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THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

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Editorial Comments.



APPENDED to the University curriculum for 1890-91 is a paragraph announcing the various medals offered for competition at the approaching examination. Herein it is stated that the medal will be awarded in Modern Languages in the Third Year, and not as heretofore in the Fourth. This change is entirely reasonable in view of the fact that there exists under the new curriculum an option of subjects in the work of the Fourth Year. It would of course be impossible to award a medal among men taking different work. Yet while it is necessary that such a change should ultimately be made in order to suit the new curriculum, it is hardly just that it should be made this year. The new curriculum has not yet come into effect—at present all Fourth Year students in this course work upon the same conditions and do substantially the same work as hitherto. There would be no difficulty in making a decision among them. Yet according to this arrangement no one in the class will receive a medal. The case would be entirely different and there would be no ground for complaint if the awarding of medals were to cease with the present year. But such is not the case. The future classes will receive medals as have the previous ones. Upon one class alone will fall the injustice of not having a chance to compete for a medal, and that class—the Class of '91. We are not going to question the wisdom of the Senate in making a change in the rules covering the award of the medal, before such a change was rendered absolutely necessary by the requirements of the new curriculum, although we must confess that we see no reason for the hasty action they have taken in this matter; they might have continued to award the medal to the Fourth Year as in the past until the revised curriculum comes in force *in toto*, and injustice would have been done to no one. Be that as it may, however, it is a matter of slight importance compared with the injustice that is being perpetrated on the present Fourth Year students in Moderns. Here is a class that had no chance for a medal in its third year, and whose right to compete for one in its fourth year is now rendered null and void by an arbitrary measure on the part of the Senate. Only special legislation can prevent injustice of some kind or other being done. Let the Senate award two medals this year: a special one for the out-going Fourth Year class in Moderns, the old one (according to the new rules), to the present Class in the Third Year. Such an action would be commended by all, and would avoid all shadow of injustice. We would advise the Modern Languages students of the Fourth Year to petition the Senate to this effect, for we feel that the matter only needs to be brought before their notice to receive the special legislation that it most certainly deserves and in all justice absolutely demands.

In another column there is quite a lively discussion on the subject of Second Year Pass German. This has been partially aroused by an editorial note appended to a letter on the subject by "Sophomore" in last week's issue—rather by a misapprehension of the meaning of the note than by the note itself. We thought we had made our meaning clearly, but apparently some have misinterpreted what was said. The note did not "raise any objection to the reduction of the German" as is stated in the letter of "Political Science Soph."; on the other hand it very clearly disavowed the intention of "giving a decision as to the merits of the case." We wished then and we wish now to protest against what is implied in the following statement of "Sophomore": "Now the study of these languages (*e.g.* Greek, German, French or Hebrew) by minds philosophically inclined may, perhaps, be best described by saying that it consists of the learning of facts without even the relief of theory. Thus to the writer's humble understanding the variety of mental training afforded here is exceedingly slight." That was a direct expression of the opinion, not that there is too much German on the course, but that German or any other language is superfluous to students of philosophy. Experience and common sense have so clearly shown that such a position is untenable that we could not refrain from urging the Second Year students of philosophy not to agree with "Sophomore" in his judgment as to the value of the study of German to them. Had "Sophomore" kept to his text, namely, that there is too much Second Year pass German and left general principles alone no objection to his position would have been taken. But "Sophomore" himself agrees with us as will be seen by reading his second letter; he acknowledges the value of the study of German, which it is plain, from his words at least, he perhaps unthinkingly denied in his first letter. Now as to the question of the amount of German we are free to confess that the Second Year pass German is probably more difficult than it ever was before; there is no doubt but that the philosophy men, if they have not studied German before matriculation and in their first year, will find it rather hard to translate all of it and at the same time get up the grammar. But the remedy for this seems to lie in preparation before entering the University and not in lowering the amount of work to be done during the course. Space prevents us from enlarging on this idea, but in a future issue we hope to return to the subject and discuss the question more thoroughly.

Thirty-one of the 289 members of the senior class at Harvard have already obtained degrees from other colleges.

An association has been formed of Brown alumni for the purpose of assisting Brown graduates wishing to take work in the German universities. This is the first organization of its kind in America.

THE LYRICAL POEMS OF MATTHEW ARNOLD.



One desiring to treat briefly and simply the lyrics of Matthew Arnold, it might at first seem advisable to leave altogether out of consideration the author's position in relation to religion and the progress of humanity. But on taking a closer view, it is quite apparent that to treat merely from an æsthetic standpoint the work of almost any one of our nineteenth century poets, without reference to the influence upon him of that

Longing to enquire
Into the mystery of this heart which beats
So wild, so deep in us—to know
Whence our lives come and where they go,

would be to gain only a complete misconception of his genius and works.

It is this spirit of unrest, of doubt, of inquiry into those things, which men in earlier times accepted or rejected unconditionally and as a whole, that forms the background on which all of our later authors have depicted their conceptions, brighter or darker, of fair promise of a happy time when men shall more clearly understand the great problems of life, or, on the other hand, of the deepening gloom into which the wreck of human life and happiness seems to them to be driving.

It is to this latter despairing class of poets that Matthew Arnold belongs. To him

Most men in a brazen prison live
Where, in the sun's hot eye,
With heads bent o'er their toil they languidly
Their lives to some unmeaning task-work give,
Dreaming of nought beyond their prison wall.
And the rest a few
Escape their prison and depart
On the wide ocean of life anew,

not knowing that there prevail on that sea "trade winds that cross it from eternity," so that soon

Sternier comes the roar
Of sea and wind, and through the deepening gloom,
Fainter and fainter wreck and helmsman loom,
And he, too, disappears, and comes no more.

