

THE VARSITY

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WAITING FOR STRENGTH.

To wait until the arm were muscled firm and strong
Ere blow were struck against an ever-vengeful foe;
Who, tho' he watchful be to trip, and wound, and wrong,
Yet has no power o'er us but that which we bestow,
Were direst folly:
But that 'tis done, who does not know?

We daily yield our strength, enfeebling each his life;
Fierce foemen spring to life from virtues that expire,
The heedless thought, the word, the deed which makes for strife,
Takes virtue from our hearts, and casts us in the mire
Of deep despondency.
That this is true, who needs inquire?

Thus ever we equip our foes, within, without,
With darts to hurl at purpose true and power to harm,
Yet weaker weaklings they, if bravely looking out
To God, we fight as though there were no other arm
To help or save.

And God, He fights the fight and weaves the palm.

E. C. ACHESON.

A TRAGEDY IN PROFILE.

I.

In the afternoons, from May to September, you will observe, if your affairs chance to carry you, now and again, along any of the many paths which cross the Queen's Park, that there is an unvarying similarity in the character of the loiterers under the shade and amid the pleasant greenness in that wide breathing space of the citizens,—the children are always there, and the silent, placid old people, the noisy men in argumentative middle life, the loafers, the trim nurses wheeling their charges, and smiling back saucily at the advances of the cumbrous Irish policemen. Among the most regular of those to be seen in the Park during the past summer was an old man, who would sit alone on the bench under an elm on a small grassy summit. As he sat bending forward, with his hands crossed on the top of a stout stick, one would be likely to remember him by his prominent, clear-cut nose, and by his long hair. The soft felt hat, which he wore pulled well down over his eyes, took from his appearance indeed a fine and venerable dignity, that never failed to impress the beholder when the old man took the hat between his hands, as he did often when talking eagerly and earnestly; for the rest, his clothes were always carefully brushed, but of a forgotten fashion. When quiet, he looked the common park disputant, whose insanely distorted ideas on religion and the whole social order are blown about under the trees where knots of worthless, pipe-smoking young fellows gather round to applaud the vehement debaters. But he was not of these. His talk, though accompanied often by the most voluble gestures, was, for the most part, singularly gentle and unworldly. "I come here almost every day," he said to two young men who had fallen into talk with him. "There are weather-beaten trees here that I have known since I was a boy,—battered old Bohemians like myself now. And they always know me and recognize me, and have a wise, large-hearted word for me." The old man's manner of

speech was entirely unaffected, despite its literary, theatrical qualities. The old scraps of fantastic unreality that lingered in his talk did not seem inconsequent in the sad, dreaming weather, with autumn's innumerable flecks of crimson and tarnished tinsel in all the foliage of the trees. "There are beautiful sunsets now," he went on. "I go out behind the University to watch them. Ah, and you, too, have the art-soul! I was thinking last night, as I stood gazing on the ebb of that ineffable tide of colour, like a sea of chords flooding from some great organ,—I was thinking that the far-off crimson gloom was grand, silent march music,—for all inspired music throbs with deep pulses of colour! A sunset is music,—and yet not music."

"Like Wagner's,—eh?" one of the young men said.

"Music and colour," the old man continued musingly. "But I don't know. I just dream. I suppose I shall understand all these things before long now,—before long now. Each of you is a young man," he broke out suddenly, twisting his hat between his hands. "A young man! and autumn comes to you with a maiden's rare and ten beauty,—with lustrous brown eyes glowing and brightening out of space, under the airy looseness of dark, wind-tossed hair,—ah, youth, youth!"

The other young man essayed to fill the silence that followed. "You seem to know Nature's woods quite intimately and—Thoreauley," he said.

The old man replaced his hat on his head, and pulled it over his eyes. "I have known this place forty years—more than forty years. Long ago we used to come up here—it was all trees about the ravines then, only the old Medical School was there," and he put out his arm in the direction of Moss Hall.

"I see they are going to pull the old place down," one of the young men remarked.

"They will do that?" with a sudden gaze at the gloomy building. "Ah! 'tis well,"—this in the gasping, dramatic manner into which he always fell sooner or later. For he lived still in the old days when he was one of the stock company in Toronto, and when Moss Hall, a medical school then, was the scene of the story which he told that September afternoon.

A cold wind that blew from the east with the growing darkness gathered in strength as the short-lived winter day drew to a close. (It was thus the old man made a beginning of his narration, with a deal of impressiveness in his voice and manner.) There was but little snow on the frozen ground; along the wild, unkempt wagon-road running north from Queen street out into the dreariness of the country beyond the town, small frozen puddles in the cart-ruts caught dull gleams from the gray, cold sky that bent down to the dark, massed trees filling all the prospect to northward; low in the west was a chill yellow light behind the stems of the lines of shivering maples. The winter sun that day had scarcely melted the ends of the icicles hanging from the eaves of the low medical school set amid the pines at the edge of the lonely ravine; and now the freezing night-wind rocked the bare trees, and the cold was every minute more bitter and piercing.

The townspeople of those days were not without a share in their children's dread and horror of the dark building in the woods behind the town. The children in their summer rambles would barely venture within sight of the gloomy,

silent structure with barred windows; and they would whisper together fearfully of a child lost at nightfall, and carried away to that house of death. And indeed the good townspeople, shuddering in the night to think of the students digging in the windy graveyards and hurrying with their ungainly burdens across the darkened fields, had reasons enough to be thankful that the school was far from where they dwelt and lived their daily round. Only a year before, on the last night in September, a stark corpse, defaced horribly and with devilish mutilations had been tied bolt upright to the palings before a house on Yonge street; it was the body of an old man, the uncle of one of the students, whose life had been miserly and lonely. The indignant horror which the outrage aroused was not forgotten even when a number of the students acted a truly heroic part among the plague-stricken immigrants who died by hundreds in the squalid alleys of the infected portion of the town. In that memorable year of the ship-fever none had shown such untiring and devoted self-sacrifice as that nephew of the old man of whose body after his death so inhuman a mockery had been made. The young man had lived day and night amid the agony of the plague's wretched victims; and now that the cruel visitation had passed, he had gone back to his books and to the dissecting room. There was not a soul in the city with whom he claimed friendship. His people were struggling farmers, who made their own lives harder than he might work out alone his one dream and ambition.

This bitterest day of the bitter Canadian winter he had passed in the dissecting-room. He was alone during the later hours, and did not note the decline of the day until the gathering darkness made further study impossible. When at last he left the school, the night had fallen and a pale cold moon had passed above the trees. In the far upper heavens, where a few faint stars trembled, it seemed as if a chill wind were blowing; the darkness that lay upon the earth below made all objects well-nigh indistinguishable.

He had not gone a dozen steps before he started violently at hearing his name spoken. A sickening smothered feeling caught suddenly at his heart with the first word; he did not need to peer into the pitiful face of the girl who had waited, shivering wretchedly, until he should appear. There were but a few exchanges of speech between the two. He spoke in cold, even tones, his eyes seeking the ground, she imploringly and wildly, clinging to him and weeping. Once, for an instant, when he had pushed her from him and her head fell upon her breast, a cruel devil's look glittered at her out of his eyes. But that passed, too; he turned quickly and took the road to the town. The lights in the little square windows of the old tavern shone out cheerily far ahead; but the night blackened around him with every forward step.

(To be continued.)

FROM THE "MINNESANG."

Thou art mine, and I am thine;
I hold thee in this heart of mine.
The key's forgot and lost away,
So thou therein must ever stay

FROM THE "VOLKSLIED."

High up the hillside yonder,
A mill-wheel turns alway;
And only love it gristeth,
All night till dawning day.
Now broken is the mill-wheel,
And love is done and spent;
God's blessing on thee, my winsome love,
Now I go into banishment.

BOHÉMIEN.

THE STUDENT AS A SOCIAL UNIT.

Man is in himself incomplete, his complement is society. Whatever a man becomes, he becomes by virtue of absorption, his possibilities lie about and around him, his life is a relation to and a development through a world outside himself. For his physical existence he depends on the vegetable and animal life beneath him, provided for him at first by others, afterwards by his own exertions. His physiological completeness is fulfilled in sex attended by its social conditions, whence arises the family, a newer modification of the individual, then the community, the tribe, the nation, still wider social relations, ever increasing human possibilities and tending to the larger life. The gregarious instinct is an incipient state of society among the lower orders of animals. This instinct of gathering into a flock, a *grex*, is the latent germ of poetry; cattle graze over the flower-sprinkled fields with their faces in the same direction, sheep lie together under the shadow of the elm, clusters of swift-winged swallows come with the blossoms of spring, and depart together southward, leaving us with the sadder flight of autumn leaves. With them the necessary differentiation of birth and youth is merged at maturity into a more indifferent condition of membership. With mankind differentiation is the language of progress. The family is the first marked social unit, division of labour arises first of necessity in the family, producing therein greater mutual dependence, and, consequently, lessening the tyrannical power of the head of the family. This wider idea reacts upon those of lower status, such as slaves, and the door is opened gradually to liberty. The idea of division of labour is extended beyond this single family, and families become inter-dependent on one another for existence. The small family enclosures are removed and united into one larger enclosure, and so on through nationality to cosmopolitanism, which is the ideal state of society in its widest diffusion, the perfect freedom of nations, the unrestricted interchange of thought and material products, the widest action and reaction, the largest and most extended mutual development of mental and physical resources. Such is man's possibility, such is the method of progress, from the narrower to the wider, from the lower to the higher. The question then arises, what is the value of a man in society? Is it not in proportion to the encouragement which he gives to the freedom of exchange in that which nourishes the mind and body? The mind grows in proportion to the quality and quantity of large ideas it assimilates just as the body grows in proportion to the quality and quantity of the food assimilated by its organs. Codes and interdicts of whatsoever kind that tend to isolate the mind from the influence of large ideas are a curse rather than a blessing to a nation. Truth is mighty, and conquers at last. It takes more than one mind to find out truth, more than one sect of men, more than one nation, more than one age; it takes the world of nations, and centuries of time. How necessary is the diffusion of truth, and how much its discovery depends upon the division of mental labour among the nations. All the sublime efforts of every national genius are crystallized in its own literature. How essential it is that these literatures be freely accessible to every individual, whatever may be his nationality. If this be true let it be applied to Canada, and what is the fact? The Government, whose presumed duty it is to develop the nation it represents, imposes a tax of 15 cents on the dollar on literature. Surely the freedom of exchange in ideas is difficult enough naturally, seeing that unknown languages intervene. How lamentable that artificial laws should intervene between the Canadian mind and thinking historic Europe. It is not the fault of the Government, it is the fault of the people, who, by their pitiable apathy are content to forego the greatest possibility to which a nation can attain, the immortal influences of literature, culture and art, which in the case of many of the historic nations of the past alone remain to testify to their splendid civilization. It might be said that nature is against this diffusion of ideas since she has developed so many different languages. Surely not. May it not rather be one of those splendid contradictions of nature from which alone the highest

division of mental labour, the most fertile concentration of mind may be attained. Take for illustration Shakespeare. What a blessing it was he knew little Latin and less Greek; or better still, take the protection of a dialect toward originality. The dialect of Burns saved our literature from the barren imitation of the classics, and brought nature forward again as the true poetic inspiration.

PHILLIPS STEWART.

(To be continued.)

FORGET.

"Forget me," sayest thou, with whom
Fancy hath let me live a thousand years?
Whom every memory endears?
Nay, love hath flowered. This cannot be its doom,
Know'st thou how, from its earthly tomb,
Slowly the greening shoot appears,
And slow its swaying stem uprears
Before there may be glory of the bloom?
'Twas slowly thus to bloom my flower grew,
Rooted in truest reverence and trust;
Thy smile was sunlight, and thy presence dew.
Though thou should'st crush it to the dust,
New sprouting seeds would show it dieth not;
Nay, nay, sweet love, thou canst not be forgot!

NOMA.

THE SUNNY SOUTH.

II.

The church itself is a large frame building, with eight windows on each side, and four in front, a gallery inside, an organ and a high pulpit of the old English style. This is the leading place of worship of St. Luke's parish. The body of the church is occupied by the coolies or blacks, while in the gallery are seated the whites and those who have a mixture of European and negro blood in their veins. As these are in the minority their occupation of the higher seats may possibly be emblematic of their consciousness of belonging to the "upper ten." In the parish there are about 16,000 coolies, who are employed in various ways upon the estates, especially working the ground and gathering the crops of cane. The wages paid to the servants are very small, but it requires two or three to do what under a more favourable climate might be expected of one. It will require a great deal of education to eradicate from their minds many ideas that have become deeply rooted in them, partly from the inherent ignorance and depravity of human nature, partly from the teaching and example of Europeans who have been among them. In the case of some upon whom attempts at education have been made, evidences are frequently occurring of the impressions formed in earlier years. The gulf which, even in a higher civilization, is apt to be formed between the position of the educated and the ignorant, is there amplified and insisted upon with sometimes curious and amusing results. To the coolie youth, selected on account of his ability to receive education enough to fit him to assist in the enlightenment of his more ignorant brethren, the very idea of performing any act of manual labour presents a dread and disgust as though degrading and utterly beneath him. Their use of the English language is at times rather awkward, owing to their desire to distinguish themselves by the use of long words on all occasions, even though they are not very sure of their meaning. One of them, after listening to a sermon to the coolies, gravely informed the preacher at the close, that that was just what was required to "counteract them."

