

# THE VARSITY

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## IN MARCH.

Sleep, little flow'ret, sleep. Though winds be raging,  
Though harsh and bitter be the frost-king's breath,  
While earth with air its weary war is waging,  
While round thee rules the regimen of death,—  
Sleep, flow'ret, sleep!

Their angry strife neglecting,

Calm canst thou rest and wait the hastening hour  
When, from the leaflets' close and tender keeping,  
That mother-like enfolds thy gentle sleeping,  
Forth at thy sunbeam-lover's call of power,  
Thou shalt in beauty burst,—the perfect flower.

Eoin.

## THE UNIVERSITY AND THE PROFESSIONS.

### V.—LAW.

The close connection between civilization, and the establishment of an order of learned men devoted to the administration of justice, is a remarkable feature in the history of every free people. The *Advocate*, whose duty it is to sustain and defend the personal liberty of others, or their rights of property, is to be found in nations governed by established laws, or constitutional usages, and is deservedly the favourite of the pure and intelligent portion of a free and liberty-loving people.

University men will doubtless remember the stately elevation of Cicero when he places the *Orator* next in dignity to the triumphant *Imperator*; and they will also remember how, in one of his celebrated orations (I think *Pro Murena*) he esteemed the station of the *Advocate* as immeasurably inferior to that of the *Orator*. The duty of the *Advocate*, in the days of Cicero, was confined—as it is now—to the application of the rules of the civil law to the protection of the property and social rights of the citizen; hence devotion to the study of the law, and ability in its application to the transactions of private and business life were—then as now—essential qualifications of the successful *Advocate*; for after patient and severe study he must be familiar with—

“The lawless science of the law,  
That codeless myriad of precedents,  
And wilderness of single instances,”

—which go to make up what we call the common and statute law of the land.

The profession of the law is universally acknowledged to be “learned,” and to rank next to that of “Divinity.” The “student of the laws” should therefore commence with a scholastic and literary foundation. He should also have acquired a practical power of application and a trained readiness to acquire knowledge; and be possessed of well-disciplined faculties.

Among some of the essential qualifications for the professional work of a successful lawyer are sound health and a reasonable strength of constitution. The law, properly pursued, draws heavier upon both body and mind than any other calling. And though the student may not be called upon to develop the muscle of the athlete, he should be able to devote at least eight or ten hours a day to hard

reading, study, and writing, without a menace of breaking down.

Prof. Pollock, in his “Lecture on Oxford Law Studies,” thus advises: “Let go nothing that becomes a man of bodily and mental excellence. The day is past, I trust, when these can seem strange words from a chair of jurisprudence. Professors are sometimes men of flesh and blood, and are not always estranged from the humanities. For my part, I would in no wise have the oar, or the helm, or the ice-axe, or the rifle, unfamiliar in your hands. I would have you learn to bear arms for the defence of the realm, a wholesome discipline and service of citizenship; and you may learn to be a man of your hands with another weapon or two besides, if you be so minded” (a).

The first question which a student should address himself to as he prepares to enter upon the practical work of life is: “For what sphere of action am I adapted; shall I choose a profession?”

This question the student should carefully consider and solve on the threshold, before he enters the temple of the law. He may, and indeed, if he acts wisely, he will, read some law book before he decides the question; for it is impossible that he should be able to determine whether his mind is adapted to a particular study or pursuit, until he knows something of the nature of the mental action required. This suggestion of reading one or two law books may be adopted by every student, and will serve as a useful part of his general education. Such reading will dissuade some from the law, while it will allure others to enter upon its study; and it will benefit those who intend to pursue other avocations than the law as their life-work. The works to be selected will be varied according to the inclinations or the opportunities of the student. If he desires to acquire a knowledge of general law he may select a work on General Jurisprudence; if on Constitutional law and its history, he will act wisely to read at least one English and one American work on Constitutional law; if he desires to take a leading part in public affairs, he ought, in addition to the last-named subject, read one of the standard works on International law (b).

(a) “It seems to be the better opinion that a man is in no danger of a forfeiture from any hurt done to another by playing at cudgels, or such like sport, by consent; because the intent of the parties seems no way unlawful, but rather commendable, and tending mutually to promote activity and courage:” Hawkins, “Pleas of the Crown.” B. 1, c. 60, s. 26.

(b) I can only indicate a few works, which, from personal study, I feel may be safely recommended to those who desire to act on the above suggestion:

“General Jurisprudence,”—Austin, Holland, Phillimore.

“Constitutional Law and History,”—(English) Blackstone, vol. 1; Anson's Law of the Constitution; Brougham's Political Philosophy, vol. 3; Hallam's Constitutional History; May's Constitutional History; Taswell-Langmead's Constitutional History; Todd's Parliamentary Government in the British Colonies. (American) Cooley's Principles of Constitutional Law; Cooley's Constitutional Limitations; Pomeroy's Constitutional Law; Sedgwick's Statutory and Constitutional Law; Story on the Constitution.

“International Law,”—Vattel's Law of Nations; Hall's International Law; Kent's Commentaries, vol. 1; Wheaton's International Law; Woolsey's International Law; Story's Conflict of Laws; Twiss's Law of Nations.

Many other books might be added, but any one of the above will be sufficient as a preliminary study.

The student should remember that knowledge is not acquired by reading many books, but by impressing deeply on the mind what is read, and repeatedly reflecting upon it.

No one who has had the advantages of a University training, as well as some experience at the Bar, will deny that the best preparation for the profession of the law is acquired, in the first place, by the instruction afforded, the discipline enforced, the habits of application developed, and the knowledge of life and character acquired in that little world by itself—a University. The man who has passed successfully through his University course, provided he has the essential qualifications necessary for an advocate, will soon distance the ordinary law student, for he will have practically learned *how to learn*. During a four years' University course the undergraduate has at any rate a good opportunity to become a trained student; and the exercise of his faculties in acquiring specific or general knowledge will have developed and strengthened his mind, and given him what may be called "intellectual muscle;" so that when he applies himself to any new subject, such as Divinity, or Law, or Medicine, he will be able to master it in a much shorter time than a competitor who has not had the advantages of a University training.

These advantages are, that one who has faithfully worked and diligently studied during his University career will have more visible success and prosperity than others who have worked with laxer attention and with lower aims. Such a training, instead of impoverishing and narrowing the activities of the mind, will have widened and enriched them. And the man who has faithfully worked will find, when he comes into his profession, an increasing and expanding circle of acquaintance by contact with the science of law, the philosophy and ethics of equity, the history and practice of constitutional governments, and with the common law of nations. Aided by such, his professional ambition will become a noble and not a mean one, and he will feel that he has an entertaining vocation and not a drudgery, and that he has entered into communion and fellowship with the masters and sages of a splendid system of jurisprudence.

The student of Classical Literature who has enjoyed Homer and Virgil, Demosthenes and Cicero in the originals, will find that he has acquired a flexibility of language, and a felicity of expression, which will make him the better lawyer. He will, by such studies, have brought the activities of language into full play, and if a man of ready utterance, that his peculiar vocation is advantaged by the suppleness and strength acquired by the frequent study and translation of these great standards of classical literature.

Before turning to other subjects of a University course, I may be pardoned for quoting here an appropriate extract on the advantages of a Classical Education, from *Coleridge on the Classic Poets*, which captivated my young imagination during the days of my undergraduate life:

"These inestimable advantages, which no modern skill can wholly counterpoise, are known and felt by the scholar alone. He has not failed, in the sweet and silent studies of his youth, to drink deep at those sacred fountains of all that is just and beautiful in human language. The thoughts and the words of the master-spirits of Greece and Rome are inseparably blended in his memory; a sense of their marvellous harmonies, their exquisite fitness, their consummate polish, has sunken forever into his heart, and thence throws out light and fragranciness upon the gloom and the annoyances of his maturer years. No avocations of professional labour will make him abandon their wholesome study; in the midst of a thousand cares he will find an hour to recur to his boyish lessons; to re-peruse them in the pleasurable consciousness of old associations, and in the clearness of manly judgment, and to apply them to himself and to the world with superior profit. The more extended his sphere of learning in the literature of modern Europe, the more deeply, though the more wisely, will he reverence that of classical antiquity; and in declining age, when the appetite for magazines and reviews, and the ten-times repeated trash of the day, has failed, he will retire, as it were, within a circle of school-fellow friends, and end his secular studies as he began them, with his Homer, his Horace, and his Shakespeare."

Next to the study of the Classics the future lawyer will find the study of Logic of practical use to him; not the

so-called logic of the schools, but that branch of the science of logic which includes precision of language and accuracy of classification. And if he has aptitude for the study, he will find that the philosophy which deals with the general principles of human knowledge, and which is conversant with abstract and necessary truth, will be also beneficial.

The lawyer who desires to deal successfully with the varied cases which arise respecting mechanical appliances, must have a fair general knowledge of those departments of physical science which are the indispensable foundations for the education of those engaged in mechanical and manufacturing industries. Apart from the benefit such knowledge will be to any professional man, mechanical science has a strong fascination for some minds, and little, therefore, is required to advocate the advantages of that department of knowledge to the average student.

I would be unfaithful to the traditions of University life if I did not urge upon all students,—but more earnestly on those who intend to enter the profession of the law,—a diligent attention to the practice of public speaking. The possession of a free and ready and facile power of expression is an essential qualification of the advocate. This may be developed and improved by training. But a practice of debating questions without previous preparation is not beneficial, and should be shunned. The mind can rarely disclose its power and qualities when forced into a public or argumentative discussion *en dishabille*.

But, some may ask, how can these studies prepare one for the laborious work and practice of a dry and technical system, for the greedy watch for clients, and for the practice of the shopkeeper's arts and the mannerless conflicts over selfish interests,—

"The rubs and wrenchings of this boisterous world"

These are similar to many questions which any practical work-a-day life will demand to be answered. The answer must come, or take its broad outline, from each questioner's world-ideal. The law is not the place for the artist or the *doctrinaire*. The law is the calling of practical men, of hard and close thinkers. And if our business be that of thinkers, we must, by thought and reason, seek to make plainer the knowledge of men, and the facts which constitute the aggregate of the world. If our department of work is law, we must know something of the science of life and its laws; of ethics and its far-reaching obligations; of history, and its political teachings; and of the supremacy of law, and its foundation in the principles of common and equal rights. And if the student quails at the contemplation and disheartening prospect of travelling the slow and toilsome and rugged path which leads to the temple of the law, let him turn aside to less toilsome and less laborious paths.

But to those who may become the "apprentices of the law," I may fittingly close these remarks by the following extract from a work published over a century ago, in which the character of the "Honest Lawyer" was thus epitomised:—

"An honest lawyer is the safeguard of our fortunes, the best collateral security for our estates; a trusty pilot to steer us through the dangerous and often-times inevitable ocean of contention; a true priest of justice, who neither sacrifices to fraud or covetousness, and in this outdoes those of higher functions. He can make people honest that are sermon-proof. He is an infallible anatomist of *meum and tuum*, that will presently probe a cause to the quick, and find out the peccant humour, and the little lurking cheat, though masked in ever so fair pretensions; one that practices Law, but not so as to forget the Gospel; but always wears a conscience as well as a gown; one that weighs the cause and not the gold, and when he undertakes a business, he espouses it in earnest, and does not follow a cause, but manages it. In a word, while he lives he is the delight of the court, the ornament of the bar, the glory of his profession, the upholder of right, the scourge of oppression, the terror of deceit, and the oracle of his countrymen. And when death calls him to the bar of heaven by a *habeas corpus cum causis*, he finds his judge his advocate, obtains a *liberate* for all his infirmities, and continues—one of the long robe in heaven."

THOMAS HODGINS.

## ALEXANDER McLACHLAN'S POEMS.

A Canadian poet: what must he be to justify his title? Is native birth a necessity, or is life-long residence a sufficient qualification? Or is there something deeper than either—a sympathy with the land and with its people, a community of thought and aspiration—that marks the true Canadian and sets its stamp upon Canadian prose and poetry worthy the name?

Long resident in the Dominion, Alexander McLachlan has a further claim to the use of our national adjective in that his writings treat largely of Canadian topics. But he deals with them in the spirit of a stranger; he has never been thoroughly naturalized. In his best work he writes as an exile from his native Scotland. Her hills and vales—"Old Ben More" and "Lovely Leven"—charm him more than the woods and lakes of the land of his adoption. He is best pleased to

"Sing the lays

Of Scotia's bonnie woods and braes,  
Of hoary hills, of dashing streams,  
Of lone rocks where the eagle screams;  
Of primrose banks and gowany glens,  
Of broomy knowes and hawthorn dens,  
Of burn-sides where the linnet's lay  
Is heard the lee lang summer's day."

It is in such passages that McLachlan, seldom wholly free from the charge of affectation, shows most of earnestness and honest feeling. We need not adduce such a bit of scurrilous doggerel as "Young Canada" to prove his utter want of sympathy with Canadian society and politics; it is shown in the lack, in those pieces which profess Canadian patriotism, of the fire and vigour which mark his poems on Scottish themes.

It seems tolerably clear, then, that McLachlan is Canadian only in externals. It is significant that his longest published poem—that containing perhaps the best of his work—is "The Emigrant."

Four several collections of his poems have been issued at different times. His earliest published work, "The Spirit of Love" is now almost wholly forgotten. It was followed by a volume of "Lyrics," which won for its author the favourable opinion of the ablest critics of this country and of Scotland. In 1861 he issued "The Emigrant and other Poems," justifying by the motto on its title-page the conclusion to which we have already come—*"coelum non animam mutant qui trans mare currunt."*

Again, in 1874, he published a fourth volume, containing many new poems with selections from the best of the old, under the title of "Poems and Songs."

Much of McLachlan's work is essentially commonplace. He is possessed of little originality of thought or sentiment, borrowing his ideas, with his metres, from well-known sources. Bathos abounds and would be more marked were it not for the generally low level on which the poet travels. "He that is down need fear no fall." With the exception of a few pieces of real merit, all that he has written seems to have been done for publication; seldom does it seem the genuine reflex of the poet's inner self. He attempts philosophy with poor success, evidently mistaking obscurity and bombastic repetition for profundity. His execution is faulty; his metre is often defective, and his rhymes, considering the sacrifices he makes for them, are not always to be commended.

But, apart from all faults of style and diction, there is much in his productions to evidence real poetic endowment. Passion he has none: he is at his best in the treatment of simple, even commonplace, themes. From this springs the chief claim of his poetry to be called Canadian, for in his painting of the work-a-day world about him, he has given us many a true picture of Canadian country life.

McLachlan's didactic poems, if prosy and often tinged with a suspicion of cant, are at all events sound in their teaching; he is always to be found on the side of freedom, justice, and right.

In "The Indian Maid," and elsewhere, McLachlan displays lyrical power of no mean order;—perhaps it is as a lyricist that he most deserves recognition. There is a composed and homely tenderness about many of his simpler pieces that places them infinitely above most of his more

pretentious productions. "The Death of the Ox" and "Auld Towser" may be instanced as proof of his kindly affection for the lower creation, and of his power of expressing true, if humble, sentiment in verse. This is evidently his vocation, though in his meditative poems all is not unworthy of praise. The lines "To an Indian Skull," beginning

"And art thou come to this at last  
Great sachem of the forest vast,—"

show a rare breadth of sympathy:

"Dreams of the hunting-field were thine—  
What better ere those dreams of mine?  
Ah! my red brother were not we  
By accident compelled to be  
Christian or savage? We indeed  
Alike inherited a creed;  
Race, country, creed were forced on thee—  
Red brother, as they were on me!  
Then why should I have loved thee less,  
Or closed my heart to thy distress,  
Red rover of the wilderness!"

To those who fail to recognize McLachlan's inspiration, we recommend a careful reading of this whole poem. Three others of a different stamp may be here mentioned as revealing the poet in a new and attractive light—"Sir Colin," the "American War Ode," "Garibaldi." They are fresh and vigorous, and display much military spirit.

In "Idylls of the Dominion" occur two poems, "October" and "Indian Summer," which for their merit, as well as for their being descriptive of Canadian scenery, deserve mention. In "October" especially, the poet seems for once to lose himself in his subject:

"Not in russet, sad and sober,  
Com'st thou here, beloved October,  
As in Europe old;  
Not with aspect wan and hoary,  
But arrayed in robes of glory,  
Purple, green and gold,  
Over continent and sea,  
To hold the full year's jubilee,  
Thou again hast come,—  
Borne on thine own fairy pinion,  
To our dear beloved Dominion,  
Our green forest home!

See how the great old forest vies  
With all the glory of the skies,  
In streaks without a name;  
And leagues on leagues of scarlet spires,  
And temples lit with crimson fires,  
And palaces of flame!  
And domes on domes that gleam afar,  
Through many a gold and crimson bar,  
With azure overhead;  
While forts, with towers on towers arise,  
As if they meant to scale the skies,  
With banner bloody red."

To the poems on Scottish subjects, mostly in the Lowland dialect, space will not permit a lengthy reference. Of these, "The Lang heided Laddie" is most widely known, and its shrewd humour justifies its popularity. "Auld Granny Brown," "Elder John," "Skipflint's Advice," "John Tamson's Address," and the anniversary poem on "Burns," which won for its author, some years ago, the Caledonian Society's prize, will repay reading. More touching, however, are "I winna gae hame," and two songs in "The Emigrant"—"Farewell, Caledonia," and Donald Ban's "Song of Regret." Both breathe a tender patriotism, and contain lines which no Scottish poet need blush to have written. Indeed, this regretful love for the land he has left seems his truest inspiration.

On the whole, McLachlan has fairly earned the right to public recognition as a poet of the simpler emotions. His faults are neither few nor slight; his work is marred less by his lack of education than by a too great self-complacency and want of sound judgment. But it has merits to redeem it, and we can persuade ourselves to forgive, if we cannot wholly forget. He is by no means the equal of Burns, to whom he has been rashly compared, and whom, plainly, he aspires to imitate. But there is a certain perspective of nationality which forms a not unworthy factor in a comparative estimate of literary greatness. It is right that we should look with a kindly eye on the modest productions of our own writers. That the sun is shining on the other side of the globe is no reason for snuffing out the moon.

DAVID MACDONALD.

## 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.

No notice will be taken of anonymous contributions.

### THE DUTY OF CONVOCATION.

Two months have now elapsed since Mr. Thomas Hodgins placed before the readers of THE VARSITY a valuable synopsis of the claim which the University of Toronto has upon the Provincial Government in respect of that part of the former endowment which has been expropriated as a site for the Legislative Buildings, now in course of erection in the Queen's Park. This article, as well as Dr. Wilson's address on the same subject at the last College Convocation, were reproduced by the daily papers of this city, and the position taken by these two gentlemen was very generally approved. By these means the members of Convocation were put in full possession of all the facts of the case, upon which is based the claim of the University on the Government. There is no excuse, therefore, for the extraordinary and altogether unaccountable inaction of Convocation on the subject. What is the Executive Committee of Convocation thinking about? Does it not consider the question of sufficient importance to bring under the official notice of Convocation? The question concerns the University very deeply indeed, since it is one of endowment and if the demeanour of Convocation is an evidence of the interest which the graduates of the University take in her welfare, then the University has no very great reason for congratulation. It is true that the Board of Trustees are moving in the matter, but the influence of that body with the Government would surely not be lessened by the unanimous approval and active support of Convocation? There is no occasion to set out again the University's claim; it is well-known to Convocation, and has been known to it for a long time past. We may, therefore, reasonably demand of the Executive Committee to show cause why it has failed to do its duty in this case. We call upon it to summon forthwith a general meeting of Convocation, in order that the graduates may be afforded an opportunity of bringing to bear upon the Government, by means of petitions and deputations, the full and authoritative weight of their influence respecting a question of very great importance to the University.

### THE REPORT OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

For his admirable report on the present condition and pressing needs of the School of Practical Science Dr. Wilson deserves the thanks of all friends of scientific and technical education in this province. We regret that there is nothing which can be reported as having been done for the school since the former report was made. The one before us goes over much the same ground as that traversed last year, and is simply a detailed statement of the absolute needs of the school, the great lack of accommodation, and the insufficiency of laboratory room and supplies. In every department the same complaints are made, and in that of Engineering the necessity for an addition to the staff is again insisted upon. In the departments of Biology, Chemistry and Mineralogy, more class-rooms and laboratories, with a separate and adequate equipment for each, are the chief requirements. That these are badly needed, any one can see for himself if he chooses to visit the school on any regular working day.