As has been ably said by a critic, writing in the *Edinburgh Review* for October, 1888: "Examined as a reflection of his mind and character, and taken as a whole, these poems appear as a heap of shifting fragments, trembling opinions and crumbling creeds." Thus warned not to expect here the warmth and enthusiasm found only in those poets who have discovered for themselves some master-truth, and make it their mission to proclaim it to the world, let us turn to find what excellences we may in the narrow and negative sphere thus remaining.

The volume entitled "Early Poems" contains little that is particularly striking in manner, or in matter. Two short poems, however—"Requiscat" and "A Memory Picture"—are light and graceful, with sufficient undertone of pathos to make them very attractive. The latter is an exquisite study in quiet, delicate tones:—

Paint that lilac kerchief bound
Her soft face, her hair, around
Tied under the archest chin
Mockery ever ambushed in;
Let the fluttering fringes streak
All her pale, sweet rounded cheek,
Ere the parting hour go by,
Quick thy tablets memory!

The rest of the lyrics contained in this volume are deeply steeped in nineteenth century pessimism of the despairing not of the reckless type. In the "Forsaken Merman," however, one of the narrative poems contained in this volume, Arnold has succeeded in forgetting himself very largely, and has produced a poem infinitely more touching and human, and even more melodious than the "Merman" and "Mermaid" of Tennyson.

In the second volume we find greater freedom of expression, as well as greater intensity of feeling. Still, over all warm sentiment the frost of despair is settled; it is sparkling and beautiful, but, alas, it withers everything it touches. We see traces of this in "Dover Beach." The beauty and pathos with which the author has here expressed his views concerning religion and progress will probably cause the poem to long retain its present popularity. It opens sweetly and softly, but soon a note of sadness creeps in, which grows and swells, more passionate and despairing, until the whole ends in a discord, powerless to again resolve itself into harmony. As he stands listening to the sound of the waves and tide, he finds

In the sound a thought,
Hearing it by this distant northern sea.

The sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled;
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating to the breath
Of the night wind, down the vast edges drear,
And naked shingles of the world,

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

A love of Nature, instilled into Arnold's mind by Wordsworth, is the only influence that has power to give calm to this "vainly throbbing heart." In a very beautiful poem, entitled "The Youth of Nature," we find the expression of his indebtedness to his teacher. There, too, is exemplified the thought, so constantly present in the author's mind, of the transitoriness of human life compared with the unchangeableness of Nature. Hence, of course, it is Nature in her grander aspects alone that appeals to Arnold. We feel that it would be unnatural to expect from him any poem like Wordsworth's "Daisy," "To the Lesser Celandine," or "Daffodils." In reading the works of the two men, even most superficially, one at once observes the difference in their spirits—the one looking at Nature as "the Life-garment which Deity wears," the teacher of solemn truths; the other regarding it as an anodyne to quiet those "questionings of invisible things" which are disturbing him.

If, then, the work of the poet, as of the dramatist, be, in fairly pleasing measures, to show the very age and body of the time, his form and pressure, to depict faithfully phases of contemporary thought, then Arnold may be counted as a successful poet. But if the poet's mission be, as Wordsworth has defined it, "To console the afflicted, to add sunshine to daylight by making the happy happier, to teach the young and the gracious of every age to see, to think and to feel, and therefore to be more actively and securely virtuous"—then, surely, few have more signally failed.

LAURA L. JONES.

The regular Y.M.C.A. meeting next Thursday will be led by J. McNicol. Next Sunday (March 8) at 9.30 in the morning, there will be a meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, addressed by Dr. Potts, Secretary of the Education Department of the Methodist Church in Canada.

Alexander Winchell, LL.D., Professor of Geology and Paleontology in the University of Michigan, died at Ann Arbor after an illness of several weeks. He was sixty-six years of age, and was one of the most celebrated geologists in America. He was at one time Chancellor of the Syracuse University, and has filled chairs in that and the Vanderbilt University.

CANADIAN LOYALTY.



It is perhaps somewhat daring that so soon after Mr. Goldwin Smith has spoken on our Canadian loyalty, THE VARSITY should venture an independent opinion on the same subject. But it would seem that so great are the differences of opinion regarding it entertained by different sections of the people of the Dominion; so strange are the propositions advanced and supported under cover of this mysterious "loyalty," that full discussion of the matter, ending in a rational conclusion as to what true loyalty in these days really implies, cannot but be to the common advantage. To such a discussion this article is intended as a trifling contribution.

Loyalty—keeping faith. This is the true meaning; for the primary idea of law-observance early passed away; and the feudal loyalty became that fidelity to the oath of homage which distinguished the true "man." The object of the feudal loyalty, be it observed, was not the nation, but the superior; not the community nor the state, but the person of the lord. In this sense the sentiment lingered long, and in degree still lingers among the people. The doctrine of the divine right of kings was a perversion, modified by religious and theocratic notions, of the feudal idea. The affection of the royalist for the person of the Stuart Kings (wholly by reason of their kingship) was an outcome of it. And in our own day, despite the almost total demolition of the relics of feudalism, there are many who maintain the old position; who work themselves into a real fervor of devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty our present sovereign, which is personal, and yet entertained wholly by reason of her being Queen. In others, the old leaven works differently. They profess intense affection for England (or, if touched by the new spirit of Canadian nationalism, for Canada) which has for its object—what? The soil of England; or its people? The soil of Canada; or its people?

