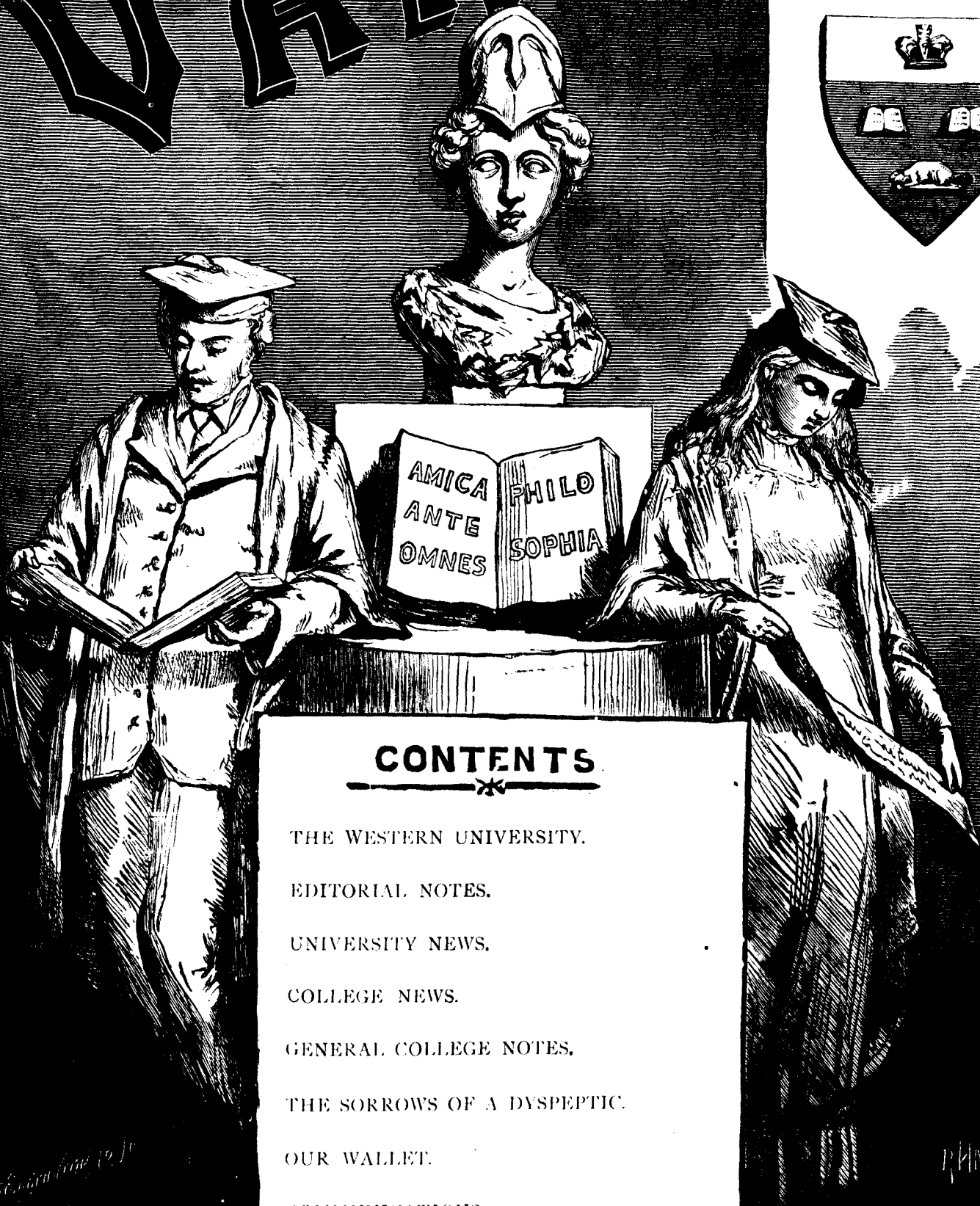


# THE WARSIETY



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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DECEMBER 1, 1883.

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# THE ' VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

VOL. IV. No. 9.

Dec. 1, 1883.

Price 10 cents.

## THE WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

We have found ourselves wondering recently if the silence that seems to have prevailed in the press concerning the Western University is but the forerunner of its speedy extinction. Very little seems to be said about it, at least in public. In private it may have been arousing more attention, but whatever has been said has not been, we think, of a character to impart new life to the semi-defunct institution. We have heard it spoken of occasionally by those who should be well posted about it, and we have heard only one opinion and one hope—the opinion that the Institution could not long survive the separation from its foster father, the late Bishop of Huron, and the hope that the day of its death would come soon.

We have already in the past in the columns of this journal expressed our opinion very fully concerning the Western University. For reasons which we have placed freely before the University public, we are strongly opposed to its continuance. And as time goes on, this, our opinion, is strengthened rather than weakened. In our last article upon this subject we referred more particularly to the objections to the foundation of the University on general principles, our chief arguments being, (1) opposition to the needless multiplication of Universities, and (2), our especial opposition to the Western University because, even in its Arts' Department, it is strictly denominational. We propose in this article to leave these points untouched, and to refer more particularly to the personal policy adopted by the late Bishop of Huron in founding the University. The time has now come when we believe the final blow against it should be struck. The late Bishop of Huron, the Right Rev. I. Hellmuth, D.D., has removed to England, and the Very Rev. Dean Baldwin has been elected in his stead. The new Bishop will assume active charge of his diocese in a few days. One of the first decisions he will be called upon to make will be concerning the Western University—whether he will continue the policy of his predecessor or abandon it to its fate, and upon his decision hangs, to a very great extent, its life. From the high reputation he has already attained in the church, we believe he is a far-seeing, able, and earnest man, whose one aim will be to advance the best interests of his Diocese.

It is no part of our policy, as an educational journal, to expose or refer to the actions of private individuals. We hold ourselves, however, bound when there has been any want of rectitude in dealing with our educational interests, to expose what we believe to be wrong. We therefore lay before the public what we believe to be the facts concerning the Western University. With the late Bishop of Huron's private character we are not concerned. With his public educational policy and the motives that prompted it we are concerned, and we propose to criticize them unsparingly.

We venture to urge upon the new Bishop the inexpediency of supporting an institution that has such a questionable record as the Western University. There are many things in its history that an honorable man could not be otherwise than ashamed of, if the responsibility of the authorship were fastened upon himself. The simple fact of the matter seems to be that the late Bishop of Huron, who was the founder of the University, and apparently its only enthusiastic supporter, had not so much the educational interests of Western Ontario at heart, as his own financial interest. He was the principal stockholder in the Hellmuth Boys' College.

For some reason that College in latter years was not financially successful. It possessed a building and grounds on which a large amount of capital had been invested. The Bishop seems to have conceived the brilliant idea of organizing a new University in London, and of transferring to it the property of the Hellmuth Boys' College Buildings. He did not propose doing this, however, without the Hellmuth Boys' College receiving some consideration for the property thus transferred. To enable him to be more completely the master of the situation; the luckless shareholders of the Hellmuth Boys' College were persuaded to sell their shares to the Bishop for one half their face value. The Bishop thus completely controlled the Boys' College. And now comes an instance of his magnanimity. He was of course desirous of liberally aiding the new University himself, and so he sold the property of the Hellmuth Boys' College at a certain price to the University, and himself presented the University with a large portion of the purchase money, we believe \$10,000. This was, of course, very generous, but when we remember that the value placed upon the Hellmuth College property by the Bishop was \$67,000, while its actual value is said to be very little more than one half of this, it will be readily seen that his conduct was not altogether disingenuous.