But it is with regard to the department of Engineering that we wish more especially to deal with in the present instance. There are now about 55 students pursuing the regular course in Engi-

neering, and 5 taking a special course. For the instruction of these students in the strictly professional work of their department there is only one Professor—assisted by a graduate of the school—to give instruction in the subjects embraced under the following departments:

*I. Mechanical.*—Applied Statics and Dynamics, Strength of Materials and Theory of Construction, Hydraulics, Thermodynamics and Theory of the Steam-Engine, Principles of Mechanism and Machine Design.

*II. Geometrical.*—Geodesy and Practical Astronomy, Surveying Descriptive Geometry (including the principles of Mechanical Drawing, Map Projections, Topography, Stone-cutting, Lineal Perspective, Shades and Shadows, etc.), Spherical Trigonometry.

As the report very truly says:

"It must be evident to any practical teacher that the work comprised in the above list of subjects is far greater than should be required of one Professor, in justice either to his students or himself. To serve the purposes of the School these subjects cannot be treated in an elementary or popular way. On the contrary, to teach them properly necessitates unremitting study and investigation on the part of the teacher, and abilities of as high a class as are required of a University Professor. An Engineering Professor must also be a man of large practical experience in his profession.

"The Board would, therefore, strongly urge the appointment of an Assistant Professor to take the subjects under head II. (Geometrical). The requirements are that he shall be a good mathematician and draughtsman, and also a practical surveyor. As a mathematician he must have a thorough knowledge of the Differential and Integral Calculus and the Theory of Least Squares. If this appointment were made the Professor of Engineering could devote himself to the subject under head I. (Mechanical), institute ordinary and advanced classes in these subjects, and also organize, in addition to the department of Civil Engineering, a department of Mechanical Engineering which would be thoroughly efficient."

The Report goes on to show the unfortunate results which have been caused by the utter inadequacy of the present staff:

"The reason why a full course in Mechanical Engineering has not been instituted, is simply that there is a sufficient amount of difference in the work of the two branches to render it impossible for one professor and his assistant to undertake both courses with any chance of efficiency in either. Applications from students who wish to become mechanical engineers are being continually refused by the Professor of Engineering for the above reason. Three of his former special students in Mechanical Engineering have gone this year to other universities—one to McGill College, one to Lehigh University and one to Cornell University—in order to obtain that systematic instruction in Mechanical Engineering which they could not get here. As far as can be judged from the number of applications, the school might have as many students in Mechanical Engineering as it now has in Civil Engineering, provided there was a sufficient staff."

While we are not inclined to share altogether the view enunciated in the Report, viz., that workshops are not a necessity, we are, for the present, content to support the plea for the establishment of an Engineering Laboratory, as, perhaps, the best compromise under the circumstances. As the Report states:

"All the great schools of Europe and the United States are supplied with such laboratories. They are fitted with various machines and instruments for determining the strength and other qualities of materials which fit them for the purposes of construction, with instruments for experimenting on the flow of liquids and gases, with special application to hydraulic and sanitary work, with experimental engines for making all kinds of engine tests, etc., etc. Such a laboratory may be begun on a small scale at little expense, and added to year by year, and would be of immense advantage to students."

We are well aware of the great difficulties in the way of the Government in dealing with the many educational institutions of this Province, and the care which is necessary to be observed in dealing with each in a fair and equitable manner; but we are convinced that the time has now come for the Government to do some-

thing for advanced technical education, which has not been able, owing to lack of support, to keep pace with the general advance in Ontario and elsewhere.

## THE REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

### I.—PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The annual report of the Education Department for 1887 is before us. In some respects it is an improvement upon its predecessor, both in the records it furnishes, and in the method of their presentation. The portions of the report specially interesting to THE VARSITY, as a university journal, are naturally those which give information in regard to the secondary schools. We must, however, defer an investigation into this department of the report, until we have given a *resumé* of that referring to the public schools.

Since 1885 the provisions regarding the ages between which children are compelled to attend school have been extended so as to include all between the ages of 5 and 21. Formerly the "school age" was from 5 to 16. Since 1885 the increase in the number of children of school age has been 18,057. The total number of children of school age in 1886 was 601,204; the number on the school registers was 487,496; but of these 239,044 or only 49 per cent., attended school during the year. This is most unsatisfactory, and though there is an increase of 1 per cent. in the average attendance, there is the most ample evidence that, as the Minister remarks, "the people of Ontario do not receive the full benefit of the educational forces which they so liberally provide, and that the education of the next generation cannot be as full and thorough as it ought to be considering the amount of money now spent." The compulsory clauses of the Public Schools Act is practically a dead letter, for the increase in the numbers on the school registers is exactly proportional to the increase in the number of the absentees. The Education Department will have to take more vigorous measures in the future than it has hitherto done to compel School Trustees to enforce the compulsory clauses of the Act. It is simply ridiculous to think, and indeed it is most humiliating to have to acknowledge, that although we have, confessedly, a unique and excellent school system, and although we expend an immense sum annually to maintain it, one half of those who should be attending school are allowed to grow up in comparative ignorance. We are simply paying double what we need, or what we should be called upon to pay, for the work done.

The next important point is with regard to the teachers. There are now 7,364 public school teachers—of which 4,637 are females, and but 2,727 are males. Ever since 1881 there has been as steady an increase in the number of female teachers as there has been a steady decrease in the number of male teachers. This is accounted for in various ways, but the chief one appears to be the inadequate salaries offered. When we consider that in this Province the average salary paid to male teachers is \$424, and to females \$290; that the highest salary attainable is \$1,200; and that since 1876 the increase in teachers' salaries has been, on the average, but \$39, it is not to be wondered at that few men are attracted to a profession in which the duties are so arduous and the remuneration so much out of proportion. The Minister thus refers to the disparity between the salaries of men and women: "In other occupations the wages paid are based upon the value of the work done. The women's work is as valuable as the men's work. . . . The result to the public in both cases is the same. Why should it not be the same to the teacher?" As we pointed out in our remarks upon last year's report, this unfair discrimination between men and women is the reason why the salaries of both are kept so low; and, as a consequence of this, why the male teachers are leaving the profession.

The amount of money expended on public schools in 1886 was close upon \$4,000,000, being 34 per cent. of all the taxes collected upon the assessable property of the province. The cost, per pupil, was \$7.09, being 8 cents dearer than in 1885.

### II.—THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Now let us consider the condition of Secondary Schools. There are 109 of these—85 are High Schools, and 24 are Collegiate Institutes. The average number of teachers is about three to each

As the report states: "The most gratifying feature of our High School system is the large increase in the attendance, the number having nearly doubled in eleven years," while at the same time "the cost per pupil, taking expenditure of all kinds into consideration, is less than it was eleven years ago." This is, perhaps, accounted for by the fact that "the tendency to charge fees is evidently growing."

The classification of pupils as to their studies and probable destination in life is as follows: In 1886 there were 15,344 pupils attending the Secondary Schools, of which 8,797, or 57 per cent., constituted the average attendance. Of these 1,100 were preparing for university matriculation, 798 for the learned professions—such, as law and medicine, and 5,777 for teachers' examinations. Last year 337 High School pupils passed the matriculation examinations; 964 on leaving school, entered merchantile life; and 638 returned to the farm to pursue agriculture. In 1876, 40 per cent., only, of the pupils studied commercial subjects; in 1886 these branches were taken by 80 per cent. It is very evident from these and the following figures that the "practical" side of our Secondary School education is slowly but surely driving the literary and classical to the wall. Note the following statistics: In 1876 over 40 per cent. studied Latin, now only 30 per cent. study it; the number studying Greek has diminished in the same period from 10 per cent. to 7 per cent. Modern Languages just about hold their own. Drawing is almost as popular as the commercial course, but Music makes but slow progress.

In regard to High School masters, their number is 378. The average salary is a trifle over \$800. Headmasters receive, on the average, \$1,107. Of the headmasters, 65 are graduates of the University of Toronto, 19 of Victoria, 10 of Queen's, 6 of Trinity, 3 of Albert, and 5 of British Universities.

### III.—THE UNIVERSITY AND THE DEPARTMENT.

The only remaining point on which we will touch is that of the relation now existing between the University and the Teaching Profession. The new regulations are explained thus in the Minister's own words: "After several conferences with the learned President of the University and the committee on examinations we were able to adopt the course of study prescribed by the Department and the University respectively, so as to dispense practically with three of the Departmental examinations. That is to say, candidates for second class certificates take the matriculation as modified by agreement with the University, and candidates for the different grades of first class certificates take certain University examinations as already stated. Where we had four Departmental examinations in all in 1883, we have now only one, that for third class candidates. The examination for second class candidates is divided between the University and the Department, the questions being prepared by the University examiners, and the answers read by the Departmental examiners. Another result of this unification is, that the number of papers on which candidates are required to write will be very much reduced. For third class certificates the papers will be reduced from twenty-three to eighteen, and for second class candidates from twenty-eight to seventeen. It does not follow, however, because the number of papers has been reduced that the standard of the examination is lowered. In certain subjects candidates were examined for second as well as for third class certificates. Now that third class candidates must pass the lower examination before writing at the higher, they are required to finish their course in the elementary studies before entering upon advanced work. I expect much relief departmentally from this arrangement, and what is more important, I expect that the simplification of the High School course of study which is effected thereby, will enable pupils and teachers to give more time to all the important branches of study."

The above is the most noteworthy, and, at the same time, the most satisfactory fact—as far as the University is concerned—contained in the Report. It indicates a closer union between the University and the Secondary Schools, with regard to *curricula*, and, consequently, with regard to examinations. It will tend to strengthen both parties to the agreement, and we can only hope that it will, as it was evidently designed to do, increase the number of teachers who are seeking a University training, preparatory to or coincident with, their professional work.

## ROUND THE TABLE.

In its review of the Hon. "Sun Set" Cox's new book, "The Diversions of a Diplomat in Turkey," the *New York Independent* thus pithily sums up his duties: "The official duties of our Minister in behalf of his fellow-countrymen were light. These affected mainly the importers of petroleum, the educators at Robert College, and the missionaries—in other words, bearers of the light of nature, the light of science, and the light of religion. For the first he took care that no unfair discrimination was allowed in favour of the importers of oil from Baku; for the second, he most appropriately presided at commencement exercises, delivering at least one speech of rare and brilliant eloquence; for the third he exerted a quiet influence that secured the desired results, sometimes in a most amusing way."

\* \* \*

Another Colonial University is setting an example to the University of Toronto. The sober and reliable *Boston Transcript* tells us that "the Council of the University of Melbourne announce the creation of a Professorship of Music. The duties will be onerous, but the promised emoluments are on a liberal scale." Which the same piece of news causes THE TABLE to wonder what sort of government is in power in Victoria.

\* \* \*

In the March number of *Medical Science* Dr. W. B. Nesbitt, B.A., has an interesting paper with this somewhat startling title: "Chloral Ammonium—Trichloramido—Ethylic Alcohol," which the author tells us is "a compound of interest to us, inasmuch as it promises to be an example of the modification of physiological action derived from a definite modification in chemical constitution." It has been shown by previous investigators that by modifying artificially the chemical constitution of a compound—by the introduction of a radicle—it is possible to definitely modify its physiological action. In the paper before us, Dr. Nesbitt tells us how he has effected a modification of the chemical constitution of Chloral so that some of its dangers may be obviated. The article is, from the nature of the case, somewhat technical in its language, but we may be pardoned for mentioning a few of the steps undertaken by Dr. Nesbitt in order to effect the change spoken of.

\* \* \*

First, he tells us: "Knowing that ordinary aldehyde (ethaldehyde) combined with ammonia to form aldehyde ammonia . . . the inference was that chloral would act in the same way. On consulting the literature of the subject I found that the compound chloral ammonia . . . was a definite crystalline one" The preparation of it "consists in dissolving *dry* chloral in one and a half times its bulk of *dry* chloroform, and passing cooled *dry* ammonia gas rapidly through the solution until the whole suddenly solidifies." The actual *modus operandi* need not be here recapitulated, the result and the action of the drug upon the human system being of more general interest and importance. After the experiment is concluded "the resulting mass, which consists of fine crystals, must be pressed in filter-paper and dried in vacuo. The odour of the compound is peculiar, but not unpleasant. The taste, when a small portion is taken, was compared by a friend to that of butternuts. However, when a dose is taken, it leaves a taste similar to that of chloral; but, unlike the latter, it immediately disappears upon taking a couple of mouthfuls of water. . . . The dose is from 5 to 20 grains."

\* \* \*

The action of chloral ammonium is described as stimulating, and productive of a feeling of tension, or fulness in the head—which disappears rapidly, increasing the respirations at the rate of about two per ten minutes for half-an-hour, and the pulse about twelve beats for the same time. It has a pleasant influence on the stomach, and is superior to wrethan, in that it can be administered in any desired

dose at once without disturbing that organ. Victims of the "chloral-habit" will thank Dr. Nesbitt for directing their attention to this compound, which apparently possesses the good, without an admixture of the bad qualities of ordinary chloral. It is gratifying to note that while engaged in the regular duties of his profession, Dr. Nesbitt has found time to devote to original investigation, and that, too, with very excellent results.

\* \* \*

Columbia College, one of the oldest, most conservative, and most respected institutions in the United States, is at the same time one of the most modern, progressive, and popular Universities on this continent. It is rapidly approaching, if it has not already attained to, the position of a great and representative metropolitan University. New York is fast becoming one of the great literary centres of the American Republic, and is no insignificant rival to the long-established and exclusive literary circle of New England, whose centre is at Boston. It is not astonishing, therefore, to find a great University within the limits of the City of New York, but the extent, influence, and prestige of such an institution are not so distinguishable in a great commercial community like New York as in the more exclusively literary and comparatively quiet atmosphere of a city like Boston.

\* \* \*

Especially noticeable is the activity which characterizes the administration of the Library department of Columbia, which has recently been elevated to the rank of a regular School or Faculty in the University. The Library is now called the "School of Library Economy," and the Chief Librarian, Mr. Melvil Dewey, A.M., is a regular member of the Professoriate, being styled "Professor of Library Economy and Director of the School." The other members of the staff are styled Professors or Instructors, there being such in "Foreign Literature," in "Cataloguing and Classification," in "Bibliography," in "Dictionary Cataloguing," together with three Instructors or Demonstrators, and a Registrar.

\* \* \*

In addition to the regular Faculty of the School, there are non-resident lecturers besides, some of whom—five in number—gave a regular course of lectures in library management last year. Amongst these we find the name of Dr. A. R. Spofford, the encyclopædic Librarian of Congress. A list is also given of twenty-three others, who gave one or more lectures during the year. These include ladies and gentlemen well-known as librarians of leading colleges and public libraries in the United States. Chief among these are the names of Appelton Morgan, President of the New York Shakespeare Society, Justin Winsor, librarian of Harvard, R. R. Bowker, editor *Library Journal and Publishers' Weekly*, and Ellen M. Coe, librarian New York Free Library.

\* \* \*

During the present year there are 33 regular students in attendance, of whom 11 are Seniors. These students, many of them graduates of other universities, are fitting themselves for positions in university and public libraries, and are qualifying themselves for employment in the constantly-increasing number of such institutions, so much in need of trained assistants. The immense proportions and complex details of the public library system of the United States and Canada have practically elevated the "book-keeper's" trade into a regular profession, offering inducements to young men and women of intelligence, culture and education. Especially is the profession one fitted for women, and we notice in the list of students that 9 out of the 11 Seniors are women, and 16 out of the 22 Juniors are also women,—making a total of 25 women out of a class of 33. Massachusetts furnishes the largest number of students, with New York second and Illinois third. The middle and western States are also represented, and one student comes from Kaiserslantern, Germany. The Columbia School of Library Economy is an evidence truly of the enlightened, progressive, and practical spirit of its founders. HH.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

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

## A GYMNASIUM AND SOCIETY BUILDING.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—You will permit me the use of a small portion of the space at your disposal to insert a few remarks in favour of a suitable building for society and gymnastic purposes.

A short time ago a meeting was called to discuss this question, and, though the number present was not large, the meeting was an influential one, the most noteworthy feature of which was the perfect agreement in the minds of all present that the time had now come when some active steps should be taken to have a building erected that would afford the students every means of healthy exercise and training, and where the various societies could obtain comfortable quarters for their important deliberations. Such a place would also be a common meeting-ground for former graduates to assemble. Indeed, it would answer all the requirements of a club building.

No one for a moment will gainsay the statement that the students attending the different colleges in affiliation with the University are in very great need of a gymnasium. At present, during the severer weather, there is no means of sport or pastime. Under such conditions the students have got to make the most of their position, and try to maintain their health by a routine walk on the streets, by swinging a club, or by a good scuffle in their bedrooms when their landladies are away from home.

A student's college years ought to be a general preparation for his future life work. It is quite useless that all the attention be given to mental culture. The first essential is health. This is the foundation on which all success must largely be built. Dr. Clifford Allbutt put this truth very forcibly when he said: "For a nation of hardy savages there is some hope; for an exhausted civilization there is none." The amount of mental work a student does is not to be measured by the length of time per day he studies. A man in good health will do more and better work than one out of health can do in a much longer period, granting their abilities equal.

Then the pleasure to be gained from the use of such a gymnasium must not be overlooked. Everything that makes college life happy and agreeable makes college life just go much more useful and profitable. The more real enjoyment that is infused into College work, the better will it be alike for student and professor. Good work is of greater importance than much work; and the hours spent on physical culture, which produces good digestion, buoyant spirits, and gives the brain a rich supply of pure blood, is the true secret of securing this highest and most valuable kind of work.

One of the most important parts of a student's college days is the free mingling with other students that so naturally takes place in a gymnasium or a society meeting. In this way when he leaves his college he has become widely acquainted with the other undergraduates; and it may be with many of the graduates. It is utterly impossible for the student to imagine how immensely valuable such a wide acquaintanceship may be to him in the near future. By such means the students of the various Faculties are brought together, and made to have a common interest in each other and in each other's work.

From such an intimacy among the undergraduates, the University soon becomes a rich sharer. There is a better *esprit de corps* running through all college relationships past and present. Growing out of this there is more enthusiasm among graduates for their *Ama Mater*. This is one of the greatest sources of strength that any University can possess. Without the genuine sympathy of her alumni no University can be regarded as either strong or successful.

Another benefit that would result from the erection of such a building would be the increase in the number of students drawn to this city. The more popular in every respect a seat of learning becomes the greater the number must be flocking thither. When a young man thinks of taking a University course, and, on looking over the claims of different places, he sees that in Toronto, in addition to all the educational advantages, there is a first class gymnasium and society building, the question as to where he shall study is as good as settled.

This is not a matter of interest to the students only. It is one of great interest to the graduates. At present graduates have no suitable place of meeting. With such a building in existence this difficulty would be entirely removed.

Now comes the question of cost, and where is the money to come from? There are at present about fifteen hundred graduates. Granting that only seven hundred of these could be reached and induced to take an active interest in the matter, the financial part would become comparatively easy. If such a building is to be erected at all, let it be a good one with every convenience. To do this about \$20,000 would be required, making about \$30 to each

of the seven hundred graduates. Now many can and would give much more than this sum, while others could not. But the amount that any graduate gives must be looked upon as only a portion of his real financial strength. Every graduate has friends, so has every student. With these a little gentle persuasion only would be needed to draw forth the requisite supply of ducats. Even the young lady friends of the students would give to such a scheme for the purpose of keeping their college friends in good health, and enabling them to enjoy the best college society. But to be serious. All that is wanted is enthusiasm. With plenty of this, and several hundred graduates and all the students to back the movement, a failure is quite impossible. I would suggest that Mr. Creelman convene the committee soon, so that definite plans of operation be inaugurated. It is to be hoped that there will be no lack of effort and zeal in this matter; and that a handsome society building, in the near future, must be the result of this effort, there need be no fear.

JOHN FERGUSON.

Spadina Avenue, Toronto.

[THE VARSITY gladly makes room for Dr. Ferguson's timely and encouraging letter. It is just such a spirit as that displayed in the above communication which is needed amongst the graduates and undergraduates of the University to make the Gymnasium and Society building a certainty in the near future. The necessity for such a building has often been insisted on in these columns, and we rejoice to see the first fruits already being gathered. The importance of physical culture, and the social advantages of a club building cannot be over-estimated, and we can only trust that Dr. Ferguson's enthusiasm will speedily communicate itself to his fellow-graduates. We shall have something more to say on this point again.—EDITORS THE VARSITY.]

## UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

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

## A FALSE RUMOUR.

It has come to the notice of the Managers of THE VARSITY that a report is in circulation to the effect that THE VARSITY sanctum is the headquarters of one of the parties now seeking the suffrages of the members of the Literary Society, and that the managers of THE VARSITY are using whatever influence they may possess as such in favour of one of these parties. On behalf of the managers of THE VARSITY I give these allegations an emphatic denial. To those who give currency or credence to such reports I can only say that in doing so they are stating or believing what is not true. THE VARSITY is not concerned one way or the other with the result of the Literary Society elections, and if its managers exercise their franchise they will do so solely in their capacity as members of the Society and as private individuals.

F. B. HODGINS,  
For the Managers of THE VARSITY.

## BACK NUMBERS.

The Editors of THE VARSITY will be glad to receive any copies of the issue of THE VARSITY for December 10th, 1887 (No. 7), which they are specially anxious to procure in order to complete their file.

The Modern Language Club held a German meeting on Monday afternoon last, President Waldron in the chair. Mr. Burt read an essay on "Minna von Barnhelm," the President one on "Die Journalism," and Mr. J. H. Rodd on "Deutsches Volksleider," all of which were well received. Nominations for officers of the Society will be made next Monday, the 19th inst. The next meeting will be a French meeting, when Victor Hugo and his works will be discussed.

## THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The Engineering Society held its usual meeting on Tuesday last, in the School of Science. The Corresponding Secretary read a paper upon Cable Railways, by Mr. E. W. Stern, a graduate member. Mr. Stern outlined the rapid progress of this class of railways since the development and first practical application of the idea in 1870. Statistics of horse-car and cable lines now show that the latter is by far the more economical system of handling a heavy passenger traffic; while, by comparing the statistics of elevated roads with those of cable system, it will be found that the latter are, economically considered, as far ahead of elevated roads as they are of the horse-car lines. The cable system pos-

sesses many advantages over the other systems, not only in the increased cleanliness of the streets, but also in the increased speed, and in the improved class of cars which are used. The fact that the undertaking is of a more important nature than the construction of a horse-car road lends tone to it, and results in a much more permanent and more thoroughly equipped road, as well as in a more satisfactory and reliable service. There now seems to be little doubt that as it becomes more generally and better known, the cable system will become more popular and more generally adopted. Mr. Stern's paper was followed by a discussion as to what articles should be included in an engineer's or surveyor's "kit," while on survey work. The subject was most opportunely chosen in view of the coming summer's work in the field, and was discussed as thoroughly as it deserved to be.

#### MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

A regular meeting of the Society was held in the West End Lecture Room on Tuesday afternoon, March 13th. The President occupied the chair. Mr. J. H. McGeary, B.A., in an interesting address, sketched the development of the Infinitesimal Calculus from the time of the ancient geometers to that of Newton. Mr. W. Prendergast gave a lucid explanation of the principles on which the declination theodolite and the dip-circle are constructed.

An excellent paper on the properties of Confocal Conics was given by Mr. J. McGowan. Mr. DeLury solved a problem bearing on the same subject. Messrs. Hall and McTaggart were appointed to audit the treasurer's books. On motion of Mr. McTaggart, it was resolved that the time, for the handing in of papers competing for the Society medal, be extended.

The President, Prof. Baker, and Mr. W. J. Loudon, B.A., were appointed examiners. At the next meeting, which will be the last regular meeting of the session, papers will be read by Mr. J. M. Clark, M.A., and Mr. F. Sanderson, B.A. Nomination of officers for next year will also take place.

#### THE GLEE CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Glee Club was held in the West End Lecture Room, on Friday afternoon, the 9th inst., at 4 p. m. About thirty-five members were present. The first order of business was the reading and adoption of the retiring Secretary's report, which showed that the Club made very substantial progress during the year now ended, with Mr. E. W. Schuch as conductor. The Club took part in fifteen entertainments and refused ten other invitations during the season. Another prominent feature of the year's work was the production of the Song Book. The Treasurer's report was not ready for presentation, as the accounts were not all closed up; it will be ready, however, by the 23rd inst. The election of officers then took place and resulted as follows:—

Hon. President, (acc.) J. E. Jones.  
 President, R. J. Gibson.  
 Secretary, A. T. Thompson.  
 Treasurer, W. J. Fenton.  
 Leader, (acc.) G. H. Fairclough.  
 Councillors, 4th year, H. S. Robertson, C. H. P. Owen.  
 " " 3rd years, A. Boulton, E. J. Hart.  
 " " 2nd year, D. Donald, T. D. Dockray.

The successful candidates returned thanks for their election, and after a hearty vote of thanks had been passed to M. S. Mercer, B. A., the retiring Honorary President, the meeting adjourned until the 23rd inst.

THE VARSITY was in error in stating, in last week's issue, that Mr. J. D. Spence was a candidate for the Presidency.

#### HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above Association was held at the Canadian Institute on Saturday afternoon last, the 10th inst., for the election of officers for the ensuing year. The following were elected:

President—Wm. Houston, M.A. (re-elected).  
 Vice-President—F. Tracy.  
 Recording Secretary—F. C. Cooke.  
 Treasurer—W. McNichol.  
 Councillors—J. B. Pyke, J. G. Brown.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Houston for his valuable services to the Club as President last year. The Society will not meet again until October.

J. A. Garvin, '87, has sailed with the Toronto Lacrosse Team for England.

W. C. Chisholm, '85, late of Port Hope, is studying law in Moss & Co.'s office in this city.

Private Theobald Coleman, '90, of "K" Co., Q.O.R., has been gazetted as a Second Lieutenant.

Thomas Cowper Robinette, B.A., LL.B., has received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Queen's Own Rifles.

#### Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

Christians are Christ's jewels. They are purchased by atoning blood; at an infinite cost was this divine ownership secured. As the pearls are only won from the depth of the sea by the dangerous dive of the fishers, so were the pearls for the Messiah's crown brought up from the miry depths of depravity by the descent of the divine sufferer who came to seek and to save the lost.—Cuyler.

Coleridge said that the best proof of the inspiration of the Word of God was that "it is the only book in the world that finds me at every point of my nature."