What is, and what should be the position of Canadians on this question? Shall we deny the existence of rational grounds for entertaining such a sentiment at all, and relegate it to a place among bygone superstitions; or shall we recognize it as a vital element of the national life finding various and at times grotesque expression? The prevalence of the sentiment, the fervor and undoubted honesty of so many of its exponents and the tenacity with which it clings to life seem to make the latter proposition the more reasonable. And if national (like individual) love is sometimes blind; if it reaches out at times in all manner of impossible directions; that proves, not the futility of the love, but the need for its enlightenment in order that sham loyalty and misguided loyalty may both be merged in a strong sensible national sentiment.

The one basis of true loyalty—feudal or modern—is the social idea—the sense of social union—the brotherhood of the trades unions; the *fraternité* of France. Trades unionism is loyalty in fragments. It is the reaction from that individualism, which having meant to seek at first their greatest good in detached and spasmodic action is learning anew that the highest interests of the individual may be better served by partial or class association. Such association necessitates a measure of individual self-sacrifice; and, though material selfishness is at the root of the union, it must of necessity result in a spirit of devotion to the class which, broadened, extended and purified, will in the end embrace the community and the nation, and culminate in a cosmopolitan desire for the world's welfare. Thus the selfishness of the one leads to the association of the many, and tends ultimately to recognition of the brotherhood of mankind.

Now, where, for us Upper Canadians, is the sense of fellowshipship to find its limits? For when we have bounded that we have determined what shall be the object of our loyalty. Ontario, Canada, the Empire, the English-speaking race? For we may cast aside as humiliating the proposition

that our loyalty (including our self-sacrifice and our obedience) is due to great Britain. Great Britain is a part, as Canada is a part; let us own allegiance to the whole. The men of England are British subjects of no higher a grade than we; and our services to the Empire have been quite as great as theirs. It cannot much longer be possible for us to submit (for even great pecuniary reasons) to be governed, even in theory, by a parliament in which we have no voice. Canada must be represented in the Imperial councils; or her autonomy must be assured by the removal of the Imperial veto. One change or the other our national pride demands.

But, setting such matters for the moment aside, there is, it would seem, no true reason why Canadian loyalty should not find an object in the Empire as a whole. We are brothers; whatever our variances, our highest interests are substantially identical. Canadians are but Britons transplanted. The same people won by patient conquest Canada and the Australian Empire. We need not narrow our view to Canada only; but let it sweep in pride and exultation over the whole vast Imperial domain, won by us and by our brethren. And recognizing our national privileges, it is but right that we recognize our national duties. Let us legislate now for the unity of the Empire, not against it, only bearing in mind that we are part of the Empire, and injury to part means damage to the whole. Assimilation of tariffs or greater centralization of power there may never be; but, at least, we may preserve the bond of political union for the sake of future possibilities, if for nothing else. Let us do nothing rashly; and a time may yet come when the great disaffected member of our national family shall find it possible to seek, if not a closer political union, at least a friendly alliance—a fusion of forces and of hearts.

For the present, why should we forsake the Mother Country for the United States? Commercial advantages there might be. But despite the sneers of practical politicians a man's nationality should not be readily bartered for material gain. True loyalty is the conscience of the nation; and to violate the national conscience is to commit national sin. If, then, our true, intellectual, moral and social sympathies are with the parent nation, only the gravest necessity should force us to sever our connection with her. Such a necessity undoubtedly cut the cord which bound the New England colonies to the Motherland; and in our own case such a necessity may (improbably) at some time arise. But the strained relations which have existed since the severance between England and the United States, the undisguised anti-British spirit which breaks out in every presidential election, and the tone adopted by the press and public of the Republic toward ourselves, because of our relationship to England, make it imperative that we take sides. Circumstances render it impossible for us to cast in our lot with our southern neighbor without a sacrifice of our self-respect, a severance of kindly relations with our best friend, and a surrender of our right of inheritance of the historical and literary traditions of the British Empire. To these last, indeed, in such a contingency the descendant of the sturdy Revolutionary fathers of 1776 might lay a better claim.

"Shoulder to shoulder," then, let the motto be. No bluster, no defiance, no martial breathings of threatenings and slaughter against our neighbor and next of kin, but a steady, sturdy adherence to the British brotherhood, with a constant effort for Canada's advancement and for the recognition of her full rights in the grand alliance. And may the time soon come when bickering shall cease and Empire and Republic shall clasp friendly hands and unite in honest effort for the welfare of the world.

UBIQUE.

President Patton, of Princeton, poetically gives his opinion about attending college by saying: "Twere better to have gone and loafed than never to have gone at all."—*Ex.*

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BY

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MARCH 3, 1891.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



LAST Friday's meeting was not any more pleasant than that of the week before. The Society was not very large but its temper was peculiar. The ominous calm in the early part of the meeting seemed to portend some unusual commotion; and when the storm did come, it came not in a breeze full and free, but in gusts and whirlwinds. It was a night of mistakes, of elections forgotten after nominations, of quibbling and counter-quibbling, of constitutional changes made in accordance with constitutional precedent and in violation of constitutional formality. The spirit of the constitution was there, a spectre of misty substance and indefinite outline that was wont to stalk about in old Moss Hall about the time of the death of winter.