Along the coast large drains or ditches are cut at the sides of the roads, into which the pedestrian sometimes falls. They serve a variety of purposes, especially for furnishing drinking water, and also a bathing place for the young darkies. They were also useful as drains during the severe floods which have recently prevailed. To white people who have to travel in so hot a climate, horses are indispensable, and good ones are very dear. There is always the danger, too, of losing the imported ones from over-exertion. It is not a rare thing for them to drop

dead without apparently any signs of disease, especially if they have run away from the driver and over-heated themselves.

It is customary for the groom to wash his horses with soap and water every morning, from head to foot. Should one turn out for a morning ride with his horse unwashed, he would become an object of ridicule to the coolies. The native ponies and cross-bred horses are much tougher than those imported from Canada or England. The "waggons" used for driving in are built strong and heavy, but the heat of the sun soon plays havoc with the paint and harness.

A short residence in this colony is sufficient to confirm the opinion that, to the graduate of Toronto University who is about to become a useful citizen of the world, it is of more importance to acquire, during his undergraduate course, as wide a knowledge as possible, rather than to devote himself exclusively to one or two branches of education. For instance, a person living in Guiana requires to have a certain practical knowledge of Natural Science, if only to understand the general reports and conversation of the day. Every manager of a sugar estate has, of course, his own special chemist and engineer, but he must, at the same time, have some knowledge of these departments himself. French and German are largely spoken, so that a working foundation in Modern languages is almost indispensable to a man in business. Experience seems to show that a course of study until graduation cannot be too wide. Men are thus better fitted for any calling they may afterwards choose, instead of being forced by the training they have received into one particular line of work.

The average length of time required for a letter to pass between the colony and Canada is about five weeks. If, however, you do not post it in time to catch the steamer just as it leaves, the time will be a week or more longer, as the steamers do not leave oftener than once a week. The coinage, and, indeed, most of the institutions are English. The civilization of the colony is far behind our idea, and its progress is retarded by the fact that it lies so far out of the regular line of traffic between the old and the new world.

T. A. G.

LITERARY NOTES.

The Illustrated London News, long and favourably known through George Augustus Sala's connection with it—now unfortunately terminated—has opened an American branch in the Potter Buildings, Park Row, New York City. Here an American edition, exactly similar to the English, and printed from advance plates, is published for the small subscription price of \$4 a year, or 10 cents each weekly number. The *News* always contains a good review of passing events, described and illustrated by pen and pencil. This week's contains pictures of the state of Ireland, the new Truro Cathedral, life in Burmah, and of various other public doings, besides a goodly array of current chronicles of daily life and literature.

Capt. Charles King contributes to the December number of *Lippincott's Magazine* another of his very popular military stories, "From the Ranks." The plot is more than usually stirring and complicated, and the style has all the brilliancy and dash of this author's best work. Albion W. Tourgee, with "Professor Cadmus's Great Case," begins a series of stories of mystery, complication, and detective ingenuity, under the general heading of "With Gauge & Swallow," each of which will be complete in itself, though all revolve around a common centre of interest. Lucy C. Lillie's "Jenny Lind-Goldschmidt" is more than a mere biographical sketch, as it includes personal reminiscences. Janet Edmondson, formerly of the Boston Ideals, gives us an amusing bit of autobiography, "My First Appearance," in which the wonders, the delights, and the terrors of a debut on the professional stage are admirably depicted. Miss F. C. Baylor contributes a delightfully humorous sketch, "The Drum-Major," and Mary Parmele a thoughtful and well-reasoned article on "Earthworms and Society." The poems are contributed by Bessie Chandler, Ella Wheeler-Wilcox, Charlotte Fiske Bates, Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, and Mary B. Dodge.

THE VARSITY.

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

SENATOR MACDONALD'S LIBERALITY.

The charitable and educational institutions of his native city are already under many obligations to the Honourable John Macdonald for a whole-hearted and generous liberality that does infinite credit to his head and heart. The munificent gift of \$40,000 which Senator Macdonald has just made towards the cause of hospital extension in this city increases this sense of obligation, and intensifies the feeling of genuine respect and admiration with which all classes of Toronto's citizens regard him. Mr. Macdonald could not have chosen a more worthy object for the exercise of his generosity than the Toronto Hospital System, and by connecting his gift with the Provincial University has given another indication of the enlightened interest which he has always manifested in that institution. The new hospital will be part of the General Hospital system, and will be specially adapted for the furtherance of medical education and practical instruction in clinics. We understand that it is to be erected upon the University grounds, and that its management will devolve upon a committee of citizens assisted by the University authorities. It will be in fact, a University Hospital in connection with the Medical Faculty of the University of Toronto. The carrying out of the scheme will involve an outlay of \$150,000, of which Mr. Macdonald's gift forms a handsome nucleus. We do not anticipate that any difficulty will be experienced in securing the full amount of the endowment requisite to equip the new hospital and, as Mr. Macdonald says "make it worthy of its location, worthy of the city, to make it, in one word, equal in all respects to the best institutions on the continent." The securing of a University Clinical Hospital ensures the permanency and success of the new Medical Faculty, and at one bound places that department of the University abreast of the foremost of the kind in America, and will greatly strengthen the whole institution in the confidence and good will of the people of the Province of Ontario.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY AND POLITICS.

We are sure that those who heard, and those who may have since read, the admirable Inaugural Address of the President of the Literary Society, must have agreed heartily with his outspoken utterances in reference to the restriction of the scope of the discussions in that venerable Society. As is well known, questions of a political, or quasi-political character, are not allowed to be debated, and the average subject chosen for that purpose, of a literary or social character, interesting though it be, is of a kind more suited to Church debating societies or amateur clubs of that class. They do not awaken any sort of enthusiasm, and half the time those selected to carry on the debate either come ill-prepared, or else are "scratched" before Friday evening arrives. The consequence is that the principal part of the evening's programme is most inefficiently performed and is devoid of interest to the majority of the audience.

Those who are fortunate enough to retain recollections of participation in the sessions of the old "Forum," or "Mock Parliament," of 1883-4-5, or are familiar with its traditions, will remember the keen relish with which its weekly meetings were looked forward to, the active interest displayed by every Member in the proceedings of the House, the animation, wit, and good order which characterized its debates, the practical knowledge of current affairs which its discussions demanded, and also the intimate acquaintance

with the rules and amenities of debate which those who belonged to it readily and easily acquired. All these most desirable effects were produced in a short while by this Society which, too early in its career, was prorogued *sine die*. Let any one contrast the "Forum" in its palmy days with the Literary Society at present, and while we have no wish unduly to disparage the work which the latter is doing, nevertheless, we must confess that the comparison would not be to its advantage.

A sense of listlessness seems to have come over the Literary Society, and its charms are largely exercised upon the susceptible minds of the class of '91. Nor can we wonder at this. When the average member glances at the Bulletin Board and sees most of the names of the performers "scratched," and reads further down that some four or six amiable and long-suffering gentlemen are to wrestle in debate over the exciting question as to whether "Long-Cesar was a greater poet than Tennyson," or whether "Julius Caesar was a better general than Napoleon," his interest is not likely to be greatly excited. Such themes, it must be confessed, are somewhat exceptional in their occurrence, but in the main the subjects for debate are of a more or less similarly artificial, unreal, and uninteresting character. But let it be announced that the Government of the day intend to bring in a Bill dealing with current political matters, say Commercial Union, or the Fisheries Dispute, or a National Currency, or any live topic of this kind, and we venture to say that Moss Hall would be crowded every Friday evening to the doors. The Opposition would be acute and on the alert to succeed, and the Government as anxious and keen to retain their hold upon the Treasury Benches. And what harm would result from such discussions? The issues of life and death or a general election do not depend upon the *dicta* of a College [Literary Society], and the debates and divisions would have no injurious effect upon the personal feelings or friendly relations of the Members towards one another. Indeed, the opposite would be the case, and mutual toleration and respect would be increased. And further, the discussions partaking of a practical and real character, would enhance the interest displayed therein by members; they would encourage an intelligent study and develop an appreciation of questions of great moment to every patriotic citizen, anxious to be well-informed and well-instructed. And lastly, seeing that the Franchise has been so very widely extended of late years, a goodly proportion of our University students—or, at least, the younger graduates—have a vote and will be canvassed for their support sooner or later by the agents of the political parties. If they have, during their University career, familiarized themselves with the political questions of the day, have adopted certain principles for the guidance of their action as electors, and have formed certain definite ideas and independent views of their own upon such matters, the value of their support on any question of Federal or Provincial legislation will be all the more valuable to themselves and to the country, because given intelligently and honestly. And the value of their views and opinions will be enhanced also, to the benefit of themselves more particularly, because the result of independent thought and individual research.

The topic is interesting, and the question one of very vital importance to the Literary Society, especially in its present condition. We have no hesitation in supporting Mr. Creelman in this matter, fully and freely; we believe that he has the support and countenance of the members of the Society in this matter; and we most sincerely hope that the authorities, to quote Mr. Creelman's words, will "come to look upon our wishes in this direction rather as a rational demand than as a sort of standing annual joke directed against themselves."

AN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

Now that the season for out-door athletics has ended, and the lawn is deserted save by some few enthusiasts, it may be well to gather together in the old gymnasium building—soon to be given over to the frog-killing biologists, if the chronicler of *The World* is reliable—and discuss an oft-mooted question, none other indeed, than that of an Athletic Association. THE VARSITY, in dealing with this subject, would specially invite the footballers and the college sporting fraternity generally, to take a seat, figuratively, at the Council Board, and engage in the discussion as points of inter-

est arise. To drop metaphor, we sincerely hope that those interested in the question will bestir themselves a little more than they have done heretofore, and let every one hear their views, for there must be a diversity of opinion as to details, though all may agree on general principles.

THE VARSITY has time and again urged the formation of an Athletic Association at the University, but has never received any support worth speaking about, at least so far as an outward or practical expression of it is concerned. It ventures, however, to open the question once more, even at the risk of being considered tedious, since it is convinced that the time is opportune, and the necessity great, for action in the matter. To begin with, as the apparently well-informed and veracious chronicler of university matters in *The World* has informed us, there is good ground for the belief that the authorities intend at no very distant day to erect a combined gymnasium and club house for the use of the students and their literary and social societies. This is indeed cheering news, and we only hope it is reliable. By way of suggestion merely, THE VARSITY hopes that the architect of the new building will be instructed to provide a warm corner for the VARSITY Owl to perch in, as he feels the prospect of leaving his comfortable quarters in Moss Hall very keenly. But to return. With a new building will come new duties, new responsibilities. Its erection will give a great boom to gymnastic and athletic exercises of all kinds and will greatly popularize sports now indulged in by but a few. We trust it will increase the generosity of students also; and that others will be led to see that the honour and good name of the college should be upheld upon the Campus as well as in the Forum.

To repeat a remark which has often been made in these columns, we believe that more time, money, and energy than are absolutely requisite are annually expended upon the various athletic clubs now in existence; and that if a union of forces were effected much of all these necessary ingredients could be saved. There are now six athletic clubs in active operation: the two Football Clubs, the Games Committee, the Gymnasium Association, and the Cricket and Baseball Clubs. Now the support of these clubs is dependent entirely upon the good will of the students and the energy of the collectors. The number of collections is endless, the methods of canvassing for money vexatious and cumbersome, and the amounts collected all out of proportion to the number and ability of our students. The burden always falls upon a few generous and public-spirited students, and those who could but will not subscribe are left off scot-free. This is not as it should be, and tends to discourage all endeavours to uphold fittingly the reputation of our University in athletics.

Now what we have to propose is briefly this: (1) That the six clubs we have mentioned should unite and form an Athletic Association. This Association should have under its wing all the minor clubs, membership in one or all of which to be obtained by the payment of a nominal fee, say 25 cents for each section. Each section to preserve its own autonomy, and govern itself, in accordance, however, with the general by-laws of the Association.

(2) That the College Council should set aside, from every fee paid by students, say \$2, for membership in the new Association and for the privileges of the new gymnasium. Now, with 400 students, the handsome sum of \$800 or thereabouts could be collected without any difficulty and would cover every expenditure necessary to ensure the permanency and success of all the athletic clubs around the College, including the support of the gymnasium and the salary of an instructor. All students on payment of their University fees to be, thereupon, considered members of the Athletic Association and entitled to the rights and privileges of the gymnasium.

(3) The Athletic Association, with the co-operation of members of the College Council or their representatives, to be custodians of the gymnasium. The College Council and the Association to appoint a joint Executive Committee to manage the gymnasium and the work of the Association.

(4) This joint Executive Committee to have control of that portion of fee-money set apart for the support of the gymnasium.