A holy life has a voice. It speaks when the tongue is silent, and is either a constant attraction or a continual reproof.—Hinton.

What the glitter is to the gold, such is joy to holiness.

The brightest bow is seen upon the darkest cloud.—Havergal.

The realization of God's presence is the one sovereign remedy against temptation.—Fenelon.

OUR ONE TALENT.—The man that missed his opportunity, and met the doom of a faithless servant, was not the man with five talents, or the man with two, but the man who had only one. The people who are in danger of missing life's great meaning are the people of ordinary capacity and opportunity, and who say to themselves, "There is so little that I can do that I will not try to do anything." One of the finest windows in Europe was made from the remnants an apprentice boy collected from the cuttings of his master's great work. The sweepings of the British Mint are worth millions. The little pivots on which the works of your watch turn are so important that they are actually made of jewels. And so God places a solemn value and responsibility on the humble workers, the people that try to hide behind their insignificance, the trifling opportunities and the single talents; and our littleness will not excuse us in the reckoning day.—Ex.

#### 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.

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DI-VARSITIES.

"And didn't ye say that yez could carry water in a sieve?" "An' so I kin. But I waits till it freezes."—*Exchange.*

"What's this, waiter?" "Railroad soup, sir." "Queer name for soup." "Yes, sir; stock's been watered so often, sir."—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

THE CONCISE IMPERIAL DICTIONARY.

"Although the etymological part is not the most important thing in a dictionary for popular use, it is naturally the first point which attracts the critic's attention, because it is in this department that the ordinary English dictionaries are most conspicuously wanting. A very hasty examination of THE CONCISE IMPERIAL is sufficient to show that it is at any rate far superior in this respect to all its rivals. Of course the book must be judged by the standard of the present state of philological knowledge, and the author's etymological remarks for the most part give evidence of sound scientific judgment and careful study of the most trustworthy authorities. Nearly all those of his derivations, which we should ourselves dispute, have been sanctioned by scholars of deserved repute, such as Professor Skeat, Eduard Muller, and Littré, in whose company it is pardonable to err. The "Hints on English Etymology," prefixed to the work, deserve very high praise. In the compass of only three pages the author manages to give a lucid and accurate summary of the mutual relationship of the Aryan tongues, and of the leading phonetic laws affecting the etymology of English words. Not only is Grimm's law described in some detail, with well-chosen examples, but wonderful to say, even Verner's law receives a passing mention, and in terms which are quite correct as far as they go."—*Extract from a review in the London Academy, by Henry Bradley, the eminent philologist.*

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"Mamma," said a little Chicago girl.  
"Yes, dear." "Do you think I'll have  
the same papa all this yea?"

Smythe, who is something of a con-  
noisseur in art, says his servant girl, who  
lit the fire with kerosene, was done up in  
oil.

"That ton of coal looks to me about 200  
pounds short," said a family man, "and  
I'll have it weighed. The way some of  
these coal dealers cheat is wicked." After  
he had had it weighed he said to his wife,  
"It's all right; weighs about a hundred  
pounds over." "How much will you  
have to pay for the extra weight, John?"  
"Nothing. That's their mistake, not mine."  
—Exchange.

A Montana paper recently contained this  
remarkable notice: "Mr. Charles Johnson  
and Miss Fanny West were married by the  
Rev. S. Hills on Wednesday. So far no  
trouble has resulted, and those best in-  
formed as to the situation say there will  
be none." The next day the editor apolo-  
gised, and explained that part of an item  
regarding an incipient strike had got into  
the wrong place.—Troy Times.

"We wish," says a Colorado editor, "to  
retract our statement made last week, that  
our esteemed fellow-citizen, the Hon. Mr.  
Plumley, never was known to keep his  
word. After reading the item in question,  
Mr. Plumley happened to remember that  
during the heat of the recent political con-  
test he promised to kick us out to the  
fair grounds, and he immediately came up  
to the office and executed his promise. In  
fact, he has not only kicked us all the way  
out there, but kept it up most of the way  
back; and if he had not run out of breath,  
we think he would have been kicking us  
yet. Mr. Plumley is a gentleman of his  
word, cultured and polished, and can talk  
like an Asiatic Elephant."—Chicago Tri-  
bune.

### THE BELLE OF THE "CONVERSAT."

The above subject was a very deep one  
last Friday eve. There were gentlemen  
present who wished to see, and thought the  
honor ought to be carried off by their special  
friends; but it seemed to be very generally  
admitted that a dark lady, with a handsome  
and striking figure, large, luminous dark eyes  
was the favourite. She was faultlessly atti-  
red and wore a handsome pair of diamond  
ear-rings with lace pin to match.

It was whispered around she bought the  
jewellery at Trowern's, 171 Yonge st., who  
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Blobson: "Well, Dumpsey, we had a private hop at our house last night." Dumpsey: "You don't say so!" Blobson: "Yes, I stepped on a tack."—*Burlington Free Press.*

We hear that Mr. Howells, having dreamed one night that he got out of bed and sat in a chair by the window, is writing a strong novel of Buffalo life based upon this incident.—*Life.*

The hen, fool tho she is considered, possesses in a marked degree the faculty of making much out of little. Feed her corn by the pint and she eats it by the peck.—*Binghampton Republican.*

After a midnight lunch of mince-pie, a citizen complained of horrid dreams, in which he was chased by pirates. "Mince pirates, probably," calmly suggested his wife.—*Youth's Companion.*

The different kinds of laughs they have: Dudes, "Ha! Ha!" Farmers, "Ho! Ho!" Teamsters, "Haw! Haw!" Balloonists, "Hi! Hi!" Feed dealers, "Hay! Hay!" Women, "He! He!"—*Washington Critic.*

Mr. Rockaway Beach (meeting his friend, Mr. Hoffman House): "Aw, Hoffs, me boy; whither away?" Dennis Murphy (to his friend, Terence Healy): "I say, Terence, let's wait and see the poor lad wither away; it won't take long!"—*Puck.*

Bobbie (sentimentally to his cousin whom he adores): "Maud, won't you give me some souvenir of yourself to take back to school with me?" Maud: "Why, Bobbie, dear, of course I will." Bobbie (with much pathos): "And you'll let it be something to eat, dear, won't you?"—*Punch.*

Omaha Dame: "Didn't you know before your marriage that the man you loved had contracted the liquor habit?" Neglected wife: "Yes, I knew he had contracted the habit, and if it had only stayed contracted I should not have complained, but after marriage the habit expanded."—*Omaha World.*

Miss Chatty Lafite (showing her library to Boston friend): "Yes, that's Browning. It's awfully good, I suppose, but I don't understand all of it. I like something lighter." Boston Friend: "And you have Praed?" Miss Lafite (blushing a little): "Yes, I have. But it didn't do any good." (Boston friend drops the subject.)—*Puck.*

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