The business of the evening was prefaced by part of a literary programme—a reading called "Memnon the Philosopher," given with distinct utterance by A. H. Burns, and a short essay on "Originality of Style" by W. P. Reeve.

Then Mr. Stringer introduced his motion of incorporation, which was seconded by J. A. McKellar. This encountered considerable opposition on the ground that it was not known what the effects of such a step would be on the members individually, and on the Society as a whole. On an amendment by J. McNicol and C. A. Stuart, a committee consisting of Messrs. F. E. Perrin, J. A. Cooper and J. A. McLean was appointed to learn the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation, and to report to the Society early next term.

And now came the amendments to the constitution.

Messrs. McNicol and G. H. Ferguson moved, That Art. I. Sec. 1 be amended to read as follows: "The Society shall consist of (a) male students in actual attendance in University College, or in the Faculty of Arts in the University of Toronto, or at the School of Practical Science; (b) male graduates or undergraduates of the University of Toronto in the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Law"; and the extent of class (a) shall be determined by the official lists of students registered as in attendance, and that of class (b) by the official lists of graduates and undergraduates." After the Society had satisfied itself as to the limitation in the membership made by this amendment, it was finally passed. But it was on the next amendment that the trouble arose. In accordance with the notice of motion given on the Friday before that an amendment would be introduced changing the wording but not the meaning of Art. II., Sec. 7, Mr. McNicol moved, seconded by Mr. Standing, that this section be changed to read as follows: "Every member who is a member of the staff in the Faculty of Arts, and every member who is included in class (a) of Art. I., Sec. 1, and who owes no fee to his College, may vote for all offices at the annual election; all other members may vote for the office of President only." At once the objection was raised that McNicol had not interpreted the section under consideration according to established precedent. The point was, should the section be interpreted according to precedent or according to the actual meaning of the words? It was C. A. Stuart who raised up the *Spirit* of the constitution and called upon the Society to do obeisance as their ancestors had done before them. Then did many do obeisance to the *Spirit*, and Ferguson and McLay sang its praises. But A. M. Stewart, Knox and McNicol regarded it not, and they refused to worship the beast; so into the fiery furnace went Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The President's ruling was asked on the point and he ruled as the *Spirit* moved him, that is to say, that the motion was out of order. But the smoke that had arisen from the burning fiery furnace obscured the *Spirit* that had been set up and the Society forgot to worship it. Mr. McNicol's second motion got through somehow by a change in his first. In Art. I., Sec. 1, Clause (a) the phrase "in the Faculty of Arts in the University of Toronto" was changed to read "in the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Law in the University of Toronto."

The report of the committee appointed a week ago to draft a scheme for an Athletic Association was then introduced by Mr. C. A. Stuart. It was received and adopted with two amendments. This amended report will be found in another column.

In accordance with the constitution of THE VARSITY, the nominating committee of the directorate for next year was elected, as this was the last Friday in February. The committee is composed of Messrs. G. H. Ferguson, J. O. Stringer, C. A. Stuart, D. Walker, W. S. McLay, J. A. McLean, W. H. Bunting, F. B. Hellesms and A. R. Jackson. Owing to the lateness of the hour the same gentlemen were appointed the nominating committee of the five representatives from the Literary Society on the Athletic Association.

The following notices of motion were given:—
Mr. Ferguson—That a clause be inserted in Art. III., Sec. 1, giving two representatives on the General Committee to the School of Science.

Mr. Knox—That Art. VI., Sec. 1, be amended to read: "The annual subscription shall be one dollar."

Mr. McLay—That Sec. 6 of the Rules of Order be omitted.

Mr. Hellesms—A motion to exclude the medical students from voting for undergraduate offices. That in Art. I., Sec. 1, Clause (a), the phrase "in the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Law" be altered to read "in the Faculty of Arts"; and that in Art. III., Sec. 1, Sub-sec. (a), the words "and a councillor from the University of Toronto Medical College" be omitted.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The meeting of last Monday added another to the list of the successful English meetings held this year. The attendance was large, and both the honorary and the active president were on the platform. The subject was "Browning."

The program opened with a piano solo by Miss Keys—which, to judge from the ordinary signs of approval, was heartily enjoyed.

The next number was an essay by Miss F. V. Keys on Browning's Lyrics. It opened with an original and striking simile in which the works of Browning, from their outer and formal side, were compared to a Gothic cathedral. Elaborating the figure, there are found in both new and bold combinations, and an incongruous mixture of the sacred and profane; while the "bright spots" in Browning's prose resemble the stained windows of the cathedral, which brighten and relieve the whole structure. After discussing several of the lyrics, the essay concluded with a statement of the lesson learned from Browning: That we are fulfilling our mission in devoting all our powers to the welfare of others; followed by a quotation from "Pippa Passes," which shows Browning's frank delight in the world, and from which we can gain an idea of the healthy influence of his poems.

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill side's dew-pearled:
The snail's on the thorn:
God's in His Heaven—
All's right with the world.

A reading by Miss Porte followed, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin"; it was well given, and, as remarked by the President, afforded a pleasant variation in the program, illustrating as it does the humorous side of Browning's genius.

Prof. Alexander in opening his remarks referred to the excellent essay which had just been read and, continuing the simile, spoke of Browning's lack of the sense of form as compared with a certain formlessness in the Gothic building; and also of his occasional grotesqueness, as if he, like the architect, were obliged to give expression to that part also of his nature. Browning was further compared with the other poets of his own time, who have, many of them, perfection of form, and exquisite versification, but *nothing to say*, while Browning, consciously lacking this sense of form, has a great deal to say. In the one piece of prose which Browning left, "An Essay on Shelley," he contrasts the objective and subjective poets, and says: "It yet remains to find some one who shall combine these." This is the position he holds; and many of his peculiarities arise from his effort to combine the Dramatic with the Lyric. For this reason, too, his lyrics are not purely lyrical since they do not express his own thoughts and feelings, but introduce the dramatic element by making some one else the speaker. As an example of one of the few cases in which Browning expresses his own feelings, Prof. Alexander read "The Guardian Angel." This is poetry of the regular kind, though many of his poems are not so. As he implies in a criticism on Greek Art, he measures men by the ideal after which they are striving, *not* by the perfection of their performance: and notwithstanding his disregard of many of the limitations that have surrounded poetry—rather *on account of it*—he has made several editions to the gallery of living portraits left by our earlier poets, a thing which none of his contemporaries have done. In contrasting the methods used by different poets in drawing portraits, we find that Chaucer describes his characters at length, their general appearance, dress, etc., that is to say, he attacks them from the outside. This is the simplest sort of art. Shakespeare brings forth men and women, but he makes them exhibit themselves. As in nature, they reveal themselves by their actions and words, and hence we get a far

deeper insight into their character. Browning also makes his characters exhibit themselves; but he takes another method. He places the man before us, who reveals, indirectly in a monologue, the thoughts and workings of his mind. It is objected that this is not natural, but a man will reveal himself so in certain moods, and Browning chooses such moods. From the monologue you gather first what the man thinks, second what Browning himself thinks, though in a veiled way. He holds that it is impossible to give expression to abstract thought; he sends the pure white light of truth through the medium of these different minds. As a further illustration Prof. Alexander read: "The Grammarian's Funeral"; which emphasizes the idea already expressed, that Browning looks upon this life merely as an education; hence we cannot be concerned with producing perfect work, rather with striving toward some aim be it great or small; the worst thing is stagnation. In his own words:—

The sin I impute to each frustrate ghost,
Is the unlit lamp—and the ungit loin.

At the conclusion of the meeting the President took occasion, on behalf of the club, to thank those who had taken part in the program, particularly Miss Keys and Miss Porte, who, though not members of the club, had added so much to the enjoyment of the evening. As it was too late for any discussion, the meeting adjourned.

OUR MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Our Medical Society, than which no stronger or more efficient exists in connection with Toronto University, held its annual elections on Friday night last. The meeting was, in many respects, one of the most important the Society has ever had. At 8 o'clock the President, Dr. John Ferguson, took the chair.

The first, and not by any means the least, pleasing feature of the programme was the presentation of the Ferguson Medal to Mr. Barnhardt, who is to be congratulated on winning such a distinguished favour. Next came the moving of a resolution in which all the members have been deeply interested since it became known that such a movement was on foot. It was moved by Mr. Amyot, seconded by Mr. McGormon, that for the course of Lectures which the Society had established, a Fellowship in Pathology be substituted. The one appointed for the position must be a graduate of the University of Toronto, a life member of the Society, and be recommended by not only the Committee of the Society, but also by the lecturer in Pathology. This latter was requisite to insure his fitness for the position. The appointment was to be made from year to year, the surplus funds of the Society to be applied to the payment of his salary—which, however, was not to exceed \$200. The Committee was further empowered to make all the necessary arrangements. The resolution was submitted to the meeting, and carried by a unanimous vote. It is understood that the Committee intend asking Dr. L. Barker to accept the position, and, if he does so, he will be ready to commence work at the beginning of next session. Dr. Barker intends taking a special course in Pathology at Johns Hopkins University during the coming summer. If he accepts the position, his appointment will be received with universal satisfaction, as no one is better liked by the boys.

The elections were then proceeded with, and, after an exciting contest, resulted as follows: President, Dr. Geo. Peters (*acc.*); 1st Vice-President, J. J. Harper (*acc.*); 2nd Vice-President, J. N. Harvie (*acc.*); Treasurer, Dr. John Ferguson (*acc.*); Assistant Treasurer, J. Alway; Recording Secretary, J. B. Peters; Corresponding Secretary; Mr. Clingan (*acc.*); Curator, Mrs. Agnew; Councillors, Messrs. Pinkham, Way, McCullough, Smuck, and Hopkins.

The Medical Society was established in 1881. It became the Toronto University Medical Society in 1887, Dr. Adam Wright being the first president. In 1888 Dr.

McFarlane was president, and in 1889 Dr. John Ferguson was elected to that office, and has held it ever since to the great benefit of the Society, and the satisfaction of all its members. To his careful management and untiring zeal, the Society owes its present high standing and efficient machinery. The students join us in expressing our sincere thanks to Dr. Ferguson for having so ably discharged the duties connected with his office.

TOO MUCH PASS GERMAN.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—I have read with deep interest the letter of your Sophomore Philosopher on the above subject; and as the question is by no means confined to the Philosophy class, but extends to every student in the second year, some further discussion of it may not be out of place.

Every student in the second year, pass or honor, has the option of taking, and all honor students in Political Science, Philosophy, Mathematics and in the two Science departments are compelled to take pass second year German. And since in the Pass course and in the Honor departments of Classics and Orientals there is granted an option between German or French, it is plain that the intention is that every student shall have to undergo the same amount of mental labor to get up the French work as to get up the German work of the year.

Now all who have studied both languages agree in saying that German translation is very much more difficult than French translation is; and as a safe estimate of the relative difficulty of the two, I think we may with assurance take the opinion of one of our leading professors, coupled as it is with the experience of a well-known graduate:—

Prof. Hutton (in the February number of the *Educational Monthly*) backs up the assertion of Mr. H. J. Cody, of Bishop Ridley College, that the difficulty of German translation is to the difficulty of French translation as $2\frac{1}{2} : 1$, or even $3 : 1$.

Accepting this estimate, let us see if the aim of the curriculum—that of making the examination in German just so difficult as the examination in French—is attained. We find that there are for examination three French texts to be read; since, then, German texts are three times as difficult to read, it does not require the elucidation of an honor graduate in mathematics to make it plain that there ought to be only one German text to be read by the student who elects to take German instead of French. But, as a matter of fact, the ambitious framers of the German curriculum have decreed that the student who is so foolish as to take German shall actually read four bulky volumes of choicely-difficult classic German lore.

It may be that the object of the curriculum makers was to stop students taking German at all; in that case they are to be congratulated on their distinguished success. For it is notorious that students having an option, after one glance at the mountainous pile of German texts, sink down with a prayer of thankfulness to their French, their Hebrew or their Greek authors.

But to the students in the above-mentioned Honor departments, who are allowed no such option, the existing curriculum is monstrously unjust. They are forced to do four times as much work as in all justice they ought to do. This extra work is heaped on them in the second year, the already acknowledged *pons asinorum* of the whole academic course. And it is on those students least able to bear this additional pass work that it is thrown; on the overburdened Philosophers, on the Science men with 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours, and on the devotees of Political Science with their copious Honor subjects and their five outside Pass departments.

The objection which you, Mr. Editor, were pleased to raise to any reduction of the German, I cannot consider to be well taken, even in the case of Philosophy students. For the only results of this imposition of four times the legitimate translation work in German have been a

neglect of the study of the grammar of the language; an impoverishing of the German students through a wholesale (though necessary) investment of funds in the purchase of "keys," "cribs" and "ponies," and a general "scamping" of the German work all through—practices which must follow the diffusion of student energy over too wide an area, and which I cannot conceive as leading us to obtaining your "broad grasp" of the broad German language.

We look, sir, for some action on the part of Senate or examiners to release us from two or three of these redundant texts. POLITICAL SCIENCE SOPH.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The second public meeting in the history of the above society was held in the West End lecture room, on Friday afternoon, Feb. 20. The first public meeting was held in 1884. The chair was occupied by the President, J. McGowan, B.A. There was a large attendance, the visitors including almost all the lady undergraduates. The chief attraction was the lecture on "Color," by Prof. A. C. McKay, of McMaster University, a graduate of Toronto.

He opened his lecture by a short description of ether, the medium of transportation of heat, light (hence color), and electricity. Continuing, he said: "Physicists conceive that all space between the molecules of bodies, as well as that between worlds and systems of worlds, is filled with a fluid, I say fluid for the want of a better term, although I might just as properly use the term solid. A fluid without weight, and yet in the absence of which nobody would possess weight; a fluid unseen, yet without which there could be no sight; a fluid colorless, and yet without which there could be no color; a fluid so thin and tenuous that it passes more freely through all solid bodies, our own included, more freely than does the whistling wind through the forest; a fluid so elastic that the slightest tremor in any one portion of it is transmitted with lightning speed to every part of the universe; a fluid in which swim the planets, and which probably in not unequal pressures controls their movements and orbit. This truly wonderful all-pervading substance is the medium that conveys radiations of light, heat, and electricity, and, as some have thought, is the bond that connects our present with our future existence."

After describing the molecular vibrations of the particles of a heated body and how these vibratory motions are communicated to the "all pervading" ether, the lecturer described the action of these waves, which "at first produces no effect on the sensory organs, but as the vibrations become more rapid they call forth the sensation of heat, and increasing in rapidity of vibration they give rise to the sensation of light, while still greater rapidity of vibrations again become unnoticed by human beings, finding their work probably in tickling more delicate organs than human beings possess." Thus it was shown that this increased rapidity of vibratory motion of the particles of ether up to a certain stage gives rise to light, and that the differences of color are due to these differences of rapidity of this vibratory motion. He concluded by explaining the supposed analogy of music to color, how the ratio of vibrations causing certain notes corresponds to the ratio of vibrations of the particles giving rise to the various colors, from red to violet, and as certain combinations of tones, on account of their ratio of vibration, produces what is termed discord to the ear, so do certain combination of colors, on account of a similar ratio of the vibrations of their ether particles, fail to harmonize, as "orange and green," for example.

Messrs. Currie and Rand illustrated the composition of white light by projecting a spectrum on a screen, thus showing the seven primary colors. By means of a "Newton's" disc they performed the reverse operation, viz., the formation of white light by the combination of all the colors in the spectrum. [This report was crowded out last week.—Ed.]

SECOND YEAR PASS GERMAN.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—The note which you append to my letter in your last issue makes it necessary for me to add a few remarks which I should have made before but for the fear of trespassing on your space.

I hope that no student is so foolish as to wish to make a study of Philosophy without studying German, for, as you say, a thorough appreciation of the philosophical thought of the time is not to be had without a knowledge of German—at least that is what we are told by those who certainly ought to know. More than that, I am not one of those who cry down the study of language. What I do object to is the crowding it on all at once in such shape that the student must devote nearly all his time to it. Referring to the course in Philosophy particularly, we have more language in the second year than in all the other years put together. Perhaps it is necessary that this should be so on general principles, but any theory that it should be so must presuppose a good foundation laid in German in one's Freshman and sub-Freshman career. But how is one to know in all cases before entering the University what course he will wish to pursue here? If students in the high schools were better informed on the nature of University study I think considerable confusion would be avoided. Then, most of the Philosophy men are students in theology who enter the college older in years than are the majority of their fellows, many of them with a gap of several years between their high school and University courses, and who have never had any foundation in German at all. Surely it would be better to give them a little time to get a hold on it. We desire to study the language, but would rather not have it all at once and certainly not so much of it at the period when we are learning the "facts and theories" of Philosophy.

Looking broadly at the whole subject I cannot see how the average man who has not a pretty thorough knowledge of the grammar to start with can get up all the work in German, and all the Greek, French and Philosophy besides, without being what the Scotch call "sconnered" of the German. In fact it is just the old complaint of too much of one subject.

But it is not this which caused me to write to your paper. It is to be supposed that the Senate of the University know very well what they are about when they draft a curriculum, and consequently we suppose there must be some good reason for their refusing our petition; but since they trust to our good sense to choose our own courses why can they not trust the same good sense to understand and appreciate the benefit which is to accrue to us from the course being just thus and so and unalterable? If we have any difficulty in our work an appeal to the professors is always met courteously and kindly. Why cannot the Senate treat us with the same consideration in that department of the work with which it has to do?

Thanking you for so much of your space, I am yours truly,
SOPHOMORE.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE.

The following tables show the attendance at our large colleges. The figures were collected by the *U. of M. Daily* and are authentic: University of Michigan, 2,377; Harvard, 2,276; Northwestern University, 1,914; University of Pennsylvania, 1,754; Columbia, 1,709; Yale, 1,645; Cornell, 1,356; Princeton, 850; Toronto has 750 in Arts and Medicine. The attendance of the different Law schools are as follows: Columbia, 589; University of Michigan, 580; Harvard, 299; University of Pennsylvania, 173; Northwestern University, 145; Cornell, 218; Yale, 116.

Harvard's athletic organizations cost \$32,378 last year.

THE GLEE CLUB AT HAMILTON.

Owing to the success which the Glee Club had during their previous engagement in Hamilton, they were again requested to take part in a concert given in that Ambitious City in aid of the Newsboys Home.

This will explain what must have struck with surprise any one at the Union Station last Friday when the 2.50 train was about to start. Between forty and fifty members of this flourishing club, in cap and gown, were walking up and down the platform or taking their places in the special car provided, all joking and laughing in expectation of a "good time," many because of former experiences, the rest from a confidence which they found was not at all misplaced.

Never did the journey to Hamilton seem so short! The time fairly flew. During the ride the most noticeable feature (for a Glee Club at least) was the absence of singing. The voices were held sacred for the practice.

From the very moment of arrival our best interests were looked after. We were met by Mrs. Platt, to whom was so largely due the pleasant time spent there before; our luggage was taken off our hands and we marched to the Opera House two by two, girt with the graceful gown, a thing of wonder to the street urchins, a cause of many smiles to the ladies, who perforce walked between. Practice then lasted for two weary hours amid the gloomy surroundings of a stage robbed of its usual glamour and poetry. Then those who so kindly opened their homes to entertain the club took charge of us, and most thoroughly and heartily was it done. We were all made to feel at home and so enjoyed ourselves to the utmost. Marshaling again at eight, we found ourselves before the footlights and facing an audience whose numbers were a very inspiration. Besides the choruses, there was a solo by Mr. Dockray, a duet by Messrs. Dockray and Donald, and an octet by men chosen from the club. Mr. Taylor, as before, ably assisted. Local talent in vocal and cello music, as well as singing by Mr. Schuch, the popular conductor of the club, were additional features in the programme, giving a pleasing balance and variety.

After the concert we adjourned to the supper-room, where most bountiful preparations were made, and the boys tried to do full justice to hospitality so practically shown. Songs and speeches passed the time till midnight, and homeward we took our way satisfied and pleased.

Most of the boys returned on Saturday, every train carrying away a few, the time chosen being such as pleasure or necessity dictated. Some, however, of the former visitors remained till Monday, very willing to continue acquaintanceships so pleasantly begun last term.

Solo—"What's the matter with Hamilton?"
Chorus—"It's all right."

THE COLLEGE WORLD.

The Amherst *Student* is printing a new college song each week, written for it exclusively.

The majority of college professors in the United States receive salaries under \$3,000, while not one receives over \$5,000.

Professors who have served in Columbia for fifteen years and are above sixty-five years of age are pensioned at half their regular salaries.

Statistics show that the 94 universities of England have 1,723 more professors and 51,814 more students than the 360 universities of the United States.

The faculty of Cornell has forbidden the Freshman and Sophomore classes to hold their banquets outside of Ithaca. Too much class spirit caused the decree.

For the first time the University of Leipzig will this season admit women to its privileges. Out of 3,300 students there will be six women, four of whom are Americans.—*Ex.*

GEORGE BADGEROW'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Lieutenant George A. Badgerow took place last Tuesday afternoon in the midst of a drizzling rain, but notwithstanding the state of the weather a large body of friends, comrades-in-arms and fellow-students turned out to witness the last sad rites at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. It was a very imposing and impressive ceremony, and left its impression upon the hearts of all present. The procession left the residence upon Avenue Road at about three o'clock, and slowly wound its way toward North Toronto. Company "K" of the Q. O. R., under Captain Brock and Lieutenant Coleman, formed the firing party, and marched at the head of the cortege. Following came the gun-carriage bearing the coffin of the deceased reverently wrapped in the Union Jack; the Q. O. R. 300 strong; a long line of students in cap and gown; and finally a procession of carriages almost lost to view in the distance. The battalion band played various military burial tunes on the way to the cemetery. At the entrance to Mount Pleasant the procession was joined by the surplice choir of All Saints Church, which led the way to the vault singing "Nearer my God to Thee," and "Forever with the Lord." Here a short burial service was performed by Rev. Septimus Jones and Rev. A. H. Baldwin, at the conclusion of which "K" Company paid their last tribute to their beloved comrade and officer by firing three ringing volleys over his remains. The coffin was then laid away in the vault and the last sad rites were over. Gathered around the coffin at the last were seen many sorrowing University men both graduates and undergraduates. Among the floral offerings were several from 'Varsity; a pillow from "K" Company with the letter "K" inscribed thereon, a harp from the Class Society of '92, a wreath from the students of University College, and a floral pillow with the letters "O. Z." from the Zeta Psi Society.

'MIDST THE MORTAR BOARDS.

Prof. Baldwin has been invited to lecture at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

A large case of books ordered for the library arrived from France last week.

Sir Daniel Wilson was "At Home" to the Third Year on Saturday evening.

The Class of '91 will hold a meeting in the Y.M.C.A. this afternoon at three o'clock. As there will be some very important matters discussed, it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

H. B. Fraser, General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., gave an address at the City Y. M. C. A. on Sunday evening.

The cataloguing of the books in the library will begin this week. With the aid of extra help it is hoped to finish this work by the first of October.

The annual meeting of "K" Company will be held next Saturday afternoon at five o'clock. Capt. Brock requests every member of the company to be present.

All the members of the City Mission Committee of the Y.M.C.A. are requested to be present at the meeting this afternoon as important business is to be discussed.

J. G. Witton, B.A., formerly Fellow in Physics, now master in Physics at Hamilton Collegiate Institute, was in the city on Saturday and Sunday visiting some of his old college friends.

Henry Southeran & Co., of London, Eng., have presented the Library with a finely illustrated copy of Picart's "Ceremonies and Religious Customs of the Nations of the Known World." The book was printed in 1733.

W. Waugh Lauder, an old Toronto boy and an occasional contributor to THE VARSITY away back in the eighties, has been appointed Dean and Director of the Twin Valley College and Ohio Conservatory of Music of Germantown, Ohio. This is a new institution but it has very strong financial support, and will doubtless prove a great success. Mr. Lauder is to be congratulated on his good fortune in being elected to such a desirable position.

Some time ago a complete edition of Bancroft's "History of the Pacific Coast" was received at the Library without any explanation as to from whom the gift came. Efforts to learn its source were made and have proved successful. The generous donor is J. J. Palmer, Esq., of San Francisco, a wealthy American and son-in-law of Wm. Christie, Esq., of the Board of Trustees. The edition consists of thirty-seven volumes, neatly bound, and valued at \$175.

THE WYLD PRIZE.—The following subjects for the Wyld prize essays have been announced. (1) The relation of Shakespeare's plays to the original sources from which he worked. (2) The ethical and political principles advocated in the works of Thomas Carlyle. (3) Human life as presented in Cowper, Crabbe and either Burns or Wordsworth. This competition is open to all students of the 3rd and 4th years in attendance at lectures. Competing essays must be in the hands of the Registrar by September 12th, 1891. The value of the prize is \$25.

Last Monday evening the residence students were honored by the presence of the President, Sir Daniel Wilson, at dinner. After dinner the students gathered in the gallery in the east end of the hall and were addressed by the President. Sir Daniel expressed his pleasure at dining in Residence, and told the students that he looked to them to sustain the reputation of the College even more than to the non-resident students, as they had a more intimate connection with it. That he also desired them to exercise more material protection over the buildings was evident from his announcement that plans have been made for the organization of a Residence Fire Brigade. The President remarks closed with a few complimentary remarks about the Dean and resident professors, which were received with cheers by the students.

A regular meeting of the Natural Science Association was held in the Chemical Lecture Room Friday, 20th. The First Vice-President occupied the chair. After the regular routine the Chairman called upon Mr. J. S. McKechnie for his paper on Volumetric Analysis. The writer explained the principles and applications of the method and dealt fully with its adaptability to certain chemical problems. After the paper was read Dr. Pike made a few remarks in which he explained that although the volumetric method gave an increase in speed over the gravimetric method, still it lost proportionately in accuracy. As an instance of the quickness of applying this method he explained the manner of estimating manganese as employed by the workmen engaged in Weldon's Prisms for the Regeneration of Manganese. The meeting then adjourned.

A SERIAL JOKE.

An Iowa woman has named her twin daughters Gasoline and Kerosene.—*Exchange.*

The old man's name is probably Pete Roleum.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

We hope the babies will grow up a parafine girls.—*Boston Herald.*

The man who marries into that family will strike oil.—*Cape Cod Item.*

But we fear that sparking in the immediate neighborhood of the girls in question will be a very dangerous pastime.—*Munsey's Weekly.*

The first match they light on the girls will probably go off.



STUDENTS ATTENTION!

This is a fac-simile of our pins made from the metal from the College bell, which we are selling at a moderate price. Every student should have one, as they make an interesting souvenir of the fire.

J. E. ELLIS,
Cor. King and Yonge Sts.