

Pages Missing

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

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Editorial Comments.



WHEN we have said that VARSITY has not the least sympathy with the bellicose letter published last week over the suggestive signature of "Old Roman" we have intimated our position on the subject in general.

An explanation as to why the communication was suffered to appear in our columns will probably not be unacceptable, if, at least, we may draw an inference from the unprecedented and unanimous outbreak of indignation against its misguided author. You will have perceived that the letter is capable of two decidedly distinct interpretations. If regarded in one way, it assumed the form of a bold and uncompromising, but incompetent and opprobrious, expression of opinions held by a no means inconsiderable portion of the student body, who still think that the ladies should have a separate institution. If regarded in the other way, it assumed the form of a cowardly, contemptible scrawl, in which the writer's ignorance and degraded nature is exposed by foundationless insinuations which we cannot find language strong enough to adequately condemn.

Now, our readers may be sure that it was as the first of these two that it was given space among our lines, and we think we are safe in saying that to a well-regulated and well-balanced mind this interpretation is the most natural. According to this, "Old Roman" expressed in an overdrawn and falsely-colored representation what seemed to him the natural and baneful results of co-education, and did not intend so much to have a hit at imaginary or trifling improprieties as to strike a blow at what he considered their natural cause. This explanation, we maintain, is rendered more probable by the fact that to a calm and impartial critic the article displayed more literary style and broader knowledge than could possibly exist in a man whose nature falls so far below the lowest of our misogynists who is so "raw from the prime" as to handle a pen to such a disgraceful purpose as the other interpretation implies. It is therefore to be hoped that our fellow-students will, for the fair fame of our Alma Mater, accept the interpretation we have pointed out.

Accordingly being such an article as our theory of facts would make it, the letter represented numerous members of the student body, and as such our way was not clear for its rejection. It is to be remembered that if you start muzzling a journal which is supposed to be representative, you are in great danger of permitting it to degenerate into a mediocrity, innocuous, it is true, but painfully inane. If a considerable body of students be not allowed to promulgate their views, that body is suffering an injustice. Again, when a man comes to the editor to whom he is personally opposed, and says that his communication embodies the views of a large number of students, that, unless

you are guilty of rank partiality and unfair discrimination, resulting from pecuniary, personal or political considerations, you are bound to give it publication, he carries with him a weight by no means inconsiderable.

From these and other facts you will easily grasp the point that the man in the editorial chair is not one who "feeds on the roses and lies on the lilies of life." We tried conscientiously to do our duty, and trust we did not fail. We believed that if the article met with the first interpretation, the one occurring first to elevated minds, such as we thought our undergraduates possessed, there could no harm result from its appearance. Moreover, we considered that by especially noting that it did not meet with the editorial sanction we were placing ourselves beyond the reproach of being responsible for the publication of anything improper.

Our own views and the views of the majority of the student body are that co-education, if properly understood and put into practice, will do more to produce an ideal class of students than by any other system. We rejoice that "knowledge is no more a fountain sealed," and hope that "all may drink deep until the habits of the slave, the sins of emptiness, gossip, spite and slander die." We believe that the full realization of the value of college training, the training so much prated about, that comes, not from books alone, will come with the time when "two plummets shall drop for one to sound the abyss of science and the secrets of the mind." We hold that woman, "twice as magnetic to sweet influences of earth and heaven," cannot fail to have such an influence, refining but developing, polishing but strengthening, our rougher selves, until we may be brought nearer Matthew Arnold's ideal of "sweetness and light," the necessary aim, we earnestly believe, for every one who is worthily called a student.

Our opinions outlined above are most adequately and exquisitely expressed in the lines found near the close of Tennyson's "Princess." We have not space to quote them, but trust our readers will turn them up for reference. They begin:—

"'Blame not thyself too much,' I said; 'nor blame
Too much the sons of men and barbarous laws.'

"The woman's cause is man's; they rise or sink
Together, dwarfed or God-like, bond or free.

"Yet in the long years liker must they grow;
The man be more of woman, she of man.

"Then springs the crowning race of human kind.
May these things be."

The University of Chicago recently purchased 280,000 volumes and 120,000 dissertations in all languages.

Mrs. Stanford has given the University sculptures to the value of \$25,000. The carving was done by George Brontas, the Athenian sculptor. Statues of Achilles and Paris are among them.

PHASES OF ATHENIAN POLITICS.



FAMOUS Englishman once said there was more to be learnt from a column of the *Times* than from all Thucydides, forgetting how often the column of the *Times* is but the echo of Thucydides (some Periclean ideal, e.g., of plain thinking and high thinking or of high art which yet never degenerates into æsthetic-

cism : φιλοσοφοῦμεν μετὰ εὐτελείας, φιλοκαλοῦμεν ἄνευ μαλακίας), forgetting too that often the most eager reader of the *Times* and of Thucydides is one and the same person, as in the case of the historian Grote. To Grote, Athenian politics were as real as English, and the part which he himself played in the politics of England was the expression of the views which he had formed from studying the politics of Athens : just as conversely, since his day, other scholars have modified their views of Athenian democracy in the light of their fuller experience of democracy in England.

The first figure of surpassing interest in the history of Athenian democracy is Pericles, the idealist and reformer ; whose ideals, whether practicable or not, are in sympathy with the ideals of our own age : he attempted in Athens, under favorable conditions, what democracy is attempting to-day, under conditions which even in America are not more favorable,—the building up of a state in which caste privileges and caste prejudices should disappear ; in which there should be no aristocracy but the aristocracy of merit, and no democracy but the democracy of enlightenment, moderation and liberty ; a levelling up, not a levelling down. It was for this purpose that he attached payment to attendance on the jury panel, parliament and theatres, that the poorest citizen might enjoy the education furnished by law, politics and art. If his system diffused higher education too widely, and created a taste for professional life in excess of the demand for men so educated, his mistake arose only from the generous enthusiasm and boundless hope of the age, which was like the Elizabethan age in England or the age which gave birth to the Revolution in France. The passion for encyclopædic culture was in the air, and every one aspired to be like the sophist Hippias, a universal genius. Pericles' mood was the mood which inspired in Milton the eloquence of the Arespagitian. The idealism in which his thoughts habitually moved can be traced in the Funeral Speech, especially in his reference to the causes of Athenian courage and the consolations of old age.

The next type of Athenian statesman is Nicias : the moderate and respectable conservative, with negative virtues and no extremes, except an extreme and, as it turned out, a fatal piety. In the unscrupulous politics of ancient Greece such a man attracted strong regard and affection, and Nicias, in spite of his recklessness in the matter of Pylos, was venerated in Athens and sent against his will to Sicily, where his weakness and selfishness ruined the Athenian army. As Mirabeau was lost to France on account of his bad character, so Nicias was raised to power in Athens on the strength of personal merits : in either case the confusion of moral with political excellence was fatal to the fortunes of the people who suffered their thoughts to be thus confused.

The next phase of politics worth attention is presented by Cleon, the extreme democrat. By democracy Cleon appears to have understood, not a fair field and no favor, but class government by, and in the interests of, the poor, whom he identified with the people or demus. He was, however, a man of force of character and strong sense, and his description of Athenian inconstancy, of the idealising and unpractical element which was at once the strength and weakness of Athens, remains still the most vivid and effective piece of character-painting to be found in Thucydides. The evil of his influence lay in the jealousy and dislike of education and the educated which began to mark Athenian democracy from his time. The educated began in consequence to abstain from politics or

plot treason ; the politicians became more " practical " and narrow : they called moderate men " purists " ; and the moderate, being debarred from close acquaintance with politics, began to deserve the epithet and became overfastidious and impracticable. " The Republic," said Robespierre, " does not want chemists " : so Athens began not to want philosophers. " Atheism," said Robespierre, " is wrong, because it is aristocratic : " so Athens exiled or put to death on the charge of aristocratic politics or atheism not only Socrates but also Phidias, Protagoras and Anaxagoras, the remnant of Pericles' circle and of the days when democracy had meant enlightenment. " Put pity into your Republic," said Lamartine, " if you want it to last : " the Athenian Democrats began to count pity and refinement of education an anachronism in practical politicians.

And now appears a new phase and type and the interesting personality of Theramenes. So far as the capitulation to Sparta is concerned, Theramenes cannot be acquitted of treachery : but it is not so clear that his treachery was not palliated to his mind by the purity of his devotion to a political ideal otherwise unattainable. His contemporaries called him a selfish and insincere trickster and a turncoat : and he undeniably deserted both parties in turn. But the motive for his changes of front cannot be explained on the assumption of insincerity and selfishness. On the contrary, he flung away his life without hesitation, although he was in no danger, rather than forego his political ideal. The inference is that he was a zealot for a carefully balanced government, neither aristocratic nor democratic so much as constitutional : an idealist in his way like Pericles—but scientific rather than moral, philosophical rather than philanthropic : what would be called in modern times " an academic liberal "—one who is liberal in sympathy but distrusts the popular judgment and an extended franchise, and would rather work for than through the people. " The independent statesman," said the witty Lord Melbourne, " is the statesman not to be depended upon ; " and Theramenes was the Athenian independent : but perhaps the best judgment of him, and of men like him, is Goldsmith's epitaph on Burke, the English Theramenes :

" Who, too deep for his hearers, still went on refining,
And thought of convincing when they thought of dining ;
The equal to all things, for all things unfit—
Too nice for a statesman, too proud for a wit,
For a patriot too cool, for a drudge disobedient,
And too fond of the right to pursue the expedient—
In short, 'twas his fate unemployed or in place, sir,
To eat mutton cold and cut blocks with a razor."

The fifth phase of politics is connected with the name of Eubulus, the statesman, who governed Athens in her age of decay, when all things both good and evil had shrunk into the shadow of their former selves, when the love of politics had become mere indolent shirking of the forum for gossip, and the love of art mere preference of the theatre to the hardships of the camp. The masses now, not only the classes, abstained from voting, and politics were left to a small caucus. " There is," says Demosthenes, " an orator on each side and a general, and the caucus of three hundred who do the shouting ; the rest of you are a mere make-weight." Plato in the same way divides the state into drones stinging and stingless (the professional politicians and their caucuses), bees whom the drones pillage (the commercial, upper and middle class), and the masses who are indifferent rarely vote for either bees or drones. It was for this Athens of the decadence, with her *fin-de-siècle* tone of mingled levity, luxury and despair, with her frivolous head full of the latest Corinthian cookery, the latest Corinthian flute player, the latest fashionable beauty, Athens when a joke had become the end of life and the end of life a joke, Athens which the apostle, quoting unconsciously from Demosthenes, described as given over to the hearing and the telling of some new thing that Eubulus catered. Naturally he gave his attention only to finance ; life had come to mean amusement,

and that meant money. He therefore insisted on place at any price, and having so filled the public treasury, emptied it again in doles to all who wanted them; especially in theatre fees, the abrogation of which he made high treason. So the one inviolable principle of the constitution, the one question which was not open, the one element of geniality in thought and legislation became the right of the democracy to be amused at the public cost. It was partly due to Pericles' similar system of fees—conceived, however, by Pericles for very different ends—that Eubulus was able to waste the revenues thus, and it is from this point of view that Plato and the philosophers assail the memory of Pericles. They judged his system by its latter end as it was travestied by Eubulus. But it cannot be denied that the system admitted of being thus abused and ministered even from the first to the weakness of the Athenian character, its indolence, loquacity and contentiousness, its incapacity for combination, co-operation and patient endurance.

Only one distinct type remains before the history of free Athens closes, Phocion, the pessimist and the idealist of reaction. Phocion seems not merely to have despaired of saving Athens from Macedon, but even to have judged her not worth saving. He had been brought up in the circles of Isocrates and of Plato, and the two circles agreed in one point—a dislike of democracy and reaction to monarchy and aristocracy. His reaction appears in all the literature of the day, in Theopompus, Xenophon, Isocrates and Plato, even in Aristotle sometimes, and Euripides. Plutarch's life of Phocion reminds the reader of the life of Carlyle; there is the same contempt for popular government, the same scorn of Parliament, the same kindly cynicism, the same deification of silence. So it came about that Phocion, though the best Athenian soldier of the age, steadily opposed the war with Philip which Demosthenes preached, and, though a laconic speaker, steadily supported the plan which gave to more popular orators the control of the state. Yet even Demosthenes recognized in his motives an entire unselfishness, which he saw in no one else, and in his speaking the weight which sprang from a spotless record and made the speaker eloquent. "Here comes," Demosthenes used to say when Phocion rose, "the pruner of my periods." The people, too, united to honor him, though he returned their cheers only with characteristic cynicism and laconic sarcasm. "What are they cheering for?" he asked once, "have I said anything particularly foolish?"

But while the personal character of Phocion is unimpeachable, his political policy is not. It is by no means clear that Demosthenes, the Athenian Gambetta, was foredoomed to failure. Though he failed, it looks as if on the day when he secured by his eloquence the alliance of Thebes—one of the rare instances in history of votes being won over by the hundred by a speech—he came as near defeating Philip as Gambetta came near defeating Germany when his agent, General Faidherbe, both won and lost again the battle of St. Quentin. In any case, what could an energetic Athenian do when his country lay on her bed of sickness, and the political doctors told him that she had but one chance out of ten, except answer with the grim American President on his sick bed: "Well, I will try the one chance"? Demosthenes did this, and the Athenians, who loved Phocion for his personal rectitude, loved Demosthenes also for his political rectitude, and thanked him even after his defeat. "Quod de republica non desperasset."

If the philosophy, then, of Plato, paralysed Phocion's mind and palsied his arm, it is but one illustration out of many that in politics, as in morals, "divine philosophy may overshoot the mark and be procuress to the lords of hell."

Nevertheless because moral and political excellence are often widely divorced, it yet remains true that the most interesting character, the most tragic figure—for surely the most tragic case is his who, in the critical strug-

gles of his age, not merely despairs of success, but doubts if it be worth while succeeding—and the most lovable man of the great Athenian statesmen, more lovable than Pericles, the dreamer after perfection, than Nicias, the well-meaning pietist, than Cleon, the rigorous democrat, than Theramenes, the academic statesman, even than Demosthenes, the fiery orator and fervent patriot, was the single-minded pessimist, the kindly cynic, Phocion.

 REFUTATION.

I loved a maiden, young and fair;
I once believed her true;
But changing time, alas! has shown
That maidens' hearts change too.

I flung around her winsome form
The veil that fancy wove.
With sweetest grace her soul endowed;
But oh, how blind is Love!

I tuned my lyre in her praise
And sang a strain sublime;
But what a satire seems that text,
With its commentary—Time!

No more I seek, as once I sought,
A maiden's heart to steal;
But now, despairing human faith,
I worship an ideal.

The fairy form that haunts my dreams,
Is Fancy's child serene;
But—impious prayer—on earth I pray
That some day she'll be seen.

When hoping most, ne'er did I hope
To meet my own ideal;
But voices low have sweetly said,
All fairy forms are real.

These whispers heard, my spirit stirred
With cruel, deceptive thrill;
Joy's candles beamed, alas! I dreamed,
And she was spirit still.

Now O ye wise, with piercing eyes,
If Enid e'er ye see,
Oh pray be kind! the fairy bind,
And lead her straight to me.

 EXCHANGES.

Contributions to *S. U. I. Quill* are by no means feathery. Its article on "Drauss und Eben" is somewhat weighty.

The *University Monthly*, of Fredericton, laments the dilapidated state of its gymnasium. Varsity cannot sympathize with you, Mr. Blue-nose, because she has none.

Haverfordian regrets greatly the loss of interest taken in its Literary Society on account of the increased dimensions of Haverford College. VARSITY's laments are likewise great.

There is no exchange on the table so unmercifully treated as the *Brunonian* of Brown University. It is sacrificed, almost weekly, by the editorial scissors on the altar of Plagiarism.

"Life's Mile-posts" of the Western Maryland College *Monthly* is well worth its perusal. Every mile-post in life, like the termination of each of Shakespeare's Seven Ages, has its own peculiar characteristics.

The Varsity.

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FEBRUARY 23, 1892.

BROWNING.

Professor Alexander, in the course of his lecture, remarked that to turn to Browning from the elegancies of much modern poetry was to escape from the oppressive, enervating atmosphere of the conservatory to the cool, invigorating breezes of the moorland.

As far as the writer knows, the comparison is apt; he had been in the conservatory and felt the depressing hot-house atmosphere, but has usually taken his out-door exercise on Shakespeare mount or the heather hills of Burns. There are some lovely wild flowers on these heights; the breezes are pure and invigorating, the light of heaven pours down and gladdens them without the intervention of smoky panes. These are delightful spots, and we love the modest crimson-tipped flower, and the bank whereon the wild thyme grows; but the wild flower blooms in many places, and we are glad to have the Professor declare that he has found some lovely plants on Browning moor.

It is hard work sometimes to find them though, the moor is rough and the paths uncertain. Only a practised eye can detect them unerringly, but when the delighted traveller sees the lovely petals hidden in the grass, they are beautiful and sweet enough to repay his trouble, and he will not think them the less beautiful or less sweet if the coarse sedges have scarred his fingers in reaching for them.

It is a pity the grass grows so rank though, especially as the moor is somewhat shaded from the full light of day. The obscurity is troublesome to the unaccustomed eye, and so many people now have imperfect sight. It is a pity the light is not better, but if it is all that the Professor says, it is worth visiting, and we think we shall make our next excursion thither. We have been flower-gathering lately in a different sort of place: a lovely lawn of smoothest velvet, the hedges are trimmed with the greatest exactness, the walks are gravelled and wind pleasantly in and out among the trees, without running in any particular direction whatever. That is in general, but occasionally, when one does not expect it, he comes out on some elevation where the path ends abruptly, but from which there is a glorious prospect. He sees

"the visions of the world, and all the wonders that would be and learns
That thro' the ages one increasing purpose runs
And the thoughts of men are widen'd with the process of the suns."

But the path ends here and he retraces his steps and again he is among the flowers and trees. It is a beautiful garden, but it is rather wearying; and we prefer the woods and valleys still. So the prospect of a day on the moor is pleasant. We shall choose some bright afternoon, or

perhaps the morning would be better, and if there is good promise we shall go again and again until we can walk without stumbling through its shadiest spots. Our eyes will surely grow accustomed to the shadows in time.

The popularity of Professor Alexander's lecture shows that the Toronto people have the good sense to recognize ability when they meet it. The hall was crowded on Saturday week. It is delightful to listen to a calm, dispassionate revelation of the beauties of poetic art by one who speaks of that he knows. There is a philosophy of poetry, and the Professor has mastered it. He does not need to indulge in the rant about "sublimity of conception" so often heard from the platform when poetry is under discussion. If Browning is obscure there are reasons for the obscurity, and the fault may be in the reader or in Browning or in both. The Professor does not think obscurity a merit. It may be a necessity of the author's style but it is an unfortunate necessity. Browning is often needlessly obscure, but in great measure it arises from the nature of the subject or is the outcome of great qualities. He has so much to say that he must need avoid unnecessary words. Again, his neglect to represent abstract truths concretely produces those heavy pieces which have been so hurtful to his reputation.

The poet has a philosophy of life; a philosophy purely spiritual, and in "The Grammarian's Funeral" he brings out a character embodying his ideal of a man fulfilling his one aim in life.

Recognizing the relativity of truth and the fallibility of human knowledge, Browning does not in any particular poem reveal his inner self, but in a careful study of his works as a whole the true character of the man comes out. Unlike most modern poets, he is best in objective poetry, but his objectivity differs from that of Shakespeare. He describes the inward emotions directly from their own standpoint instead of leaving them to be inferred from actions, as does the great dramatist; he brings the mind before us on an imaginary stage as Shakespeare has brought the body on a real one.

A song is the expression of a mood; and the peculiarity of Browning's lyrics is that he expresses some one else's mood, hence to understand the song it is essential that we study and understand the situation.

During the course of his lecture the Professor read three of Browning's shorter poems to illustrate his remarks, pointing, in "The Grammarian's Funeral," to his tendency to unite the concrete with the abstract. The march of the bearers up the height, to the lofty spot where the body of the worn-out student is laid, emblematic of the long, noble toil up the steeps of learning to the goal of life.

UNIVERSITY FEES.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—I wish to call attention to the flagrant injustice of charging students a dollar a month interest on all fees unpaid after the end of October.

This regulation affects a class of students against whom it is impossible to think it was intended to operate. To the wealthier class of students it is immaterial whether their fees are paid in October or in April, for the necessary money is always obtainable; but the majority, after paying railway fares, buying books, etc., find it impossible to pay their fees during the first term. These latter, who are the least able, have to bear the penalty of not being born with the proverbial silver spoon.

No one would object to paying a fair rate of interest, but when seven dollars is charged for seven months' interest on twenty, it places the University authorities in the unpleasant light of usurers.

You, I think, will agree with me, Mr. Editor, in urging the Senate to give this matter their speedy attention, and right what they must see is a crying injustice. \$27.

SYSTEMS OF ASTRONOMY.

Of all the sciences, Astronomy, probably, has a history the most interesting. This history was the subject of the Saturday lecture of Professor Baker, and the lecturer, in the short time given, succeeded in presenting to his hearers a comprehensive view of the growth of astronomical science from its beginnings in the unscientific fancies of early observers down to the great triumph of Newton. The Professor had prepared a number of very fine drawings and, with their aid, explained away all the difficulties of the different systems, the mysteries of the epicycles, eccentrics and ellipses. Popular the lecture was, only in the sense of being interesting, well arranged and lucidly presented; the scientific object was never for a moment forgotten.

This scientific object is best stated in the lecturer's own words: "To sketch the successive steps by which man advanced from his primitive conception of the cosmos, or system of the universe, to the theory at present held; especially to point out how naturally, and necessarily, almost, the advance from one step to the next in this process of scientific evolution was made until the truth was finally attained." To this end it was shown how man, starting from the thought that he was the centre of all things, passed to the theory of a universe with the earth as centre, the sun, moon, planets and stars all being attendant spheres to it; and thence to the theory of the sun as centre of our local system, itself being "but one of the countless millions of stars that through the infinite depths of space." It was shown how each system or theory, while offering an explanation or partial explanation of phenomena, involved itself in ruin, at the same time leading up to and furnishing material as a basis for the succeeding theory; how each age became absorbed in special inquiry and developed a genius to be its exponent; and how finally the present test-defying theory is but the natural fruition of the centuries of questioning and investigation. Thus the great facts in the history of Astronomy are not mere isolated accidents; rather incidents in a continuous development, events in the stately march of cause and effect.

First the established explanation of celestial phenomena was given. It was shown that a motion of the earth—a sphere—on its axis, combined with a motion of the earth and the planets in elliptic orbits about the sun, accounts for all the varying appearances of the heavens—not only those that are noticed by every one, as the daily motion of the sun and stars, the motion of the sun from day to day from east to west across the "starry background," the forward and backward motions of the planets among the stars, the remarkable phases of the moon, but also those changes rendered noticeable only by the most refined instruments.

Quoting from the *Odyssey*, the lecturer showed how the early Greeks explained these motions. The constellations and the sun moved from east to west, and sailed round on the river Oceanus, by the north—a conjecture which may have been confirmed by the appearance of the summer sun in northern latitudes or by the aurora. The earliest explanation worthy of being called a theory supposed the stars fixed on crystalline spheres. But this did not account for the motions of the sun and the planets among the stars. Hence a multiplication of spheres, giving the Pythagorean system of twelve spheres. This theory received its final elaboration from Eudoxus of Cindos (second century B.C.), who gave to the sun and the moon each three spheres and to the planets each four. But closer observation revealed motions and variations not yet explained and there grew up the theory of epicycles and eccentrics. This system, known as the Ptolemaic, was propounded by Apollonius of Alexandria, and developed by Hipparchus (to whose genius an eloquent tribute was paid) and Ptolemy (second century after Christ).

The Ptolemaic continued to reign until the sixteenth century, when Copernicus dissatisfied with the complexities

of the received theory was led to explain all the difficulties by considering the sun as the centre of our system, around it revolving the earth and the other planets. But he retained somewhat of the old system—an error to be corrected by Tycho Brahe. The telescope had now been invented and progress was rapid. Brahe tabulated and collected results of his observations which his pupil and follower, Kepler, used to good purpose in arriving at what are known as Kepler's Laws. These in turn became material for the genius of Newton, and we have the Law of Gravitation.

We cannot close this imperfect sketch of the lecture without expressing a wish that next year the single lecture on Astronomy may grow into an extended course.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

There was a goodly attendance at the meeting of the Engineering Society, on Tuesday last. Among those present were a number of graduates, as well as several of the faculty. The main feature of the programme was a paper on "Sewage Disposal," read by Mr. H. J. Chewett, '88. The paper was a thorough and unique discussion of the subject from practical, theoretical and historical stand-points, and though the subject is one upon which much has been written and said, Mr. Chewett introduced many new ideas, and considered old problems in new phases, in a way to be appreciated by those present. All the systems of disposal at present in use were commented upon, including the sewage farm, the electrical, chemical, and filtration methods; and after taking the merits of each under discussion the writer showed that the last was found to be the most serviceable system. From an historical standpoint the subject was treated in an exhaustive manner, the development of the sewage question being traced from ancient Greece and Rome, through medieval London, down to the present practical age.

Another week sees the much-talked-of "Opening" close at hand. The invitations have been out for a week or more, and a commonly heard question about University circles is, "Are you going to the School of Science Opening?" Everyone concerned is doing his best to make the event a success, and the present indications are that an enjoyable evening will be spent, especially by those who have a tendency toward the scientific. As this will be somewhat after the nature of the old conversat, it is hoped that it will in a small measure replace that event, though the management of the latter was in the hands of the students. There is a degree of disappointment among the engineers because that, owing to the nature of the event, they have been unable to arrange for such a reception at S.P.S. as they would desire to give their friends. The "Opening" is not a students' affair but is official, and consequently it is not to be looked on as would be a reception by the undergrads.

We are glad to hear of the success of Mr. W. L. Innes, '90, who has recently been promoted to the position of chief engineer of the C.P.R. roads between London and Detroit.

THE GRADUATING PHOTO.

A large number of sittings for the Graduating Photo of the Class of '92 has been taken by Mr. J. Fraser Bryce, 107 King Street West. There are still some members of the Class who have not yet called on Mr. Bryce. They are requested to do so without delay as the sittings will close about the first of March.

GEO. E. McCRAVEY, Secretary.

Out of 501 students at Johns Hopkins, 295 are pursuing courses as graduates.

MEDICAL NOTES.

Quite a large number of the students in Medicine who reside in the eastern part of the city are of the opinion that the lectures in Topographical Anatomy should be given at the Old School. All the lectures of the 3rd and 4th years, except in the above subject, are given at the school, and the convenience of the students should be consulted. We have known good students object to attending our school just because lectures have been given at two buildings so far apart, and now that the difficulty has been overcome by dividing the work in two parts to suit the men of the primary and final years we are much disappointed to see one of our lecturers break the order of things. Of course the old school does not give advantages of perfect ventilation and tone to the subject under consideration, but we are sure that we are willing to forego these immense advantages in order to use the time taken up in walking about four miles in pursuits more entertaining. We are sorry to mention the fact to our lecturer, but as we can scarcely get along without attending the lectures we humbly ask if it could be made convenient in any way for him to desert his "noble pile" for a less illustrious platform and give all of us a chance to brighten up those facts which have almost faded from our benighted minds during the past two years.

"The laws of the Medes and Persians changeth not." We have been informed of such by the Senate, and presumably though the law be unkind, its provisions must be carried out. We are reminded of Dr. Clarke's illustration of the quickness of repartee of insane individuals. One individual asking some privilege was informed by the doctor, that it was contrary to the rules and he would not like to change his mind. The reply was, "Only another proof of the old adage—a wise man changes his mind, but a fool never."

The Committee on Medical Council Examinations has put forth a petition, which is now being circulated among the students. In this petition the great injustice and inconvenience which would result to students should the proposed changes in regard to the time of holding examinations not be rescinded but come into force at the stated time, is very clearly set forth, but in such a respectful and reasonable manner that no reasonable body could well refuse to be influenced. It has been suggested by one of our worthy Professors that a middle course would have been the best to follow in this matter. That instead of petitioning to have the Fall examination held in April, as heretofore, we should have asked that it be held in the beginning of June or latter half of May. This would permit of the holding of the school examination at least one month later, and thus lengthen out a term which under the present system is much too short for the amount of work to be covered. Certainly it must be admitted that this would be very advantageous to the student, and much to be preferred to the Fall examination. But yet it is doubtful if it would be popular with the students as a whole. As is well known, a sort of panic seizes upon students of all classes in the spring—an intense longing to get through with study and examinations for a season, that they may hie them away to the country for the summer. An Arts student, who from the nature of his course is kept writing on examinations till even the 1st of June, is considered, and considers himself, very unlucky indeed. But even if this be admitted as an objection, the suggestion to petition for a June examination is a good one, more particularly as the Council would have been more disposed to grant such a petition than one which asks them to return to the old order of things, which in itself is practically equivalent to acknowledging an error of judgment in deciding on the changes to come into force next year should our petition be refused.

The first graduation at Harvard University was in 1646.

WOMEN AT VARSITY.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent, "Old Roman," has in your issue of last week made "a few observations" concerning the lady undergraduates, which have attracted a good deal of attention. It is gratifying to know, however, that of all the comments which I have heard made upon the letter in question none expressed anything but disagreement or wrath or desire for the blood of the writer. I think, however, that something more than mere passing comment is due, and that, even though the letter bears upon its face conclusive evidence of having been written by a contemptible cad, it should not go unanswered.

I do not wish it to be said that I can find no other method of replying to argument than that of calling names, but, nevertheless, I do not hesitate in saying that I think "contemptible cad" describes the writer better than "Old Roman." The people of ancient Rome would indeed be pleased at having such an admirable, refined and gallant specimen among them. He assumes the position of conservator of the proprieties, and has the audacity to criticize the conduct of the undergraduates and to reprove them for their behavior both inside and outside of college. To reprove those of his own sex is bad enough; to presume to criticize the conduct of the lady undergraduates is beyond all the bounds of toleration. His reproof is uncalled for, his criticism is unmanly, and his insinuations could only emanate from the brain of a coward with a pseudonym.

That such a letter could have been written by an undergraduate of the University is a matter of sincere regret. I will venture to say, however, that the total number of "Old Romans" among us does not exceed one. Many of us may disapprove of co-education, but however strong our feelings upon the question may be, we are fully sensible of the honor and respect which is due to those who avail themselves of the opportunities afforded; and if we are fortunate enough to know any of them we should consider it our duty to publicly denounce and repudiate such statements as "Old Roman" has presumed to make.

Yours, etc., W. H. BUNTING, '92.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—Do our College walls still stand containing such a degenerate son as "Old Roman"! It is not to defend the dignity of the women of Toronto University that I take up my pen—their own dignity and bearing is sufficient shield against all such cowardly attacks as that of last week. After two years of close, unprejudiced and critical observation of the conduct of the students, I can only wish that some of the men could boast a little of the dignity which characterizes the women of our College. Did THE VARSITY remain within our own corridors there would be no need of reply to that letter of your last issue—because the students and professors know how false the insinuations are—but it is to those who read THE VARSITY outside of the College that I wish most emphatically to say that "Old Roman's" letter was uncalled for, untrue and unmanly.

A man who insinuates is contemptible, but when he does so anonymously he is doubly so. "Old Roman" makes no statement—he cannot—but he insinuates with all the effect of the winking, head-shaking, eye-rolling of a consummate gossip.

How well he proves the truth of the lines that—

A lie which is all a lie may be met and fought outright,
But a lie which is part a truth, is a harder matter to fight!

Certainly the women greet their friends in the corridors, certainly they walk in the same direction to and from lectures, but where, pray, is the harm, real or imaginary? It is not, then, a cardinal sin for men and women to recognize each other anywhere—except within our own corridors? Well! Well! Because men and women—friends—meet within the same halls of learning, where one would suppose

them to throw all petty formalities to the winds, this "Old Roman" expects them to drop their eyelids—to look but see not—to pass each other with vacant stares! Truly he is a *very* old Roman.

He hints darkly at some indefinite crimes—too terrible for words—which he expresses by a dash, and threatens—actually—to reveal more—dashes, no doubt—if the women's manner is not improved! What a *very* surprising world we live in!

And now, "Old Roman," take kindly the advice of a well-wisher. Pack thy valise, get thee hence to Persia or Turkey! There wilt thou find veiled faces, drooping eyelids; there wilt thy grey hairs not be brought with sorrows to the grave by the thought that the aim of every woman's life is to make *thee* a victim of her wiles, to corrupt *thy* high morals by her glances and her smiles, to unfit *thee* for thy life's work. There, O thou son of Adam, the woman will not tempt thee!

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH M. LAWSON, '94.

University College, Feb. 17, 1892.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—We are told that ancient "Old Romans," though rude indeed, were yet self-controlled and patriotic. A letter in your last issue conclusively proves that modern "Old Romans," doubtless by way of improvement, have developed the first of these qualities to the entire extinction of the others. It is an interesting study in reverse evolution to notice this progress from an unshorn Roman Cato, who would have deprived the matrons of their jewels, to a beardless Canadian Stultus, who has deprived himself of his manners. On ordinary occasions it is well to pass by in contempt the spasmodic utterances of evident impotence, but there are times, as Grattan long ago said, when the insignificance of the accuser is lost in the magnitude of the accusation.

It is not, however, on behalf of the lady undergraduates that we desire to express our indignation—it is not the language of canting bigotry that can injure them—it is rather on behalf of the *gentlemen* that we reply to the intemperate nonsense of one who in pursuit of manliness has so conspicuously displayed the absence of the first of its requisites. The *gentleman* arraigns the ladies—and especially the ladies of his own class—at the bar of Dame Propriety. He states his charges with an air of supercilious horror; it appears, however, that even his Roman heart is too faint to read the whole indictment, but what has he got to say? Why some poor, paltry, insipid slanders—or truths, if you will—that ought not to impose on a child's understanding and, like other charges long ago made, need only to be mentioned that they may be despised. "Ladies speak to their friends whenever their sweet will dictates; they permit escorts to accompany them to the very doors of learning's home, and some of the fresher of the freshwomen have even gone so far as to —, but I cannot declare it." We would express the hope that none of them will ever go so far as to permit him to accompany them to the very doors of learning's home. Special emphasis is laid on the momentous fact that one of the lady-undergraduates has been seen with an escort walking to church. These are, indeed, villanies of the darkest dye; but, atrocious as they are, worse, we are warned, could be mentioned. What do you mean, sir? But he is afraid to speak out. Fear not, Camillus. You can injure nobody. If the charges already advanced are what your bravery exposes, we have little cause for apprehension at what your cowardice conceals.

In reference to the aim which all men should have in attending our alma mater, we fully agree with the gentleman. We do come "to be ready to take our place in life as men"—cultured men, chivalrous men, *manly* men, and we must learn the supreme lesson of all high training. "Above all things," said Lord Dufferin, to the students of St. Andrew's, "above all things cultivate a tender and

loving reverence for women; it is the keystone of all goodness." And does the great statesman mean a distant reverence—an austere devotion? He would tell us to learn that lesson in the actual society of women, the society afforded by our homes, and by our University too. It is only a false and distorted manhood that shrinks from the company of those whom it is bound to admire, and serve, and love; and it is nothing but the narrowest intolerance for those who wish to be strong to maintain that women can give them nothing, when they can give them the most essential element and the crowning glory of strength—the element of purity, and the glory of refinement. And small is our respect for the man who so little respects himself as to refer in contemptuous terms to those who, when mentioned at all, should always be mentioned with courtesy, and to drag into the profaning blaze of notoriety that sweetest name, that name which should ever be held most sacred, the name of woman.

CHANDOS.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR.

NOTE.—Contributions to this column must be received before Saturday night. The secretaries of the different societies are requested to furnish us with definite but very concise information as to the time and place of meeting.

TUESDAY, FEB. 23RD.

Natural Science Association.—"Spirifera Disjuncta," W. A. Parks; "The Phosphines," F. Smale. Chemical Lecture Room, 4 p.m.
Class of '94 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.
Class of '93 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24TH.

Opening of the Engineering Laboratory, School of Practical Science. Addresses: Hon. G. W. Ross, Principal Galbraith, Prof. Coleman. S.P.S., 7.30, 8, 9.30 p.m.
Y.W.C.A. Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.
Y.M.C.A. Bible Class.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 25TH.

Class of '95 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 8.30 a.m.
Oriental Seminary.—Room 6, 2 p.m.
Y.M.C.A. