the Senate, perhaps a few words may not be out of place in regard to the constitution of that body. The Senate of the University of Toronto is composed of 49 gentlemen, representing three classes of members: (1) Those who are members *ex-officio*; (2) Those who are elected; (3) Those who are appointed by the Crown. Those who come under the first division, represent, for the most part, affiliated institutions, and as such, under existing circumstances, their presence on the Senate is desirable and proper. Those who are members by the suffrages of their fellow graduates represent perhaps the most important element, and one which is entitled to a proportionate increase every few years. It is difficult to assign any particular reason for the presence of the third class upon the Senate; they are good citizens, and some of them are public-spirited men, but they represent no section or class which is not already represented. The Senate may further be classified as follows: There are 22 members *ex-officio*, 15 elected members, and 12 appointed by the Crown. In our opinion, the most important elements represented upon the Senate are: the Council of University College, the High School Teachers of Ontario, and the Graduates of the University of Toronto. There are 2 to represent the first class, 2 the second and 15 the last; this makes 19 out of the 49. As the University of Toronto is at present constituted, it is merely an examining and degree-conferring body. The teaching is done by University College, but the requirements for degrees are settled by the University. This constitutes the real difference between the University and the College; a difference which has puzzled many people. Seeing then that there is such an intimate connection between the two corporations, it appears to us that the one which gives instruction should have some voice in the requirements prescribed for standing and for degrees. And so it has; but in what proportion? Out of 49 members there are 5 to represent the College Faculty; 3 of whom are on the Senate by virtue of their being on the staff of University College. Every member of the College Council should be, *ex-officio*, a member of the Senate. And the High School Masters find only 2 members out of 49 who are specially charged to represent them. The relation of the secondary schools to the University is a most important and close one; the very life of the University depends, to a large extent, upon the secondary schools. It is absolutely necessary that the mutual needs and requirements of the University and of the secondary schools should be constantly known and frequently adjusted. But how can this be done when the secondary schools find themselves with only 2 representatives on a Senate composed of a good half-hundred men, whose perception or acquaintance with the wants of these schools is of the most limited character? If any re-organization of the Senate takes place, we would suggest that special care be taken to see that the Council of University College, the Graduates of the University, and the High School Masters of the Province receive a much larger representation on the Senate than they at present possess.

THE YEAR BOOK.

The YEAR BOOK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO has now been issued to the public by Messrs. Rowsell & Hutchison, printers to the University. As the YEAR BOOK has been edited by two members of THE VARSITY staff, it is thought best to refrain from adulatory expressions, and let the book make its own appeal. It is to be regretted that two books, somewhat similar in aim should appear at the same time, since it has hitherto been found impossible to issue any publication of the kind. The two books are, however, before the University public; the price is the same in both cases; those interested in a publication of this kind must decide between the two.

COMMUNICATIONS.

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

THE ANNUAL ELECTIONS' LITERARY SOCIETY.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—When last year I denied myself the pleasure of voting at our Literary Society's annual election, and gave up the excitement of its contest for the maintenance of my convictions, I was, I think, somewhat harshly adjudged guilty of selfishness, and recklessly charged with waywardness—a result not so much indicative of the eternal canons of truth and justice as illustrative of the innate cussedness of mankind in general, and one's friends in particular. Since my view is considered exceptional (which I know) and wrong (which I don't know) I must ask to be heard in defence of it.

Whether are we to have an election for the Society, or a Society for the elections? Is the dog to wag its tail, or the tail to wag its dog? The elections secure the fees, but securing the fees is not the Society's highest aim; it was not instituted merely for the pleasure of paying for it. "Party elections make men active and give excitement." Any one can see that by the very sleepy condition of Society at all other times. The Society, intoxicated by the wine of excess, spends next day in bed with a sick headache; and nature, by a year's sleep, retrieves the excitement of a week. Bears suck their paws and sleep during winter, eat a baby about March. "A little fighting keeps things going." No doubt of it. Courtesy is going. Good feeling is going. The Society is—, but cheer up! even if Trelawney *does* die, we have the most reassuring promises, from one party at least, of a highly entertaining and satisfactory *post mortem*.

The elections are greedy. They're worse than Oliver Twist. They're eating up the Society—the vile anthropophagi. Once the whale swallowed Jonah, now Jonah's to swallow the whale.

"A certain young lady of Niger,
Went out to ride with a tiger;
They returned from the ride,
With the lady inside,
And a smile on the face of the tiger."

Gentlemen, "The lady or the tiger?"

The two parties are

"Brave as lions, wise as foxes,
With hoards of wealth in their money-boxes"

in March, and for the other eleven months are as tired as a fakir, who's stood for five years on one toe, as poor as a church society collecting for a village steeple, and possessed of eyes

"nor brighter, nor moister,
Than a too-long-opened oyster."

It is curious that parties should be formed to woo for those honours which are only honour when won unwooed.

It is strange for a Society to have a membership of hundreds and an attendance of tens.

It is humiliating to have its officers chosen by voters ignorant of its affairs and indifferent to its success.

It is shameful that the Literary Society, the father of all societies, should see in the advance of its children food for envy and omens of downfall—King Lear without Cordelia.

It is disgraceful that the Society select its officers by elections alike degrading to its members and false to its college.

The Society wants interest, not excitement.

Advantage to all, not honour to a part.

Union, not discord.

Members to attend, not martyrs to run.

Laughter, not ridicule.

Earnestness, not dullness.

Above all, it wants *this*, the presence of a hundred students of Toronto University College. If we cannot get this, let us bury our dead.

H. C. BOULTBEE.

DEGRADATION OF THE GOWN.

"I despise your new gown."—Alexander Pope.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.
SIRS,—I used to admire the academic robe intensely. When I was a Freshman I had an extra fine gown made to order, and hastened to honour a city photographer by striking a classic pose in the focus of his camera, whilst the said functionary took the usual steps to perpetuate the said pose.

Nor was my vanity unpardonable. The academic costume is, in itself, (certain iconoclastic radicals to the contrary notwithstanding), a picturesque, if not a beautiful, thing. It is the established badge of the learned professions—*Divinity* and *Law*, and to these modern indulgence has added (perhaps not unwisely) *Medicine*. To these it has been hallowed by the usage of ages. We bow the knee to the sainted memory of our sires and fondly recall that they too were *gownsmen*.

As first prescribed by statute, and enforced by pains and penalties, and protected at the same time as a valuable privilege, this

costume grew into a part of our habit of life, and with it all the glorious memories of the fading past are interminably intertwined.

In the motherland, where custom is the mightiest law, and is subject to least variation by reason of its great age and firm establishment, no one ever dreams of the violation of such an historic patent. There, the significance of the gown is so universally known and so clearly understood that the rash adventurer who would encroach upon it only finds himself covered with ridicule for his unprecedented assumption. In a new country like our own, however, the gown has no place in popular tradition; its very appearance is an innovation, and an innovation, too, whose utility its first champions must have doubted.

Its use, brought about in a half-hearted, semi-surreptitious way, could not be expected to become general, much less to gain a certain recognition in popular notions. The consequence is that to-day many people have never seen or heard of the college cap and gown, and the great majority have only a hazy idea of its being proper for certain clergymen to be similarly arrayed in the pulpit, and, finally, only the *very few* (fewer indeed than the *wearers* of gowns) have a distinct apprehension of why we wear the gown, whence the custom, who prescribes it, and what rules should be followed in relation to it.

While all these considerations naturally present themselves to the reflective mind, I must confess that it was with a feeling of annoyance and disgust that I read in the daily paper (one day in my second year) that at the "—Ladies' College," the girls had, at a meeting summoned for the purpose, resolved unanimously to adopt the "college gown"! To this, it was added, "The faculty offered no objections!"

What kind of consciences, thought I, can this *faculty* possess, who will allow those under their charge to strut in borrowed plumes and misappropriate a garb of whose mere meaning they are grossly ignorant? Fancy my surprise, moreover, on finding that the head of the aforesaid faculty was a certain reverend doctor.

Still, this was a trifling occurrence, and I hoped yet to see my fellow-students awake to the importance of preserving and sacredly cherishing our noble and historic badge. I like to see men wear their caps constantly around the College and encourage by their example the use of the gown among those entitled to it. In my opinion this community of dress tended to foster an *esprit de corps* whose absence we are so accustomed to bemoan.

But my feelings were still further lacerated on going down town one day and seeing prominently displayed in a shop window a great aggregation of persons (*yclept medicos*) pictured as wearing a costume to which they are, in their daily life, utter strangers, and with which their notorious lack of even the beginnings of a liberal education is so very inconsistent. Truly, methought, the gown is becoming very cheap.

An ardent conservator of gown traditions might ultimately have determined to put up with this much of vandalism, but, lo! the fever becomes epidemic (call it *Togomania*); a collection of embryo horse-doctors next appears in a photographer's window, enrobed as a "graduating class" of a "Veterinary College," not one of whom ("faculty" included) do we find possessed of a liberal education. Some one should explain to these erring people that they are taking what is not their own: even though they should decline to be enlightened, and treat their informant ever after as a vindictive foe.

But the prostitution of the gown does not stop even here. The clerks in the drug shops and in the dentists' offices have clubbed together and have been photographed as the "graduating classes" of the "College of Pharmacy" and of the "School of Dentistry"—or, according to the revised version, the "College of Dental Surgeons."

It now only remains for the apprentices of city barbers and undertakers to combine and hie themselves (duly enrobed in *our* gown) to a photographer, and dub their picture a "graduating class" of a "College of Tonsorial Art" and of a "School of Embalming," respectively, and our humiliation will be complete.

But, we are asked, what is to be done? The tribunal of public opinion is notoriously incompetent (with us at least) to try these cases, and no prosecutor has yet been found who is willing to endure the rancour with which the defendants will ever after regard him.

The man who steals a coat-of-arms *may* have a conscience, but the positive dishonesty of a corporation which deliberately misappropriates the private badge of another vastly more honoured, is a thing we cannot too strongly condemn.

These people have just about as much right to wear the academic costume as a boot-black has to don the uniform of our A.D.C. to the Queen. The frightful parody on Her Majesty's uniform which is characteristic of the Salvation Army only provokes our mirth, for they do not profess to be real officers in the Imperial service, they only imitate; but, on the other hand, those mushroom concerns which we have mentioned actually profess to be entitled to the academic costume as a matter of legal right!

"*Quae quum ita sint*," fellow students, let us preserve our dignity by abandoning that which is fallen, and which we do not possess the means of exalting again.

To be more precise, let us abandon the *undergraduate gown*, and cling only to the graduate until the further aggression of vandalism compels us to drop it also.

SPARTACUS.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

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

DR. WALLACE'S LECTURES.

II. THE ORIGIN AND USES OF COLOUR IN NATURE.

Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace delivered his second lecture to a large audience on Friday evening. The Hon. G. W. Allan, Chancellor of Trinity College, presided, and in a few introductory remarks referred to the distinction Dr. Wallace had acquired for himself as a naturalist and as a scientific writer.

Dr. Wallace first proceeded to show the fallacy of different current theories of colour, and said that it is only recently the rich development of colour found in nature has been ascertained to have any close connection with the well-being of animals. He defined colour as the normal product of complex chemical elements; variations of colour resulting from the differentiation of external structural changes. Colour must, therefore, be expected in nature and its presence need not be accounted for. What we require to give an account of is the variations of colour and the uses of these variations.

The Darwinian theory gave the first impulse to scientific enquiry as to colour and its different variations, for according to that theory, it is held that the presence of colour in nature is not meaningless—that colour has its uses. These uses Dr. Wallace classifies thus:

(1) Protective; (2) As a means of recognition; and (3) Mimicry. (This last division falls properly under the first.)