The Bishop, after deducting his gift of say \$10,000, was still some thousands of dollars to the good, having unloaded the property of the defunct Boys' College to the new University at a remunerative price. Whatever money was paid in up to July, 1881, on account of the Western University (amounting, we believe, to many thousands of dollars), with the exception of about \$1,600, was absorbed in the purchase of this property, the greater part of the purchase-money passing into the hands of the Bishop, who was now really the chief, if not the only, stockholder in the Hellmuth Boys' College. In July, 1881, the Bishop complied with the laws of the University Charter, and filed in the Office of the Provincial Secretary documents showing that the Western University possessed property to the value of at least \$100,000. The total property of the University as then filed was as follows:

### I. SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY TRANSFERRED TO THE WESTERN UNIVERSITY BY HURON COLLEGE.

1. College grounds and buildings in London .....	\$ 35,000 00
2. Library and furniture in College .....	2,500 00
3. Present cash value of mortgages and stocks held for the use of the College.....	58,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 95,500 00

### II. SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY OTHER THAN HURON COLLEGE PROPERTY HELD BY WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

1. Real estate purchased from Hellmuth College in the City of London for .....	\$ 67,000 00
Less Mortgage .....	21,850 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 45,150 00
2. Promissory notes uncollected .....	6,645 00
3. Cash in hand .....	1,600 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 53,395 00

It will thus be seen that nearly the whole of the endowments and property consisted of that transferred by Huron College under the deed of affiliation. A declaration was filed by the Secretary of Huron College stating that he was familiar with the nature of real estate in London, and that the Huron

College property could probably be sold at a forced sale for the value placed upon it. *No declaration of this kind was filed concerning the Hellmuth College property*, no one, apparently, being found who would swear that the value placed upon it was not excessive.

An enquiring observer might only reasonably ask why should a University, still in its infancy, possess two sets of college buildings? One would think that for the present, at least, the Huron College property would suffice for the purposes of the Western University, and that until further accommodation was needed, whatever money was raised would be applied to the endowment fund. The very small number of students outside of Divinity would surely not require a separate building for themselves, and a wiser policy would have first directed that the endowment necessary for providing tuition should be secured, and that all the money raised should not be frittered away on buildings not yet needed. A wise and disinterested policy would doubtless have directed this, but, as we have shewn, the Bishop's policy was not of this nature.

Such being very briefly a history of the late Bishop's transactions in connection with this enterprise, we cannot think that the new Bishop will be willing to commit himself to pursue his predecessor's policy. There seems one very easy way out of the dilemma. The Deed of Affiliation with Huron College provides that upon six months' notice from the latter corporation, the affiliation can be annulled and Huron College can again become distinct and independent, resuming possession of its own property. The endowments of Huron College once taken from the Western University, it will be unable to comply with the provision of its charter that it must possess assets to the extent of at least \$100,000.00. It will therefore be unable to continue as a University and must collapse.

We are convinced that the University has few friends. It was created by the Bishop and supported by his energy alone. The great mass of the clergy in the Diocese of Huron are opposed to it, but the new Bishop must face the situation promptly and boldly. Let him use his influence to persuade the Council of Huron College to become once more independent. The fall of the University will inevitably follow the success of this step, and he will have earned the sincere thanks of all friends of higher education.

### Editorial Notes.

The meeting of graduates and friends of the University last Tuesday evening, of which we publish a brief report, was significant from its *personnel*. The importance that should be attached to the unanimous resolution in favor of legislative endowment, can be measured by the individual calibre of those who voted for it, and the various interests, educational and other, they represent.

Encouraged by the success of the concert at Streetsville, the Glee Club have made arrangements to sing at Guelph on December the 11th. There will be a much stronger representation from the club than at the last concert, and the music sung will be of a better class. Two of the numbers on the programme are the 'Bacchus Chorus,' from the 'Antigone,' another, third chorus from the 'Œdipus.' As these are new to the majority of the club, careful and incessant practice will be necessary to render them in a creditable manner.

The last football match of the season was played on the lawn on Thursday, and, considering the time of year, the ground was in capital condition. The game was between the Association Clubs of Knox and University Colleges, and resulted in a tie, there being at the conclusion two goals to the credit of either side. The four contests between these teams have been remarkable in so far that neither has yet gained a victory; and this is the more notable as the play on both sides has been uniformly first-class. This match concludes the most successful football year in the history of the college. The lateness of the autumn has given a much longer time to play than usual, and consequently there have been more matches and, not least im-

portant, a larger proportion of victories have fallen to the lot of our clubs than have been generally chronicled.

In mentioning the most worthy means of relaxation for the students during the winter months, we have always placed the Glee Club at the head of the list as it is, in our opinion, at least, one of the most deserving of the College clubs or societies, which we are privileged to join. The main object of this Club naturally is to encourage the taste for music, and not only this, but to enable the undergraduates, under proper professional supervision, to attain a certain amount of voice-culture, which, in after years, will be of the greatest benefit to them. Besides these aspects, there are others, which may be briefly cited under the head of the social benefits. We need hardly call attention to the enjoyable time spent by thirteen members of this institution at Streetsville, nor again mention that the Glee Club is likely to give a concert in Guelph during this month. Then, again, at the *Conversazione* the Glee Club will take a prominent part in the proceedings. This affords a strong reason why every undergraduate, who is interested in the College, should join this Club and lend his voice towards the ennobling of his Alma Mater's *prestige* in this particular way. The membership at present is about fifty, but considering the advantages which accrue by a connection with the Club, and the large number of really good voices among the undergraduates, there should be three times that number, especially as the subscription for the best of musical tuition is but a trifling sum. An additional argument in favor of the undergraduates taking an active interest in this Club is found in the fact that outdoor sports will soon be neither comfortable nor practicable, and what can be nicer than to spend an afternoon in courting the Muses?

Our remarks on the present character of the University College Literary and Scientific Society have called forth several communications from graduates and undergraduates. All recognize that the society, from whatever causes, is not what it once was—is not a society whose meetings are looked upon as the most important weekly events throughout the whole year, taken an interest in, carefully prepared for, and thoroughly enjoyed. However minor and special clubs may multiply and succeed, undergraduates should look upon their general Debating Society as their greatest privilege, and as affording the best training for public life a college can afford. Its advantages we do not require to dwell upon in the abstract. But the wider and more liberal the range of subjects discussed, the greater are those advantages certain to be. We have always maintained that the introduction of debates on current political topics is desirable and should be insisted upon; and that the policy which forces their exclusion is narrow, illiberal, and unjust. That policy cannot long remain unchanged; the Forum has shown by its success and popularity the good results of political discussion. But even apart from, and in the forced absence of, such subjects of debate, there is a wide range of public questions, and particularly of public educational questions, whose consideration in the debates of the Literary Society ought not to be flat, stale or unprofitable. With a good president, an active committee, and plenty of good material, if it could be brought out and utilized, all undergraduates should take a pride in supporting, by numbers and enthusiasm, a society which is the oldest in the College, and which has had an influence on the public career of many of our most prominent graduates, which is almost immeasurable, and has been, in many cases, frankly acknowledged.

### University News.

#### UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT MEETING.

A meeting of a few graduates and other friends of the University of Toronto was held last Tuesday evening, to consider the question of University Endowment. The following gentlemen, among others, were present:—Rev. Dr. Sheraton; principal of Wycliffe College, Rev. Principal Caven, Rev. Drs. Proudfoot, McLaren and Reid, Messrs. J. M. Gibson, John King, Prof. Loudon, Wm. Houston, W. B. McDonald, John A. Paterson, Mortimer Clark, A. H. Marsh, Wm. Macdonald,

Prof. Galbraith, R. E. Kingsford, J. M. Buchan, Wm. Johnson, Dr. Bryce, Dr. Ferguson, Dr. A. Wright, etc. The question of legislative aid to the University was discussed, and the following resolution was passed unanimously: 'That this meeting, highly appreciating the value of the educational services of the University of Toronto and University College, and having learned from inquiry that a large increase in the teaching staff and equipment of the College is absolutely necessary in order that its efficiency be maintained, pledges itself to the view that the government should be asked to grant the necessary financial aid to the University and College as provincial institutions.'

### FOOTBALL.

#### TORONTO UNIVERSITY v. AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (GUELPH).

Last Saturday afternoon the Rugby team, accompanied by a number of fellow-students, visited Guelph to play a return match with the Agricultural College team. The weather was, contrary to general expectation, charming, and a very fair attendance of spectators gathered at the cricket ground to see the contest. The Varsity with their usual luck won the toss and took advantage afforded by the sun and wind in their favor. Suffice it to say in regard to the play that the Varsity were the strongest in every particular, and this point is easily recognizable when it is stated that thirty points were amassed in the first half-time and forty-seven in the second, their opponents failing to score a single point. This total of seventy-seven was the result of five goals, three posters, four tries and three rouges.

It must be said, however, in favor of the Guelphites that they certainly played an extremely plucky game; and they showed abundant evidence of material which, if properly worked up, would give the team a much higher stand than it has at present. As for the Varsity rushers and backers, the former worked hard and unselfishly for the University's honor, whilst the latter, to whom the chief honors fell, were always on the alert, and none of their opponents could pierce their defensive line.

The following gentlemen composed the teams:—

Varsity—Back, Owen; half-backs, G. Gordon, Hughes, Wigle; quarter-backs, MacLaren, Smith, Henderson; forwards, Brown, Bruce, MacLean, H. MacLaren, Davidson, Cronyn, Elliot, J. Gordon.

Agricultural College—Backs, Butler, Cutling; half-backs, Joyce, Ramsay, Wroughton; quarter-backs, Rose, Bent; forwards, Morris, Malcolm, Slater, Cowley, McGregor, Courbarron, Begbie, Fuller.

Umpires—Messrs. Skaife and McCulloch: Referee—Mr. W. W. Vickers.

### THE MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

This society held a regular French meeting, on Tuesday evening last, with the President in the chair.

All business, even the reading of the minutes, was conducted in French; after which an essay—*Voyage en Québec*—was read by Mr. A. H. Young. This was followed by readings—'L'Oraison de Roland,' and 'Il fait froid'—excellently rendered by Messrs. Sykes and Kent. A conversation on 'Les Confidences de Lamartine' then took place, in which a decided improvement on former occasions was noticed, long harangues being almost entirely dispensed with. It was agreed on all sides that a very profitable evening had been spent, although two gentlemen, whose names appeared on the programme, saw fit to absent themselves.

The next meeting—a German one—will be the last before the Christmas holidays.

### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

An ordinary meeting of this Society was held in Moss Hall, last evening, President Ramsay-Wright in the chair.

An essay on 'The study of English Literature and Modern Languages as pursued in our University,' was read by C. A. Whetham. The essayist criticized severely the present curriculum, the framers of which evidently thought that a second-hand criticism learned by rote from Craik was of more importance than a thorough acquaintance with the works of some standard author. He also objected to the way in which all modern writers were slighted, while original composition was almost entirely ignored. After separating, in the Senior Div. a reading was given by R. K. Sproule, entitled 'The bashful man,' which was much appreciated. Clearness and distinctness marked Mr. Sproule's reading, but lack of preparation was noticeable.

The debate on the subject,—*Resolved*, 'That the fashionable poetry of the age—the poetry of William Morris, Rossetti, and Swinburne—is for the most part worthless,' was opened by J. C. Robinette in a vigorous speech. He was followed by A. M. McMechan in support of the negative. His speech showed careful preparation and good critical taste, but occupied too much time in its delivery.

Mr. Aylesworth followed, and in his usual humorous and flowing

style, upheld the affirmative. This speech also could have been much condensed. Mr. Roswell criticized the remarks of the last speaker and enforced his own views of the subject by examples and arguments; his style would be improved by the addition of a little more energy.

G. W. Holmes for the affirmative, as usual, made a very effective speech.

W. H. Smith closed the debate for the negative in a vigorous speech. Decision in favor of negative.

The debate was a good one, considering that not one of the speakers whose names were on the programme put in an appearance.

This state of affairs shows the necessity for the motion, notice of which was given by H. J. Cosgrove at a later stage of the meeting. This motion is of so much importance that we give it in full:—

Moved by H. J. Cosgrove, seconded by R. J. Leslie:—

(1) That this Society believes itself to have declined in usefulness as compared with former years.

(2) That it considers it desirable to ascertain the causes of this decline with a view to their removal.

(3) That it agrees to devote the time of one of its regular meetings to a discussion of this matter.

(4) That it deems it desirable that such discussion take place at one of the first meetings next term.

This motion will be discussed at the next meeting.

In the division of the 2nd and 3rd years, Mr. McLeod presided.

The readings, by Messrs. Sykes and Tolmie, were well selected, and excellently rendered. Mr. Tolmie, though called upon suddenly, read a humorous selection in a very happy manner. Mr. Sykes had memorized a selection from Bret Harte, and succeeded admirably in bringing out its beauty.

McLennox, in opening the debate, criticised the poets in order, showing the blemishes of each. He displayed an accurate acquaintance with the subject, and stated his arguments clearly.

Mr. Blackstock, the leader of the negative, showed that he had made an independent examination of the poets, and bore testimony to the favorable verdict of the critics.

Mr. J. A. Collins, for the affirmative, dealt with the immorality, irreverence, as well as the obscurity of the poets.

Mr. R. Ross, who followed, laid great stress on the pleasure-giving power of these poets, which he regarded as the essential element of poetry, also noticing the charm and melody of their verse.

Mr. A. D. Crooks dealt with the immorality and the fatalistic tendency of these works, as well as the lack of variety in treatment.

Mr. J. G. Holmes, in an impromptu address, spoke chiefly of the sweetness of their verse, and of the simplicity of their topics.

The speakers are to be commended for the full preparation evidently bestowed upon the subject.

The arguments were briefly enumerated by the chairman, and the decision given in favor of the negative.

### YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The usual weekly meeting of this Society was held on Thursday afternoon, 22nd inst., in Moss Hall. The attendance was not as good as could be wished. Mr. J. McGillivray gave a short address on 'Manliness,' taking the words 'Quit you like men,' (1 Sam. iv. 9; 1 Cor. xvi. 13) as his text. He contrasted the manliness as shown by the Philistines in their fear of servitude with the true manliness exhibited in the verse in Corinthians, and showed how real manliness was not inconsistent with a true profession of Christianity, adducing the life of Christ and his followers as proofs of this view. The words 'quit you like men' refer to strength of understanding in opposition to 'babes' in 1 Cor. 14: 20. He urged the necessity of thinking for one's self, and of showing interest in college institutions in those things that interested other students.

A hymn being sung and the meeting declared open, Mr. W. P. McKenzie spoke of the lesson to be learned from the Philistines, through the means used may be scorned; though Agnosticism—Science falsely so called—and Infidelity seem to be triumphant. We know the battle is the Lord's, God's cause will triumph. Meanwhile our duty is plain, that is to quit ourselves like men; we can leave the results with Him. Mr. W. H. Smith, following out the analogy of soldiers, pointed out the need of weapons—of putting on 'the whole armour of God' and taking the sword of the spirit, the word of God.

There was only a fair attendance at the regular weekly meeting of this association on Thursday afternoon, 29th inst., in consequence, probably, of several great counter-attractions. The meeting was conducted by the well known Christian worker, Mr. W. H. Howland, who gave an interesting and instructive Bible-reading on the topic of Christ's second coming. He illustrated the different dispensations by means of a chart, and then enlarged on the following points, using in all cases copious quotations from Scripture in proof. The first question was Christ's coming to be personal or spiritual: he showed the fallacy of

supposing it to be spiritual, as the Jews spiritualized away the first coming of the Redeemer, His death, His sacrifice, just as we do now with His second advent. The plan of the different judgments was to be: 1st. the coming of Christ in His bodily form in the air just as He went up into heaven; then there is to be the clearing of the air by His angels; then those that are alive of His people are to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air; next will be the Resurrection of the Blessed Dead, who will also rise in the air to meet Christ. Then comes the time of tribulations, the wars and rumors of wars, after which will be the coming of the Lord with His saints to judge the world, and last there will be the great judgment of all the dead before the great white throne. The meeting closed with prayer by Mr. Howland.

There was a short business meeting held immediately afterwards for the nomination of officers for the ensuing term. For President, Messrs. W. P. Mackenzie, W. H. Smith, A. M. MacMechan; for Vice-President, Messrs. G. W. Holmes and J. McGillivray; for Recording Secretary, Messrs. A. J. McLeod; Haviland, A. Henderson; for Treasurer, Messrs. W. D. Grant and A. H. Young; for Assistant Treasurer, Mr. C. J. Hardie. The election will be held at the next meeting and it is hoped there will be a large attendance.

#### THE FORUM.

The Forum met at its rooms on Saturday evening, when the adjourned debate on the Abolition Bill was continued. Mr. S. H. Bradford, for the opposition, in an able speech argued the efficiency and necessity of a Senate and a Governor-General, denying that a decrease in expenditure would necessarily follow their abolition, and declaring that such a change would make Canada virtually a republic, which event, from a comparison with other republics, he declared would be disastrous in its effects. Mr. J. D. Graham, in upholding the bill, did not occupy much time, making the trite comparison of the Senate to a 'Political infirmary and Home for worn-out Party hacks.'

Mr. J. Talbot, of the opposition, strongly upheld his leader's amendment with respect to the appointing of a Canadian as Gov.-Gen. He was followed by Mr. W. Hunter, who vehemently attacked all the arguments advanced by the previous speaker, opposing the amendment on the ground that it was altogether unlikely that a proper person could be selected for the office.

The next on the opposition was Mr. J. Short, who declared in contradiction to many of the speakers on behalf of the bill, that the Senate is responsible to the people, in that it is responsible to public opinion. Mr. J. Crawford, for the Government, declared the Senate a thoroughly partisan body, and was followed by Mr. G. J. Johnstone, who spoke against the resolution. He accused the Government of springing the question on the country without the people's verdict.

Mr. H. B. Witton, leader of the opposition, briefly summed up the arguments against the resolutions, and was ably replied to by Mr. L. P. Duff, the Premier, who delivered a long and eloquent oration. Mr. G. Hunter, the mover of the resolutions, excused himself from making any reply, and, as the amendment was withdrawn, a division was taken on the bill as a whole, the result being that the Government were unseated, and Mr. H. B. Witton was directed to form a new Cabinet.

Notice was given that at the next meeting resolutions would be brought down with a view to 'the diminution of crime in Canada.' After roll-call the House rose.

#### QUICQUID AGUNT.

Query?—What has become of the bust of Dr. McCaul, that should occupy a position in the library?

The Rugby Football match with the Torontos has been declared off, on account of the ground being too hard to admit of its being played.

A new and stylish waiter, with a highly aristocratic nose, and reputed to be able to speak seven languages as well as his own, is the latest appearance in Residence.

In one of the American Colleges they have a weighing machine by which the effect of college life is tested every week. How would such an establishment do in connection with our Residence?

A Football match (Association), took place on Saturday afternoon, between two teams representing the first and second years. The game resulted in a draw, time being called after the second year had secured a goal.

The Glee Club held its regular weekly meeting upon Thursday afternoon. The following songs were practised: Choruses from 'Oedipus' and 'Antigone,' 'Cheer up Companions,' and the 'Mermaid'. It is proposed to take a trip to Guelph, upon Tuesday, Dec. 11th, and give a concert. The Club has received a hearty welcome.

Our undergraduates may add one more to the long list of courteous attentions received from the students of Trinity College. This time

it was an invitation to the Literary Society to attend the Public Debate at that College on last Thursday evening. Unfortunately counter-attractions prevented a large number from attending, but all who were present report a most enjoyable evening.

At a meeting of the General Committee held last Thursday afternoon, the 18th of January was appointed as the date of the first public debate after Christmas, and it was resolved to request the president of the society to take the chair upon that occasion. It was also resolved to advise that a conversazione should be held this year under the auspices of the society as usual.

The public meeting of the Temperance League in Moss Hall, on Wednesday, brought together about 150 students. Dr. Wilson took the chair. The daily papers have furnished such full reports of the speeches of the Rev. H. M. Parsons, Dr. Geikie, and the Hon. S. H. Blake, that it is unnecessary to say more than that the admirable addresses were listened to with the deepest attention by all present; indeed the general feeling was that no more successful public meeting of any kind was ever held in Moss Hall. The League now numbers about 125 members—95 having signed the total and 35 the Temperance pledge.

#### PERSONALS.

Mr. D. Francis, B.A., '83, is mathematical master at Belleville High School.

We sincerely regret that Mr. Edgar N. Hughes, so well known as an able upholder of the University in Rugby and Association Football, has been compelled through an attack of typhoid fever to return to his home in Waterloo. We extend our cordial sympathies, and hope for his speedy recovery.

Messrs. C. C. McCaul and A. Foy, University men, now resident in Winnipeg, are at present visiting Toronto.

The sanctum has been visited during the past week by two staunch friends and supporters of the 'Varsity, Mr. F. C. Wade, of Winnipeg, who for some time was its editor, and Mr. T. A. Haultain, of Peterboro', one of our ablest contributors.

### College News.

#### KNOX COLLEGE.

The Elocution class under the management of Prof. J. W. Taverner is becoming increasingly popular. The Professor's wide culture and experience as a teacher of Elocution in various theological colleges of the United States make him a valuable acquisition to the staff of the College.

If his excellent lectures are practically used, the beautifully expressive and pure English of the Bible will be less frequently stained, and rendered more intelligible.

Through the courtesy of W. F. Seymour his fellow-students are permitted the enviable opportunity of receiving every evening a thorough drill in the theory and practice of music. This kind step cannot be too highly commended, as Mr. Seymour has attained a goodly degree of proficiency in this department, being a leading member of the Philharmonic.

#### WYCLIFFE COLLEGE.

The last meeting of the Wycliffe College Literary Society, held on the 17th inst., took the form of a mock Parliament, when the leader of the Government, Mr. W. J. Armitage, brought in a bill for the extension of the franchise to women. The Bill was ably opposed at some length by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. G. H. Gaviller. After spirited debate on both sides, the House was adjourned before a division could take place, the hour for adjournment having previously been fixed. Great interest was taken in the proceedings.

The 'Reading Club' in connection with Wycliffe College, has been lately re-organized and has commenced its work for this year by appointing the following officers: Chairman, Mr. H. P. Hobson; Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. E. Watson; Secretary, Mr. E. E. Lloyd. At each meeting there are five readers chosen from the members. The readings are subjected to a severe criticism by a gentleman appointed as a critic at each meeting. Last year the results were found to be very beneficial, and great interest was taken in the meetings, which we hope will be continued during the present year.

#### TORONTO MEDICAL SCHOOL.

Mr. A. F. McKenzie has returned from Kingston whither he went as our representative to the Queen's Medical Dinner. He seems to have held forth in his usual eloquent strain. The *Mail* correspondent

commenting on the dinner, among other things says:—'Mr. McKenzie, the representative of the Toronto School of Medicine, surprised all present by the excellence of his remarks. His speech was the gem of the evening.' We had no doubt of the excellence of the choice made in selecting Mr. McKenzie, but we are glad to have it confirmed in this happy style.

Some time ago Dr. Wild was asked to preach a sermon to Medics specially. Last Sunday evening he complied, and delivered a sermon from the text, 'Physician heal Thyself.'

In the course of his remarks, the rev. gentleman took occasion to castigate the Medical Council for Ontario. We think the Medical Council is not all that it ought to be, but at the same time we think it serves a useful purpose. For instance, it puts a check upon such practices as were perpetrated at the famous Buffalo College, where degrees, which are their licenses to practise, could be bought for a song.

Until some other means can be adopted to protect the public and the profession, we say, let the Council alone. There are other means to effect the same object, and if we might humbly suggest we would say, —Let there be one degree-conferring body, with an examination standard at least as high as Toronto University, or, what would answer the same purpose, let Toronto University be the degree-conferring body. This would have the effect of elevating the status of the profession, and at the same time cutting off all source of complaint.

We must have some check upon incompetent men assuming the responsibilities which are attendant upon the practice of medicine, and the only means by which this can be accomplished is either by a Medical Council such as we already have, or a single institution which shall be the sole degree-conferring, and licensing body. The reasons why there should be only a single institution vested with these powers, we think must be sufficiently obvious to all.

These are unhappy days for the poor meds. Subscriptions are solicited on all sides, and he is beginning to wonder where the 'necessary' is to come from to execute his Christmas exchanges.

#### TRINITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.

At last the event of our College Session has come and gone, and the glories of another annual dinner have been added to the annals of Trinity Medical School.

A more distinguished company, a larger and more enthusiastic assembly, has seldom if ever sat down to dinner in the spacious dining-room of the Queen's Hotel.

The menu gave satisfaction to everyone, and the turkeys and partridges were punished in a terrible manner; plum-pudding suffered also, more than usual.

Among the guests occupying the head table were His Honor Lieutenant Governor Robinson, His Worship, the Mayor, Hon. A. S. Hardy, Hon. T. W. Anglin, Rev. Prof. Clarke, Rev. Principal Caven, Rev. Principal Castle, Vice-Chancellor Mulock, M.P., Jas. Beatty, The Faculty, and many other prominent gentlemen. Mr. Graham represented McGill University; Mr. Forin, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston; Mr. Gibson, the Western Medical College, London; Mr. Warren, Toronto School of Medicine; Mr. Haslam, our students. After a sumptuous repast, the toasts were proposed and responded to. Want of space forbids our giving the remarks of the speakers, who were numerous, and who in every instance ably and happily replied to the various toasts. We must mention in particular our Chairman, Mr. Bingham's, address of welcome, which was an eloquent and carefully prepared one; numerous were the compliments bestowed upon him by the speakers which followed, and every student had reason to feel proud of the wise choice they had made in placing such a well-qualified man in the chair.

During the evening the Glee Club gave several songs and choruses which were well rendered and duly appreciated.

Great credit is due to the committee, of which Mr. J. C. Bell was chairman and Mr. F. S. Farrar, secretary, for the Trojan-like manner in which they strove to make the event a success, and we sincerely hope they feel fully rewarded for all their labors.

One thing we regret, namely, the lateness of the hour in breaking up; this could in a great measure be prevented by commencing say at 7.30 p.m.—as it was, nine o'clock had arrived before all were seated. The objection is, when there are so many speakers, and so many toasts, the evening is not half long enough to do them all justice; it is not to be wondered at, if when a speaker rises about two o'clock in the morning to respond to a toast, a certain lack of interest in what he says should be discernible, and indeed, he himself cannot do it that justice which he would if he spoke earlier in the evening. This was our predicament last Thursday evening or rather Friday morning, and as a consequence those toasts towards the end of the programme were cut short, and hurried over as if not worthy of any lengthy remarks. Let us hope another year that either the toasts will be less numerous, or dinner com-

menced earlier in the evening. It is needless to say that all enjoyed themselves to their utmost, and went home, sighing to think that such a pleasant occurrence had so soon passed.

The meeting of our Literary and Scientific Society, on Saturday evening, was largely attended. Prof. Kirkland's paper on the 'Nobility of Knowledge,' that is, the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, and not any use we may desire to make of it, was attentively listened to. Towards the end of it he sketched the lives of the great discoverers of electrical science, and said that such men should be honored for the lustre of their consecrated lives, and everyone who aspires to be a real student should 'emulate their glory and follow in their wake.'

The singing by Mr. Farrer, and the readings of Mr. P. Doolittle and Mr. H. S. Bingham were much applauded.

Trinity was well represented at the Bond-St. Congregational church, last Sunday evening, when Dr. Wild preached to the medical students of the city. He showed himself to be a true friend of our fraternity, and we hope his good advice will not pass unheeded.

#### General College Notes.

Princeton is considering the question of compulsory gymnasium exercises for all classes.—*Ex.*

A Temperance Union and a German Club have been established at the University of Virginia this year.

One hundred and seventy-six freshmen are enrolled in the battalion at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The number of Colleges and Universities in the United States increases on an average of fifteen every year.—*Ex.*

The Inter-Collegiate foot ball games are arranged to take place as follows: Yale-Columbia and Princeton-Harvard, Nov. 17; Harvard, Columbia and Yale-Princeton, Nov. 24; Yale-Harvard, on Thanksgiving day: Columbia-Princeton, date not fixed.—*Ex.*

The *Bowdoin Orient* is agitating the establishment of a gymnasium at the college. In the tennis tournaments with Colby, the two doubles were won by Bowdoin, while the single game was won by the former University. This scheme of playing inter-collegiate tennis games is a good one.

The contest this year for the Rectorial Chair of Edinburgh University was, as usual, a very exciting one. The candidates were Sir Stafford Northcote (Conservative), Mr. G. O. Trevelyan (Liberal) and ex-Professor Blackie (Independent). The polling, which took place on the 2nd instant, resulted in the election of Sir Stafford Northcote by a majority of 52, he having obtained 1035 votes, Mr. Trevelyan 983 and Prof. Blackie 236.

The united income of Oxford and Cambridge is \$3,500,000, while the colleges of the United States have an aggregate income of \$4,500,000. The English universities derive about one-tenth of their income from a student source, while the American colleges gain two fifths of their income. Yale has an income exceeding the combined income of five of the Oxford colleges. The income of Cornell is surpassed by only three. Columbia has an income greater than the wealthiest English college.—*Ex.*

The Trustees of Columbia College have arranged a four years' course of study for women, for which a strict preparatory examination will be required, and no girl under seventeen will be admitted. Those who pass the examination may study where and how they please, and will be examined by the college teachers as often as may be necessary. Upon a satisfactory examination at the end of the four years, or upon the completion of any prescribed course, the student will receive a certificate which will be substantially the equivalent of a diploma granted to a graduate of the college.—*Ex.*

#### THE SORROWS OF A DYSPEPTIC.

Never again will the sign 'Pity the Sorrows of the Poor Blind,' slung from the neck of the sightless beggar, elicit the pity that it was once wont to do in me. For me, henceforth, the supreme excitant of sympathy shall be the wrinkled cheek, the turbid complexion, the nervous manner, the drawn expression—signs so legible—of the confirmed dyspeptic. Compared to such a sufferer your blind are happy. They are cognizant of no unappeasable craving; they do not witness the delight of others revelling in the joys of nature, while themselves go hungering by; they are not exposed to the temptation of transgressing to their hurt laws—laws as of the Medes and Persians—imposed upon them by refractory organs; they know not what it is to writhe serpent-like under the torments of an ineradicable agony. How different the case of the poor dyspeptic. To sit down to dinner (dinner! gigan-

tic name, by which to call the merest safeguard to starvation), in no wise differently from the halest guest; to see your neighbor devour venison, pastry, or curried kidneys with a gusto that creates in you a positive envying of the man; to reply to convivial toasts, despite your numerous sparkling, but alas! empty glasses, in apollinaris or even *aqua pura*, this truly is misery. As, indeed, a sympathetic fellow-sufferer once ejaculated: 'Give me rather smallpox every day in the week.'

Has not the severity of the malady too been taught us by ancient fable? What were the tormentors of the blind Phineus—the Harpies, the snatchers-away and befoulers of his legitimate food, but his own dyspeptic anxieties attending each act of deglutition? I warrant me too, that the renowned Herakleitos, the weeping sage of Ephesus, owed to a deficiency of gastric juice that distinguishing characteristic. And the easiest solution of the motive of the suicide of that philosophic *felo de se*, the revered Empedokles, is the fact that pepsine or the hypodermic syringe had not then been discovered and invented.

How galling is the thralldom of weakened gastric follicles. To be the slave of one's stomach; in abject servitude to a paltry viscus; a hateful serfdom under a usurping tyrant. And how anomalous is the position: the weaker the usurper, the more arbitrary his reign, and the severer his exactions; like Peisistratos of old, gashed with bleeding wounds, seizing supreme command.

Strange, often, are the cravings of the dyspeptic. One poor sufferer I know, whose gastric mucous membrane must assuredly be of the color of thrice dyed purple, incessantly longs for bowls of boiling negus, spiced with lavish handfuls of cloves. Another relishes the tough and fibrous pine-apple. One curious case I know of, too, where the free indulgence of a peculiar whim produced no ill results. The patient could not even digest a cubic inch of stale bread, yet he longed for pickles, and such things being in the house, and the family away, he arms himself with a fork and extracts from out the tempting bottles a feast of gherkins. Whether from the heating astringency of the acetic acid, or the tender age of the cucumbers, or because of the dominant superiority of a calmly determined will over angry epithelium, he suffered not at all.

Stranger, perhaps, are the remedies that the sufferer will invent for himself—especially, as is often the case, if he have consulted learned books on his complaint. Sometimes he will seriously discuss with his physician the feasibility of the transfusion of chyme. Or, if he have dipped into the profundities of anatomy, he will gravely recommend for himself an artificial duodenal fistula. Often in his insane moments will he go to the length of submitting to total excision of the digestive apparatus, substituting in the place of the injured member some unheard-of and impossible process of peptic cell-grafting!

But why—do you ask? do I thus disquietingly bemoan aloud the lot of the dyspeptic? Because it is but very lately that the hideousness of the malady, and the necessity of avoiding such things as conduce to its contraction, have been impressed upon me by an experience of its tortures—an experience that leads me to warn the careless to flee from the wrath to come. Reader, if there is one lesson in this mortal life of ours that can be learned through the experience of another, let it be this:—*Take care of your stomach.* Sit not for hours together contracting that fastidious organ by bending over a book; do not refuse it sustenance when it asks it of you; and pray insult it not by requesting it at any time to make two meals in one if prolonged abstention has been unavoidable; beware of diluting the gastric juice and tanning the sensitive membrane with too copious imbibitions of tea; avoid irritating morsels and beverages when that important organ of yours is unprotected by food; but, above all things, I do beg of you to eschew *worry*. Doubtless this is advice hard to follow. But at meal times at all events could you not by effort dismiss your anxieties? They dare not dun you at dinner time; no ruin can be averted by partially, instead of wholly, masticating a mouthful; the decrees of fate have rarely been annulled by a snatched sandwich substituted for a wholesome luncheon; or the onward march of time arrested by foregoing altogether the mid-day meal.

Eat comfortably then your dinner, and for a brief hour defy your cares; and when the last sip of port has leisurely passed your lips, leaning back you will be able boldly to say:

Fate cannot harm me, I have dined to-day.

But what if already the mischief is done? you say, can I not hold out to you any hopes? That indeed can I. If we cannot say because of, we may truly say that in spite of, dyspepsia, men have made their names immortal. Where would have been the 'Confessions of an Opium Eater' if De Quincey had not suffered? How would the vigorous iconoclast of Thomas Carlyle have lost its force if that rugged seer had not known the pangs of indigestion? Was Pope free from them, or the amiable Charles Lamb, or the gentle Joubert, or?—but the world itself could not contain the names of all the illustrious sufferers that could be written. Therefore, suffering reader, take heart; hale, stalwart reader, beware.

ARNOLD HAULTAIN.

## Our Wallet.

### 'RECENS HOMO.'

A FRAGMENT.

FRESHMAN (*Enters, singing on the Taddle bridge.*)

I'll a Freshman be  
At the University,  
And with my cap and gown  
I'll paralyze the town,  
Till the Senate send McKim with my degree.

SPIRIT OF THE TADDLE (*rising, loquitur.*)

If you a Freshman be  
At the University,  
You've come in stormy days;  
Sophs likely will you haze,  
So you better climb a tall and lofty tree.  
You are so verdant green  
You never would be seen  
In the branches of the trees!  
And now upon the breeze  
Come modulated yells with groans between.

NEMO.

\* \* \*

### 'IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.'

SHE.

'When Night, o'er gentle Nature weaves her pall,  
And darkling weird-like shadows lengthen fast,  
With sadden'd heart I oftentimes recall  
The long-departed, sweetly-bitter Past,  
And, pierced by memory's arrow keen,  
I murmur low, "It might have been."'

'On Fancy's airy easel, one dear face  
With Recollection's brush I love to paint,  
Ah! oftentimes at even song I trace  
The well lov'd features of an earthly *saint* (sic).  
And, gazing on that tender mien,  
I breathe the thought "It might have been."'

HE.

'Per Jove! 'tis just as well, perhaps, that fate  
Has thwarted thus my once fastidious taste,  
I "might have been," to-day, the hen-peck'd mate  
Of thirty-six or forty round the waist,  
And squalling brats—oh, hideous scene—  
Are 'mongst the things that "might have been."'

H. K. C.

\* \* \*

### AN ESSAY ON (FRESH) MAN.

BY A. POPE.