These are all the general outlines of the scheme that seem to be necessary to mention in this connection; its details could easily

be worked out by representatives of the different clubs interested. The benefits are so apparent that they need not be insisted on or recapitulated at length. What we desire is that the Athletic Clubs will forthwith meet and discuss these matters fully and freely, and come to some conclusions on the subject of the formation of an Association such as we have outlined. We would suggest that the present Gymnasium Committee would be the proper body to take the initiative, and call for a conference of representatives of the athletic clubs. We hope they will seriously consider the advisability of securing immediate and practical action in the matter.

A \$1,000 CHALLENGE!

Various reports having reached this office with reference to the claims set forth by various other College papers in this Dominion, in respect to circulation and advertising, THE VARSITY has determined to settle the matter by challenging the proprietors of these bragging sheets to submit their claims to the impartial arbitrament of a searching enquiry before a commission, to be afterwards agreed upon, in order that the true facts and figures may be ferreted out, and the braggers brought to book. THE VARSITY has never sought to intrude its private affairs upon the public, which can have but little interest in such matters, but its business standing has been so constantly and maliciously impugned that, in justice to its management and patrons, it has, reluctantly, been compelled to resort to the course about to be pursued by the Toronto daily press, in order that its claims may be substantiated and its honour upheld. We have no fear of the result of a searching public enquiry into our subscription and advertising lists, and will be able to produce evidence of the truth of our statements, calculated to convince any honest and impartial critic. In furtherance of our desire, and in order to show that we mean business, THE VARSITY offers the following challenge to other Canadian College papers: THE VARSITY is prepared to deposit \$1,000 worth of its unpaid subscriptions to the credit of the commissioners of enquiry, to be paid over to the proprietors of any Canadian College paper which can produce evidence to contradict the following assertions:

1. That THE VARSITY has the largest *bona fide* circulation of any College paper, published weekly, in the Dominion of Canada.
2. That THE VARSITY has the largest *bona fide* advertising patronage of any College paper, published weekly, in the Dominion of Canada.

This offer will remain open one month after the date of this issue, and will afford every opportunity to those who desire to prove the contrary of the assertions which we have made. And THE VARSITY makes these assertions under, and by virtue of, the Act for the Suppression of Voluntary and Extra-Judicial Oaths.

COMMUNICATION.

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

BOURINOT'S PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—When the Senate last year assented to my proposal to put certain parts of Mr. Bourinot's work on the course for the Fourth Year, I urged the author and his publishers, Dawson Brothers, of Montreal, to issue those parts in a separate edition. They cheerfully consented to do so, and in a short time students and others will have a chance to make themselves acquainted with the history of the Canadian constitution through the medium of Mr. Bourinot's admirable summary. I have just been informed by the publishers that the volume will be in duodecimo size, that the type will be the same as the type of the British North America Act in the appendix to Mr. Bourinot's large volume, and that it will be out in a very few weeks—probably in quite time enough to suit the convenience of students.

I hope the work will be placed on the curriculum of other universities, and that it may find its way into the hands of all who desire to trace the course of events that led to the passage of the British North America Act and to obtain a clear idea of the general features of the constitution of which that Act is the legal embodiment. Legislative Library, Nov. 21, 1887. WM. HOUSTON.

[A communication from Mr. F. J. Steen on "Hazing" is held over for want of space.—EDS.]

ROUND THE TABLE.

Matthew Arnold is an admirable phrase-maker. Whether or not he is always original is another question. Some phrases associated with his name—such, for instance, as "Sweetness and light," and that descriptive of the British middle class as "Philistines,"—are cases in point. The former, acknowledged to be one of Swift's, is never associated in the popular mind with the Dean of St. Patrick's, but naturally suggests the Apostle of Culture, as some rather disparagingly call Mr. Arnold. The term "Philistines" was a peculiarly happy, though some may think cynical, phrase; but its parentage is undisputed, and its applicability undoubted. But, admirable as Matthew Arnold is in phrase-making, it is especially with regard to some definitions of his that it is the desire of the writer to speak briefly. To praise his definitions is perhaps but to praise his style; this may be superfluous; but still, mere grace of style may not always be an evidence, or accompaniment of luminous thought. In Matthew Arnold both are most happily united; and this is in reality what constitutes his power and influence as a writer. He has been ridiculed for his advocacy of culture, and the humanities; but the fact remains that he is almost the only man in England to-day who has attempted to stem the all-powerful stream of advanced "practical" thought, to prevent the swamping of the literature of power by the literature of knowledge, and, in a word, to champion the cause of literature as against the undue supremacy of science. This he has done without being an enemy to the latter, and has given ample and satisfactory reasons for the faith that is in him.

* * *

It is no new thing to hear the many disparagements of Literature and literary pursuits, to listen to aspersions of its followers, or to read the misconceptions and misunderstandings of those who intentionally or otherwise misconceive or misunderstand the matter. It is indeed the commonest thing now-a-days to hear the chorus of sneers at Literature and Culture which the adherents and camp-followers of the invading hosts of Science shout out with loud acclaim. By them Literature is confounded with *belles-lettres*, and Culture with a "smattering of Greek and Latin." They are charitable enough to allow that these things are right and proper in their way, and that their followers may be amiable and intelligent members of society, but that the serious study of such things is a farce, is futile and useless, and that people only waste time by devoting themselves to their acquirement.

* * *

And now let us hear what Matthew Arnold says of Literature and Culture. They are inseparable, and the one inevitably leads to the other. In the lecture on "Literature and Science," which he delivered in this city a couple of years ago, he said: "In our culture, the aim being to *know ourselves and the world*, we have, as the means to this end, to *know the best which has been thought and said in the world*." Culture, he says, in one of his earlier works, "Culture and Anarchy," "is the study of perfection." He distinguishes it from what he calls the "scientific passion—the sheer desire to see things as they are," and characterizes its moral and social quality as consisting in an activity directed towards the practical attainment of perfection, the making of "reason and the Will of God prevail," as Bishop Wilson finely phrased it. To quote Arnold's equally fine phrase: "Not a having and a resting, but a growing and a becoming, is the character of perfection as culture conceives it." From these definitions of culture it will be seen that the true conception of it is entirely foreign to that popularly held—that it is "a smattering of Greek and Latin and other ornamental things, of little use for any one whose object is to get at truth and to be a practical man." While ministering to man's "sense of beauty," it has a far-reaching influence upon his "sense of conduct"; and not only pleases and gratifies, but orders and directs.

* * *

With regard to literature, Matthew Arnold is equally luminous and admirable. He says, to quote again from

his discourse on "Literature and Science":—"Literature is a large word; it may mean everything written with letters or printed in a book. Euclid's *Elements* and Newton's *Principia* are thus literature. All knowledge that reaches us through books is literature." He then goes on to distinguish between this idea of literature and its value as distinguished from *belles lettres*—the "smattering of Greek and Latin and other ornamental things." And here again the practical utility of a study of literature is insisted on, as the practical side of culture was, and its influence upon the "sense of conduct" as well as upon the "sense of beauty" illustrated. He says:—"By knowing ancient Rome I do not mean knowing merely more or less of Latin *belles lettres*, and taking no account of Rome's military and political, and legal and administrative work in the world." . . . And as to the knowledge of modern nations also, I mean, not merely knowing their *belles lettres*, but knowing also what has been done by such men as Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Darwin. . . . By knowing the best that has been thought and said in the world. . . . I certainly include what has been thought and said by the great observers and knowers of nature."

* * *

It may be said that these ideas are not new; some will even call them trite and commonplace. But, be that as it may, it is well for us sometimes to stop and rest awhile and ponder over some things which are so often regarded as lessons long since learned,—and long since forgotten! In this age of "anarchy" and "triumphant democracy" it will do each one of us a great deal of good if we examine our way of life and see how far we are endeavouring to "make reason and the will of God prevail," how near we are endeavouring to attain to the perfection which the culture we are supposed to be following is destined to lead, how much and how thoroughly we have learned from the past and from its literature those lessons which teach us to satisfy not only our "sense of beauty, but our sense of conduct." In a word, how those of us who profess to follow Literature and Culture are making them instrumental not only to better and fuller enjoyment of life, but to our advancement towards perfection and the elevation of our spiritual nature.

* * *

Let those who despair of ever seeing their contributions in all the gorgeousness of print, read the following, which Mahala B. Chaddock tells about the woman who writes under the *non de plume* of "John Strange Winter":—"She was an unsuccessful writer at first, and when she wrote the story called 'Bootle's Baby' she sent it all around before she could find an editor that would buy it. One day she was walking in the street with a companion, when she saw a horse cast a shoe. She picked it up, saying, 'It is a sign of good luck,' and carried it home, when she found a note from a leading editor telling her that 'Bootle's Baby' was accepted. From that day on she has been rich and prosperous. Now, my dear four thousand eight hundred friends, here is what we must do in order that our stories may be accepted and our pockets filled with dollars. We must find a horseshoe."

* * *

This same Mahala B. Chaddock,—is this a man or a woman?—replying to a request made by Mr. Robt. Waters in the September *Lippincott*, that the owners of that magazine should publish a volume of "Rejected Contributions," says:—"If Mr. Waters is in earnest, and really wishes to read some 'rejected contributions,' I think I can accommodate him. If he will pay the postage both ways, I will send him a bushel of 'rejected contributions,' and he may read and return them at his leisure." We think we know of some very desirable "rejected MSS." which would add greatly to the interest of this proposed volume, and are thinking seriously of communicating with Mr. Robt. Waters and Mahala B. Chaddock, with a view of clearing out certain pigeon-holes we have in our mind's eye. If these two unfortunates would combine and invite contributions from all over this continent, they could publish a series as big as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, which would contain as much interesting matter, relatively, to the square inch. Verily, here is a chance for some one to make fame, and fortune, and friends!

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

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

AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS.—Dr. Wilson, President of the University of Toronto, lectured on Saturday afternoon last, the 19th inst., in the Convocation Hall, on "America before Columbus." The audience was large, and the proceeds were in aid of the Newsboys' Home. Dr. Wilson commenced by giving evidence of the visits of discoverers to this continent before the time of Columbus. As early as A. D. 1000 the Scandinavian voyagers reached Greenland in their rude ships, and without the aid of the compass. Their only guide was the Phœnician star of the Greeks, and if they could reach the western world under those circumstances it was quite probable that the Tyrian voyagers, who were equally advanced in navigation, had made the discovery at a very much earlier period. The lecturer gave Christopher Columbus the credit of conceiving that the world was round, and of having the faith to sail west in order to reach the east and discover a more direct route to India, which was the object he had in view when he re-discovered America. The discovery of Brazil, some few years after, was quoted in support of the statement that had Columbus not discovered America, the existence of this continent would, within a short time afterwards, have been demonstrated by other navigators. The grand question, however, was as to the condition of this continent in the centuries before its discovery. There was evidence of the presence of man since the time the mammoth roamed this continent. The rude stone implements found in New Jersey suggested the idea of the presence of man at a time just subsequent to the glacial period, and this led to the belief that not so long after man was present in Europe he was present here. But there are no such traces of ancient civilization here as can be found in the Old World. The mound builders were doubtless a rude people, whose leaders had a knowledge of geometry and architectural science. It was evident that a germ of civilization existed at a time, but that it was quenched by the savages. From thirty years' study of the subject he did not believe that there was evidence of any knowledge of mineralogy being possessed by the people who inhabited the part of the continent north of the Mexican Gulf. In Central America there was a startling evidence of civilization, architecture, sculpture and mineralogy. In Peru there was indication of sun worship and scientific progress. Both these, however, could not be regarded as of great antiquity. He expressed deep regret that the rude hunters of gold had been permitted to eradicate the most valuable traces of the history of these people. America possessed no such evidence of ancient civilization as Europe, Asia and Africa presented, and he held that if the reverse were the case, as some advocates of evolution contend, it would make their problem ten times more difficult than it was before.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—A regular meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society was held in Lecture Room No. 8, on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 15th. The President, T. Mulvey, B.A., occupied the chair. An interesting essay on the life and works of Descartes was read by Mr. J. G. Witton. Mr. C. Gordon Richardson, lecturer in chemistry in the Veterinary College, gave some instructive and beautiful experiments in connection with the theory of the polarization of light. On motion of Mr. A. F. Hunter, a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Richardson. Problems were solved by Messrs. McGowan, Witton, DeLury and Whitelaw. At the next meeting of the Society papers will be read by Mr. J. McGowan and Mr. D. Hull.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.—The second German meeting of the term was held last Monday in the Y. M. C. A. Building, the President being in the chair. The meeting was well attended and the essays above the usual standard. Mr. Steen opened the programme by his essay on L'Arrabiata, one of the novels of the author under discussion—Paul Heyse, and presented clearly the beauty of the style and of the novel. Mr. Vandersmissen followed with a short address in German, and a selection from Heyse's poems, which was much appreciated. The next on the programme consisted of an able essay by Miss Scott, on Hans Lange, dealing chiefly with the outlines of the story. At the request of the Club Mr. Vandersmissen read another poem entitled "Nachgeschicht," and after a few complimentary remarks by the President, the meeting broke up for half an hour's conversation in German. The essayists are to be congratulated also on the clear and distinct manner in which they read their essays; thereby contributing much to the enjoyment of their audience. The meeting of this society on Monday afternoon next will be devoted to Dickens and his preter of Human Nature, by T. C. Des Barres; "Tale of Two Cities," by O. W. McMichael; "and David Copperfield," by S. Wetherald, a graduate of the Philadelphia School of Oratory. There should be a large attendance.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY held its usual meeting on Tuesday, 23rd inst., at the School of Science. Routine business having been disposed of, Mr. Marani read an essay entitled "A short Historical Sketch of Sanitary Science," in which he traced the knowledge of sanitary laws as far back as the 16th century before Christ; when monarchs, unquestioned in their authority, forced their people to live in healthy dwellings, and forced them to pay sufficient attention to sanitation to insure the freedom of their towns and cities from disease and pestilence. Sanitary science flourished especially in the Roman era, when that nation constructed those immense aqueducts, baths, &c., which bear testimony to the knowledge and foresight of the people, and some of which may yet be recognized among the ruins of Italy. It was at this time, also, that the Campagna of Rome was so thoroughly drained that the fever held in its marshes disappeared almost entirely, and the land thus reclaimed was utilized for farming purposes. The Roman dynasty fell, however, and with it disappeared almost all traces of sanitary science. Through the Middle Ages down to as late as 1760, we find what are now considered as rudimentary precautions disregarded entirely, and frightful epidemics of fever, cholera, &c., constantly ravaging different parts of Europe. These very plagues, however, seem to have awakened in the people a sense of the frightful state of their towns and cities, and to have led to those investigations, upon the result of which modern sanitary engineering and science are founded. The essayist closed with a brief outline of the germ theory as it is at present formulated by the eminent pathologists of Europe. In the discussion which followed Mr. Marani's paper, Dr. Ellis described some of the experiments which have been made in recent years, and which have shown that disease is due to the production of ptomaines by the bacteria which exist in all organic matter. These ptomaines are of definite chemical composition and are believed to act in a similar manner to such poisons as arsenic. Bacteria also play an important part in the purification of our soil; assimilating the animal matter which is thrown upon or filters through the ground, nitrogenizing it and rendering it perfectly harmless. The discussion on Limes, Mortars and Cements was laid over till the next meeting.

Y. M. C. A.—Tuesday next—Missionary address by Rev. John McLawrin, a Baptist missionary lately returned from India; Thursday next—Regular meeting will be addressed by Rev. E. A. Stafford, of the Metropolitan. The building is kept open every Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.; reading-room and library open to all. Regular devotional meeting was held on Thursday, the 24th, H. B. Fraser, Captain of the "Association" team, leader. Subject—Bought with a price, based on 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20. Christians urged, on account of the greatness of the price—the sufferings and death of Christ—to live nearer Him and to devote themselves entirely to His service. A strong appeal made to those who do not believe, and objections that men urge against Christ and Christianity answered.

THE WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE has entered upon its fifth session most prosperously. There are eighteen students in regular attendance. A Students' Association, for literary, social and business purposes, has recently been organized, having a reading room in connection with it. The final students have also a Chemical Society, which meets every fortnight and promises excellent results.

The Glee Club has received a number of invitations to sing in public during the present term. The following are those which have been accepted:—They will furnish the music for the Inter-collegiate debate between the McMaster College and the Osgoode Literary and Legal Society, to be held in Osgoode Hall on Friday evening, Nov. 25th; they will take part in a promenade concert in the Horticultural Pavilion on Thursday evening, December the 7th, and also to be present at the debate between Varsity and Trinity on Friday evening, Dec. 2nd. The committee extend a hearty invitation to all undergraduates, who are musically inclined, to come to the practices every Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock, in the west end Lecture Room.

The Central Association cup tie match was played on the Rosedale grounds last Saturday afternoon between the Torontos and Varsity. Neither club was able to place its strongest team on the field. The Varsity, however, were more unfortunate in this respect than their opponents. At half-time the prospects were bright for Varsity the score being 2 goals to 0 in their favour; but after play was resumed, although the Varsity boys were fortunate enough to secure another goal, the Torontos were equally fortunate in securing three times in succession and would in all probability have continued to score had not time been called. The result being a draw, it was decided to play the next match on Saturday, Dec. 3rd, on Union Lawn.

The Medical Students were received in the University Y. M. C. A. building on Tuesday evening last. There were about three hundred present, including Prof. Wilson and the following mem.

bers of the respective Faculties:—Drs. W. T. Aikins, Geikie Richardson, McFarlane, Ferguson, Peters, H. W. Aikins. Addresses were delivered by Dr. O. R. Avison, President of the joint Medical Association, Dr. Wilson, Drs. Geikie and Richardson, and the Rev. A. Gandier. Miss Russell contributed two vocal solos, and Miss Geikie an instrumental solo with a piano accompaniment by Dr. A. Geikie. Refreshments were provided at the instance of the ladies whose husbands are members of the Faculty.

The Cos Ingeniorum in McMaster Hall was re-organized last week. The object is to be a Literary Society for the University students who reside in the Baptist College. The membership is over twenty-five. The following officers were elected: President, J. H. Hunter; Vice-President, H. Robertson; Secy.-Treas., F. C. Cook; Critic, O. McMichael.

A Glee Club in connection with the University Medical College was organized last week with a membership of about thirty. The following officers were elected: President, W. Egbert; Secy.-Treas., C. McLachlan; Musical Director, A. H. Holliday, and a committee of management consisting of three members.

W. P. Thompson and A. N. Garrett are the only representatives from Toronto on the International Association F. B. Team.

The Song Book will be published on the 9th of December. Intending subscribers should at once send in their names to Mr. J. D. Spence, the Secretary.

R. L. Johnston, '87 has returned from his visit to the old land, and is studying law in this city.

GENERAL COLLEGE NOTES.

Rev. Dr. William C. Winslow, of Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., describes the picturesque method of conferring the degree of D. C. L. at the University of King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia:

"If one desires to witness the pomp and circumstance of an Oxford encenia, on a smaller scale but not less complete in details, let him repair another year to the lovely Acadia of the fair Evangeline and note the King's College encenials on one of the most charming bucolic sites ever deeded to the halls of learning. The long main building faces down a sylvan eminence, with the chapel to its left and the convocation hall to its right. The procession is not only academical, it is picturesque as it moves, either to the parish church in the morning or the convocation hall in the afternoon. For scarlet gowns, as well as black gowns, doctoral and other hoods, enliven what with us at such times are customary suits of solitary black. The platform of the hall is, of course, equally enlivening. The president formally opens the convocation in Latin, followed by words on what the year has brought forth, in plain English. Special honorary degrees are then conferred. The 'D.C.L.' candidate, *e.g.*, is seated just in front of the platform. The presenter of the board of governors addresses the president upon the subject, who assents and asks the governors for their consent, which is given; then the presenter conducts the candidate to the entrance hall, where he places over his gown the D.C.S. hood (scarlet without and pink within), escorts him to the platform, presents him to the president, who confers the degrees—touching the candidate's head with his (the president's) cap—and then seating him by his side, the governor of Nova Scotia being on his right and the newly created doctor on his left. The above locution and interlocution is entirely in Latin, save that the president also declares in plain English why such or such an honorary degree ought to be conferred on the presented one. After law or divinity the M.A.'s have their turn, and so on."—*Hamilton Literary Monthly*.

Some statistics of interest to college men: One-half of one per cent. of the young men of the country are college graduates; 65 per cent. of the presidents of the United States have been college graduates, vice-presidents, 50 per cent.; speakers of House of Representatives, 50 per cent.; members of Senate, 46 per cent.; associate justices Supreme Court, 73 per cent.; chief justices, 83 per cent.; cabinet officers, 54 per cent. Draw your own conclusions as to the value of a college education.—*Ex.*

TO OUR READERS.

We cannot too strongly urge upon our readers the necessity of subscribing for a family weekly newspaper of the first class—such, for instance, as *The Independent*, of New York. Were we obliged to select one publication for habitual and careful reading to the exclusion of all others, we should choose unhesitatingly *The Independent*. It is a newspaper, magazine and review, all in one. It is a religious, a literary, an educational, a story, an art, a scientific, an agricultural, a financial and a political paper combined. It has 20 folio pages and 21 departments. No matter what a person's religion, politics or profession may be, *The Independent* will prove a help, an instructor, an educator. Our readers can do no less than

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Social and Political Articles, by Prof. Wm. G. Sumner, Prof. R. T. Ely, Pres. John Bascom, Prof. Arthur T. Hadley, and others.

Monthly Literary Articles by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and other critical and literary articles by Maurice Thompson, Charles Dudley Warner, James Payn, Andrew Lang, Edmund Gosse, R. H. Stoddard, Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, Louise Imogen Guiney, H. H. Boyesen, and others.

Poems and Stories, by E. C. Stedman, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Edward Everett Hale, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Julia Schayer, Rose Terry Cooke, Edith M. Thomas, John Boyle O'Reilly, and others, and

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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.

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Di-Varsities.



Owing to the persistent attempt of numerous cigarette manufacturers to cope in part the Brand Name of the "Richmond Straight Cut." Now in the eleventh year of their popularity, we think it alike due to the protection of the consumer and ourselves, to warn the public against base imitations and call their attention to the fact that the original Straight Cut Brand is the Richmond Straight Cut No. 1, introduced by us in 1875, and to caution the students to observe that our signature appears on every package of the Genuine Straight Cut Cigarettes.

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ONE FOR THE PARSON.

A clergyman sought to lead a congregation of children to see that the wearing of a uniform was a mark of distinction, making the individual easily recognized, and involving responsibilities.

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"Right again." Then the preacher braced himself up to sketch a parson.

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THE DOCTOR AND THE GRAVEDIGGER.

A doctor, who was an elder of the parish church, was called upon, in the exercise of his duty, to reprimand the beadle and gravedigger for drunkenness, and he dwelt so long on the old fellow's misconduct as to excite his anger, and draw from him this expression:

"Ah, doctor, I thocht you wad hae treated my failings wi' mair gentleness, for ye should hae been the last man to say ocht against me, seeing I hae covered up sae mony o' yer blunders."

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A lot of unclaimed freight was sold recently at Boston. Among the goods there turned out to be two hundred manuscript sermons, written by a Connecticut clergyman. The purchaser discovered some curious notes on the margins, such as the following: "Deliver this passage in solemn tones;" "Scornful smile after the word 'never'"; "Pause long enough to count twenty-five after this passage;" "A withering frown in the direction of the gallery at the words 'all of you'"; "Close Bible with violent slam after this passage;" "Contemplate ceiling in attitude of adoration at this point;" "Sarcastic wave of hand;" "Rapid gesture;" "Tears and pocket handkerchief."

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THE CAT.

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The cat keeps late hours. No naturalist has discovered where she keeps them; nor, indeed, does it signify. Science rises superior to such quibbles. She haunts the tiles, and makes them vocal; just, indeed, as though they were the roof of her own mouth. She is fond of horse-flesh, and generally sportive. She does not shine as a mother, but can see in the dark. She likes good milk, and consequently never wets her whiskers with ours; indeed, she always runs away at the sound of the dairyman's tins. She does not go in much for mice, as their retreats are too narrow to admit of her doing so. She has a weakness for mackerels' heads and fowls' gizzards, and could be utilized for fiddle-strings after death. Truly can we add, in the words of the blank-verser: Pussy, with all thy faults, we love thee still. Ay, yes; the stiller the better, for a lively cat in a literary sanctum is a mistake.

There are many varieties of cats. Some are dangerous to man—such, for instance, as the tiger cat and the tip cat. The tip cat is prevalent in England during certain times of the year, and flies savagely at its innocent victim, succeeding in many cases in gouging out his eye, or inflicting a life-long injury. "It is all done in play," says old Buffon; but, as the itinerant showman remarked, when speaking of this deceased naturalist, "Buffon is a 'owling old fool!"

The civet cat is sent for a wise purpose; no doubt is scented for the same reason. The pole cat does not smell sweetly, but it has its place in the mysterious economy of nature. More it would be impolitic to add.

There is the gaol cat, too. This is a most useful animal; though some humanitarian gentlemen maintain the contrary. These gentlemen want to have its claws clipped; but they should remember that the ruffians for whose benefit this cat is kept don't put boxing-gloves on their hands when they assault their helpless victims.

Unlike the ox or the sheep, the cat, when dead, becomes anything you like, from pork up to veal and ham. It makes nice muttonpies. From the circumstance that cats are so often covered by crust after death, an ingenious correspondent, who signs himself a collateral descendant of Cuvier, writes to suggest a new reading of an old line—"Requiescat in pace" should be, he says: "Requiescat in pastry."

If a body kiss a body,
Need a body cry?
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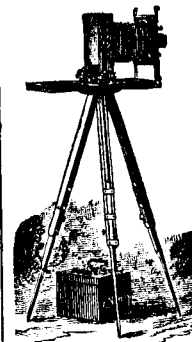
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