One of the first things that attract attention when we examine the colour of animals is that there is a general harmony between colour and environment. For example, in Arctic regions the prevailing colour is white; in tropical climates the bright colours are developed, green predominating; in temperate zones we have the more sombre shades and tints; while in desert regions the colour corresponds with that of the arid sands. Stereopticon views were exhibited in illustration, showing land and sea animals, birds and insects. A very curious adaptation of colour to surroundings and circumstances is seen in the "Venus' Girdle," which is not only beautifully tinted green, but is also quite transparent, so as scarcely to be distinguished from the sea water in which it is found. The animal commonly known as the Sea Horse, too, illustrates the same thing. It takes on the same colour as the sea weeds among which it swims, and from its peculiar external structure is with difficulty distinguished from these. Similar adaptations of colour are found on land. Spotted cats inhabit places where trees abound, the spots corresponding to the shadows thrown by the foliage. Animals of the same species in deserts are not spotted. The tiger furnishes the best specimen in colour-marking in the cat tribe. Its colour serves as an extraordinary means of protection. Living, as it does, in hot climates, its habit is to roam among the long grass which is, for a great part of the year, burnt up and browned by the intense heat of the sun. The marking of the tiger corresponds so closely to the light and shade of the grass that it is quite possible to be within a very short distance of the animal and still be unable to distinguish it.

Insects show best the uses of colour for protective purposes. Many species of beetle are accustomed to take on the colour of their habitat, or to frequent places where the colour of the surroundings is identical with their own. These may be taken as exemplifying the directly protective use of colour in nature. The indirectly protective use of colour is seen in different species of spider, which inhabit flowers of the same colour with themselves, and thus allure and catch their prey. Other kinds of spider have the faculty of assuming the form of flowers which they resemble in colour, or of the excrements of birds on which butterflies light. None can know the habits of these different insects without recognizing the utility of colour.

Another example of this wonderful adaptation of colour for useful purposes is found in the pigeons of the Malay Archipelago. These birds, commonly called the "banded" pigeons from the dark coloured band which engirdles their breasts, are regularly marked, being white and dark brown—approaching black. When flying or on the ground they are as readily seen as any other bird, but once in the trees among which they are found, it is almost impossible for even the most experienced hunter to see them. The reason of this is that the shadows cast by the limbs of the trees, and the marking of the bird are so nearly identical, while the bark of the tree is very light in colour, corresponding to the white parts of the bird.

Colour, the lecturer said, is a purely subjective phenomenon, caused by different waves of light. Different objects absorb different parts of the white light and that which is not absorbed is reflected. It would be difficult to prove, however, that light has any direct action in producing animal colours, for the colouring in tropical climates is not much more highly developed than in other climates, except in particular species. His opinion regarding the different colours in animals of the same species is:—Some colour is always to be expected; then, all development, chemical and structural, is accompanied, by changes of colour. This is shown

by the fact that in wild animals, as a rule, colour is fixed and symmetrical; but when these animals are domesticated their colour changes greatly. Certain animals, caterpillars, butterflies, &c., are of the same colour as the leaves upon which they feed. This is a natural result, and at the same time serves a purpose. The animal is protected by its colour. Several examples were given to illustrate these facts.

Passing to the higher animals, Dr. Wallace said that colouring for protective purposes is comparatively rare. He instanced one exception to this—the resemblance of a certain species of antelope to anthills among which they feed. Exceptions to the rule of colour in particular climates were also given. The raven is the most northerly of all birds. It remains throughout the entire winter at a higher latitude than any other bird and still retains its jet black colour. There is no necessity for a change of colour for protective purposes. The same is true of the sable. Again, the humming bird of tropical countries is of the richest and most varied hue. Its source of protection is its power of rapid flight. It appears, however, that where there is need of protection or concealment, other means not being provided, suitable colour is found. A very useful form of colouring is that which enables an animal to recognize a member of its own species. The rabbit is accustomed, when running, to hold its short tail erect. This being always white serves as a warning or summons to its fellows, who follow and thus escape danger. One species of gazelle is particularly marked in this way for protective purposes. This form of colouring is useful to animals which herd together, for purposes of travel and defence.

Mimicry was the next phenomenon explained. Certain animals are inedible and consequently do not need any special colours for purposes of concealment. They are highly coloured, on the contrary, their colours serving as a warning to the enemy. Other animals which have no peculiar means of protection gradually obtain similar markings, and in time become almost indistinguishable from the inedible species. This is exemplified in butterflies, beetles and in one or two species of snake. In the case of butterflies it is remarkable to note that the imitating fly along with those they imitate. The difference in colour between the male and female was also noted by the lecturer, and reasons given why such difference occurs, and why sometimes the female is more highly coloured than the male.

The lecture was both interesting and instructive, and was much appreciated by all who heard it. At the close the chairman thanked Dr. Wallace, on behalf of the University and Institute, for the great favour he had done them by his two lectures.

The Year Book may be had at Rowsell & Hutchison's. Price 75 cents.

"K" Co. with its usual enterprise is having a \$3.50 photograph taken at Bryce's.

Cheques are now ready for distribution in payment of College Scholarships. Apply to the registrar.

Miss Bauld, B.A., graduate of 1885, who has for some time taught in the High School at Essex Centre, has been appointed to a position in Brantford.

Prof. R. Ramsay Wright is completing the course of lectures in the Veterinary College which the late Dr. Barrett was engaged in delivering previous to the time of his death.

Last Wednesday afternoon the committee of the Inter-Collegiate Literary Union had to be adjourned for want of a quorum. The committee will meet again next Wednesday at 5 p.m., and the evident importance of completing the constitution as soon as possible should induce a larger attendance on that day.

The examination for the McCaul medal in classics will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 25th and 26th, and on Friday and Saturday, April 1st and 2nd. The librarian has kindly consented to the use of the library for the occasion. Two papers will be set each day, one at 9.30 a.m. and one at 1.30 p.m.

ASSOCIATION FOOT BALL CLUB.—At the annual meeting of the club on Tuesday, 15th, the following officers were elected: Hon. Pres., D. R. Keys, B.A.; Pres., F. McLeay; Vice Pres., W. P. Thompson; Corresponding Sec., R. J. Gibson; Rec. Sec., Wm. Prendergast; Treasurer, B. M. Aikins; 4th year Councillors, H. F. La Flamme, E. C. Senkler; 3rd year Councillors, F. Cook, J. R. Blake; 2nd year Councillors, R. E. Jamieson, G. A. Ball.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE Y. M. C. A.—The question, "What must I do to be saved?" Acts xvi. 30, was discussed at the Thursday evening meeting this week. The leader, Mr. T. C. DesBarres, opened the meeting in his easy, though forcible style, by a ten-minute speech, dwelling especially on the importance of accepting the Bible as a plain, simple message, easy to be understood. He was followed by a number of speakers who suggested different

views of the subject. Mayor Howland will address the next Thursday evening meeting, at which a large attendance is expected.

The students of Trinity College Medical School have persistently shown a rebellious and destructive spirit during all the present academic year. This week another row has occurred, and the furniture has been made to suffer. Several men are threatened with expulsion in consequence, and it is understood steps have been taken by the proper authorities to prevent the said men from being admitted into other medical schools in case of expulsion. The years are alarmed and are adopting conciliatory measures. Exams are threatening too.

The annual meeting of the Glee Club was held in Moss Hall on Tuesday afternoon. The following officers were elected: President, J. E. Jones; Leader, N. Kent; Secretary, J. D. Spence; Treas., R. J. Gibson; 4th year Committee, N. P. Buckingham, E. A. Hardy; 3rd year Committee, H. S. Robertson, O. W. McMichael; 2nd year, J. J. Ferguson, A. D. Thompson. The Club is in a prosperous condition, and has had a very successful year. With the committee elected to direct its affairs, it may expect as great a success next year.

The Engineering Society held one of the most successful meetings of the year in the School of Science on Tuesday, the 8th inst. Mr. W. J. Withrow read a thoroughly scientific paper on petroleum, dealing with the localities and strata in which it is to be found and the different methods of boring. A paper contributed by Mr. E. A. Stern on the subject of iron bridges was also read. Mr. Stern, who is a graduate of the School of Science in this city, is now in the employ of the Passaic Rolling Mill Company. He is thoroughly conversant with bridge building in all its details, and furnishes information which it is impossible to obtain from others than practical men. The Society extended to Professor Galbraith hearty thanks for the gift of several valuable publications which he has added to the library of the institution.

The Literary and Scientific Society's nomination meeting this evening promises to be more quiet than usual. The old party lines have seemingly dissolved, and coalition is the order of the day. For the sake of the treasury it is to be hoped that there will be a spirited election.

The last meeting of the Society was largely a business one. W. H. Hodges read an essay by G. Waldron. There was no debate. The periodicals for the Reading Room were discussed and a very good list decided on. J. A. Duff and T. A. Gibson were appointed auditors. A. Stevenson, B.A., and W. H. Blake, B.A., were appointed a committee to examine such essays as had been handed in.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.—The regular German meeting was held on Monday afternoon. An essay on Ruckert's poetry was read by Mr. Buckingham, after which Miss Clayton gave a selection from the same author. Miss Knox, who was unable on a former occasion to read when asked to do so, favoured the Club with an excellent rendering of "Magdalena," a touching Spanish tale. In response to a hearty encore, a recitation requiring the imitation of birds' voices, excited the admiration of the audience, and called forth the loudest applause. Nomination of officers was next proceeded with. Dr. Daniel Wilson was elected by acclamation to the Honorary Presidency, and Miss Eastwood to the Vice-Presidency. Elections will be held on the 28th. A series of recommendations regarding next year's work was introduced by Mr. Jeffrey, all but one of which were adopted after considerable discussion. The first public meeting will be held in the Y.M.C.A. building on Monday next, the 21st inst., at 4 o'clock. The following programme will be presented: Programme—1. Chairman's Address, J. Squair, B.A.; 2. Piano Solo "I. Puritani," (Leybach), R. J. Read; 3. Essay, "Mrs. Browning," Miss Robertson; 4. Violin Solo, "Cavatina" (Wieniawski), Miss Keys; 5. Reading, "How He Saved St. Michael," F. McLeay; 6. Flute Solo, C. E. Saunders; 7. Paper, Subject, "The Adventures of Pere Jogues," Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D.; 8. College Chorus.

Missionary day at McMaster Hall, for February, was observed on Friday, 18th ult. In the morning Mr. J. Goforth, of Knox College, stirred all hearts by an earnest address on the needs of China. A more than ordinary interest was excited because of Mr. Goforth's intention of soon going to China as a missionary. In the afternoon Mr. J. M. Munroe, one of this year's graduating class, recited his two years' experience as an evangelist and pastor to the fishermen of North Scotland. The fishermen were so eager for the Word, that he was frequently called upon to preach twice in an evening. Mr. H. F. Laflamme then gave an account of the Y.M.C.A. convention at Kingston. At the close of the day's meeting it was announced that, owing to the return of two of the Foreign Missionaries from the Telugu field, Samulcotta Seminary, the Theological College for training native preachers would be closed for a year; and that another missionary was needed to go out in August. Two of the students have already offered themselves. Mr. J. N. For-

man, B.A., of Princeton, N.J., at the after-breakfast prayer meeting, Sunday, 27th ult., made an appeal for volunteers to Foreign Mission work. Three of the students responded. Some seven of them in all have the foreign field in view. On Thursday, 3rd inst., Rev. Dr. Crafts, of New York, gave a thoroughly stimulating address on the two-fold life of a Christian, and advanced the opinion that the Apostles were not converted before the day of Pentecost. Saturday morning last Dr. Philip Schaff, the celebrated Biblical scholar, and Professor of Historical Theology at the Union Theological Seminary, New York, addressed a large audience of students and professors from the different colleges on the "New Revision." As Dr. Schaff was a member of the American Revision Committee, his account of the revision was most interesting. He traced the work from its inception in Feb. 1860, in the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury, the most conservative in the world, through the different stages to the completion. During his visit, Dr. Schaff presented the College with four sets of the new edition of his Church History, a very valuable and costly work. The Literary and Theological Society has decided to join the Debating Union of the City.

The University Senate met on Thursday night and resumed their sitting on Friday night. Several matters of importance were considered. A communication was received from Queen's and to a committee. Communications were also received from Dr. Nevitt, Secretary of the Women's Medical College, with reference to affiliation of that Institute, and from students in Hebrew respecting overwork in that department. The Vice-Chancellor presented the report of the committee appointed to consider the classification of pass candidates, which proposes the words "special" and "general" be substituted for the words "honour" and "pass" in designating undergraduates, and that the general course be graded. Referred back for further consideration.

Livy II. was substituted for Livy I. in 2nd year Latin for 1888. The report of the committee on the amalgamation of matriculation and teacher's examinations was adopted. There will now be a common examination for junior matriculation and second-class certificates, and for senior matriculation and first-class certificates.

Dr. Oldwright's motion *re* admission of students to the arts' course at stages later than that of senior matriculation, was deferred to a committee. The question brought up by Mr. Houston of printing the curriculum annually was also referred to committee. Notices of motion were given by Mr. Houston that certain changes be made in the text books in the department of Civil Polity, and in honour French of the third year.

A committee was appointed in pursuance of the motion introduced by Prof. Galbraith for Mr. Falonbridge, to consider the establishment of a School of Medicine in closer relation to the University than are those already affiliated with it. The object in view is to amalgamate Toronto and Trinity Schools of Medicine, and to establish one thoroughly equipped institution.

The following gentlemen were admitted to degrees: M.D.—S. S. Murray, B.A., and R. P. Dougan, B.A.; C.E.—J. H. Kennedy.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE VARSITY is conducted by undergraduates of the University of Toronto, and will appear every Saturday of the academic year. It aims at being the exponent of the views of the University public and will always seek the highest interests of our University. The Literary Department will, as heretofore, be a main feature. The news columns are full and accurate, containing reports of all meetings of interest to its readers.

CONTENTS OF THE PRESENT NUMBER.

To Carola in Sorrow. R. H.
Mr. Stewart's Volume of Poems. W. J. HEALY.
How Hrothgar Came Home Again. BOHEMIAN.
Slang. T. A. H. Nisi Prius. J. D. S.
A Brief Comparison of the Platonic and Kantian Views of the
Absolute Unity in the Complex Phenomenal. M. D. T. H. G.

Topics of the Hour.

Communications.

The Annual Elections' Literary Society. E. C. BOULTBEE.
Degradation of the Gown. SPARTACUS.

Round the Table.

University and College News.

Di-Varsities, &c., &c.



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DI-VARSITIES.

THE WAY OF IT.

"All this being in night, is but a dream,
Too flattering sweet to be substantial."
—(Romeo and Juliet.)

The lights were burning dim and low,
And all was still ;
The distant murmuring, soft and low,
Of far-off rill
Mingled with louder music bright,
In joyous strains,
Lent sweet enchantment to the night
When fancy reigns.

A pair of eyes of "Heaven's own blue"
Looked coyly down
With tender, witching glances through
The lashes brown.
Two manly hands with loving care
Held flower face dear ;
The golden curls and darker hair
Were very near.

Then wisest of Eve's daughters wise,
The little maid
Glanced shyly in the deep dark eyes
Her heart obeyed,
And to his whispered "Kiss me, dear,"
The pouting lips
Were archly, quickly raised, I fear,
For nectar's sips.

Then some one's heart beat fast with joy,
And bending low,
"Dost love me, sweet?" Came answer coy—
The red lips show
The parted pearls, and laughing say—
"How can I tell?"
I've loved so oft in life's short day,
And loved so well."

—Greta in the Telegram.

HUGGING.

"The lights burned low,
And all was still ;
And soft and slow
The far off rill—"
That sort of thing
Worked up a bit,
Before I sing
The way of it.

With "Heaven's own blue,"
And "coily down,"
And "witching," too,
And "lashes brown" ;
And "flower face dear,
With love-light lit,"
And "Kis me dear."
—The way of it.

"Dost love me, sweet?"
And "answer coy,"
Fast his heart beat,
The wicked boy,
But what a crime,
With shocking wit
That she should rhyme
The way of it !

"The red lips show
The parted pearls ;"
O face aglow,
O flower of girls !
O red lips' pout !
—Well, when they quit,
She wrote it out,
The way of it !

With "golden curls"
And "darker hair ;"
"O pearl of girls,
Beyond compare,

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The saucy chit—
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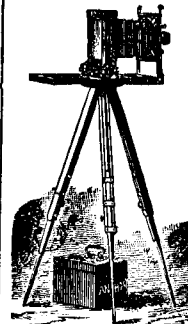
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