Descend ye Nine! and loudly sweep the string,  
The hapless fate of Freshman I would sing!  
Sad is his lot and dire his piteous fate,  
Misprized, misjudged by seniors' envious hate.  
Wouldst thou the secret of his being learn?  
Tis to be Duty's slave that he doth yearn.  
Nay! start not, gentle reader, I shall strive  
To prove him the most duteous soul alive.  
Full well his duties' range the Freshman knows,  
'Tis from their *doing* spring his hideous woes;  
Well doth he know without his aid, I wist,  
College or 'Varsity could not exist.  
Hither he came from Kennaquhair High school  
To guide the Senate and the Council rule;  
To his professors to lay down the law,  
And even hold rebellions Sophs in awe:  
From his vast brain the Junior to instruct,  
Committees run, societies conduct—  
By manners courteous, language choice and free,  
The mould of 'form,' our 'pattern' saint to be.  
Thus doth he strive. But what is his reward?  
Alas! to tell it sighs the simple bard,  
His worth's unprized, alas! and woe is me!  
None are so blind as those who will not see.



Seniors *are* blind, and I must own with pain  
 Freshman's best efforts meet with cold disdain;  
 Juniors and Sophs to wreck his peace conspire,  
 'Rushes' attest their sanguinary ire.  
 In full career eggs on his pate explode,  
 And there discharges their odoriferous load,  
 And, cut unkindest! to his visage meek  
 The heartless Seniors raise the cry of 'cheek.'  
 Such is his treatment, ne'er will it be o'er  
 Till he reforms, or buds a Sophomore.

The students of the Troy Polytechnic have had a novel sort of rush on the mansard roof of the college building. The Freshies set up a flag on said roof, bearing the motto, '87,' and assembled around it to protect it. The Sophs. decided that it must come down, and down it came, after a prolonged struggle, which caused considerable damage to the property of the college; to repair which, '86 has been assessed \$300, and '87, \$250. After the victory, '87 carried the inverted flag through the streets of Troy.

Courtney is going to row against time. Some morning we shall wake up and find the clock sawed in two.

Elderly Philanthropist (to small boy who is vainly striving to pull a door bell above his reach)—'Let me help you, my little man.' (Pulls the bell.) Small Boy—'Now you had better run, or we'll both get a licking.'—*Bates' Student.*

A corresponding secretary of a business man was invited to take tea with a family, the head of which was an aged and devout widow. When all were seated, the widow said, 'Mr. B—, will you please say grace?' This was a stumper, and the guest was about to decline, when a second look from the hostess made him feel that he ought to make the attempt. Bowing his head, with trembling voice he said: 'Dear Sir, yours received, and found in good order. Please except thanks for same and oblige yours truly. Amen.'—*Columbia Spectator.*

A young lady remarks:

For the sake of recreation,  
 Once I asked an explanation,  
 From a young man (no relation),  
 What was meant by 'osculation,'  
 While I shifted my location,  
 To invite the sweet sensation.  
 Well, imagine my vexation,  
 When he gave me the translation,  
 And its Latin derivation,  
 And a lot of information,  
 Like a pedagogue's oration,  
 Just as if we were at school—  
 Wasn't he an awful fool?

A Vermont man who went to a neighboring barn to steal a cow was disgusted to find when he got the animal home that it was his own cow, which his neighbor had stolen earlier in the evening. He says his neighbor is a confounded thief.

## Communications.

### THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—Your leading editorial of last issue paints our Literary Society in somewhat dark colors. The debates are at times dry, but I think you narrowly escaped infringement of fact when you parenthetically observed how nearly you had characterized their entire proceedings by the phrase 'complete stupidity.' Your editorial has at any rate aroused me from lethargy, and induced me to offer these few suggestions.

It is difficult to imagine where a man possessing greater literary attainments, and more complete confidence of the Students, both Scientific and non-Scientific, could be found to fill the Presidential chair than

its present incumbent. But even he cannot infuse energy into student regularly absent from Moss Hall. The lack, if lack there be, falls on the shoulders, and must be accounted for by the undergraduates. How can they contribute their quota toward the desired success?

1st. By considering two or three hours of Friday evening as sacredly devoted to the Literary Society.

2nd. By willingly performing the part assigned by the committee and indicated to them on the bulletin board.

3rd. By thorough preparation before addressing their assembled fellow-students. Some gentlemen, so great is their ability (?) consider an hour snatched before Friday's tea, quite sufficient for preparation to speak before a gathering of University men, which in my humble opinion is unjust to their hearers, unjust to themselves, and very detrimental to the progress of our Society.

Certain innovations have been proposed by students interested in the welfare of our Literary, e.g., the proposed lectures by Matthew Arnold and other illustrious men. An energetic student has also suggested that the sometimes monotonous readings be enlivened by a selection, say from Shakespeare, when two or more may play a part. It is well known that some readers adhere far too faithfully to the book containing their selection, and in their reading grow unanimated and prozy. Thus such readings grow monotonous—decidedly monotonous. It is also thrown out as a suggestion that the stereotyped debates be varied by one when neither subject nor speakers be known till the meeting has been called to order, when our popular president will announce the one and call upon the others. These suggestions may be turned to account.

But let us as students rally around the Literary Society. It is not a decaying cause, for it is far too important a function of University Education to be allowed to die while Canadian Undergraduates have hopes before them, and are destined to guide our great and prosperous nation to imperishable renown. We are, however, forced to allow that there is a momentarily lull in its progress. Yet suppose, for argument's sake, the subjects are at times dry, grant that the Forum is decidedly successful in its object, and that modern and mathematical societies flourish in our midst, must that interfere with the society into which all others should bend as tributaries into the main stream? The Literary calls for activity. Let each one respond to the call, and then, in your words, we will 'reinvigorate it through sheer force.'

Yours truly,

STUDENT.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR.—I noticed with pleasure your article of last week referring to the Literary Society. The entire experience of the best English universities is averse to the narrow view taken by the Council on the subject of discussing politics in the Society. Gladstone, Beaconsfield, and many of the most distinguished statesmen of this age, have repeatedly testified to the political insight and readiness obtained through the medium of such discussions at college. Only a few weeks since, Mr. Goschen made the following remarkable allusion to this subject. Speaking at Edinburgh he said: 'I thank you heartily for the compliment you have paid me in the address which you have presented to me, and for the invitation to be here to night. Your chairman has spoken of politics in connection with the University. It would ill become one who like myself learnt my first political lessons at a University in a club of undergraduates, not to value the existence of such a club as this.' Stronger testimony than this we could not have. Undergraduates should not tamely submit to the obtuseness of the Council in this matter. Let us have renewed agitation—another discussion of the question in the Society—and we may at length obtain the desired concessions.

Yours, etc.,

FOURTH YEAR.

TORONTO, Nov. 29, '83.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—In the article on the decline in attendance and interest at the meetings of Literary and Scientific Society, in your last issue, you have omitted to mention, what I think most will allow to be the chief cause of such a state of affairs, viz., the multiplication of societies for work in special branches of study. I refer to such as the Mathematical and Physical Society, Natural Science Association, Modern Language Club, &c.

These Societies have been built up at the expense of the Literary and Scientific Society, as they require for their continuance not only the attendance but the time, energy, and talents of their members.

Now, it stands to reason that as long as these Societies press their claims upon the undergraduates, and more especially upon those in the Honor Courses, the Literary and Scientific must suffer, as it is

impossible for the majority of the students to attend meetings several nights in the week, besides putting additional time on papers, essays, speeches, etc., for the same. Besides these Societies there is the Glee Club, Y. M. C. A. Temperance League, &c., all of which demand some share of our attention.

The question then arises, would it not benefit both the Literary as well as the other Societies to amalgamate on some such scheme as you proposed last year?—one Society, with its scientific, literary, mathematical, and modern language divisions. Each division to be ruled by its own officers and a general executive and finance committee elected from the several divisions.

Of course, I am aware that such a scheme has many weak points, but might not the plan be worked out so as to overcome the principal ones, and would it not serve to bring together, to a greater extent than is now the case, the undergraduates of the several courses?

At present there is too much isolation amongst us to allow of an interchange of ideas, which has always such a beneficial result.

Such a society, successfully worked, would awaken in us a deeper interest in our fellow students, and what they are doing in this 'little world' of ours, and not only this, but would give us such an education as the College is unable to impart.

Yours, F. T. S.

To the Editor of The 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—The editorial remarks on your last issue on the Literary and Scientific Society call attention to a lamentable state of affairs in that organization. That such should exist is the more to be deplored, as the Society has a reputation to sustain, and, as you say, has become so intimately associated with University College, in the minds of all, as to seem a necessary adjunct of it.

I wish merely to mention a striking illustration of the wisdom of the remedy suggested by you, viz., the introduction of politics, or at least live questions of the day, as subjects for discussion. Those graduates who with myself were members during the years '72-'73, and '73-'74, will remember that the whole of the former year, and the greater portion of the latter, were taken up by the Society in remodelling the constitution. The discussions were based on the report of a committee appointed for that purpose. As a matter of form, regular programmes were arranged for each meeting, but the debates on the report were as a rule so lengthy that very rarely indeed did the meetings read any order of business beyond 'Motions.' The matter for discussion, therefore, being of special interest to the Society, and handled, moreover, by several sharp and incisive debaters, there was no lack of life in the proceedings, each meeting, indeed, being looked forward to as the event of the week. It is true that at times the discussions waxed warm and perhaps more acrimonious than need have been, but any display of feeling thereby engendered was limited to the rooms of the Society, and was rather a source of amusement than anything else.

At all events, and this is the point to which I wish to draw particular attention, the Society was thoroughly alive, its meetings were largely attended and thoroughly enjoyed, and I venture to say that the leaders in debate at that time, and their supporters, look back with no slight degree of interest on the battles they fought over the Constitution. It would hardly be wise to remodel that venerable article every year for the purpose of impressing life into the Society, but, surely, if the Council still persist in their still more venerable refusal to allow the admission of politics as matter for discussion, other subjects can be found of daily interest to university men—subjects which are, or should be, uppermost in their minds out of, as well as in, Moss Hall.

Yours truly, W. G. EAKINS.

Woodstock, Nov. 26th, 1883.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—I would like to say a few words endorsing an article in the last number of the 'Varsity, dealing with the Literary and Scientific Society.

It must be painfully apparent to all who take an active interest in College affairs that this institution, which ought to be one of the most useful in connection with our College, is not fulfilling the purpose of its organization.

Your article seems to have noticed the real causes of this failure, and the remedies suggested appear both practicable and efficient.

There is one thing in particular to which I would like to refer. Mention was made of the success of the Forum. That institution, I believe, is doing, in some degree at least, the work that the Literary Society ought to do. It was composed in the first place chiefly of men who found that the training in public speaking, which they considered an indispensable part of a real college course, was not to be obtained in the Literary Society.

The elements which they sought to incorporate were—that the subjects should be of such importance and general interest as to call forth the best powers of the speakers—that the atmosphere of debate

should be sympathetic and enthusiastic—that the power of removing on short notice those responsible for the success of the meetings should rest with the society.

The form of the mock Parliament has proved eminently successful in these respects. The debates have been, with scarcely an exception, of a uniformly interesting character. There has been no lack of speakers, but the greatest willingness has been displayed even by new members to speak whenever opportunity offered. And above all, what I regard as most important, the debates have not taken the form of the mechanical delivery of set dissertations learned in closet, but that of men talking to men upon subjects in which they have a common interest.

This question of the Literary Society is one which presses for solution. It is needless to reiterate the arguments which have again and again been advanced in favor of the introduction of political questions into our discussions. The adoption of this plan would certainly infuse new life into our debates, and appears to be the only effectual remedy for the defects of the organization. But since the College Council, in their infinite wisdom, have twice seen fit to reject the resolution of reform in this direction, adopted by the almost unanimous vote of the Society, and since there is no probability of their opinions undergoing a change, we cannot hope for any speedy attainment of what we desire—unless, indeed, the members of Society should adopt the course of self emancipation, which has been taken by the Forum.

But in the meantime much may be accomplished by the exercise of greater care on the part of the Debates' Committee. There is even yet considerable margin of interesting subjects—social and political—which our constitution does not prevent us from discussing; and if a judicious choice were made from these questions, and suitable men selected to debate them, I have no doubt that it would have a reviving influence upon the meetings.

At all events, when a subject which is adapted to only a small portion of the Society is selected, a singular care should be taken that speakers be appointed who are competent to discuss it intelligently.

But reforms in this direction to be effectual must strike at the root of the evil. And the Society itself is not wholly blameless if it is not watchful that the members of the General Committee, and especially those filling the most important offices, be men of practical experience in the work they are intended to perform.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the space you have accorded me,  
I am, yours truly, A MEMBER OF THE FORUM.

#### NEWS-BOYS' HOME.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

SIR,—It should be of interest to many of the students to know something of the work which is being carried on at the 'News-Boys' Lodging and Industrial Home. The management state the object of the Home to be the 'rescuing of the neglected and friendless vagrants of the streets,' and many lads have been reclaimed who otherwise would have been confirmed in idle and vicious habits. At first the boys are employed in selling newspapers, but they are led to consider this as beneath their dignity, and so aim at fitting themselves for settled employment; and now a larger number than ever before are at regular work. Another significant fact is that not one of the boys was arrested by the police last year, though in earlier years this happened not seldom, and might be expected, for the boys are either homeless orphans or the children of criminal parents.

The President of our College has for many years taken an active interest in this work, and it was at his suggestion that the Y. M. C. A. undertook the teaching of a class at the Home three evenings in the week. It must seem to everyone a particularly appropriate thing that those who have the best educational advantages should do something to help those who have the least.

It is not possible to compute the benefit which may result from such work as is done among these boys—less need of prisons, fewer crimes, a larger number of those who add to the wealth of the country by honest labor. And we are sure that all the students wish success to follow the efforts now being put forth. The workers themselves are enthusiastic, for the most of the lads have already experienced the disadvantages of ignorance, and are anxious to fit themselves for better situations than they now occupy, and their eagerness to learn makes teaching easy. The class falling to the care of the Y. M. C. A. is one of these; in that below it the boys are learning to read, in that above it they are far advanced. These classes are held in separate rooms, but all are gathered together before the visitor leaves to hear a few verses read from The Book, and perhaps some earnest words; then the meeting is closed with a short prayer, and it would touch anyone's heart to hear these parentless lads—many of them worse than orphaned—earnestly joining in the prayer to their Father in heaven, the common Father of us all.

THE first regular meeting of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COVOCATION will be held in Moss Hall, on the 6th of DECEMBER NEXT, at 7.30 p.m. Delegates from County Associations are particularly requested to attend.

By order, W. F. W. CREELMAN, Secretary.

NOTICES.

Several copies of the issue of February 5th, 1881, are in demand. Any person having copies of this date to dispose of will find ready sale by communicating with MR. G. F. CANE, Business Manager, University College.

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

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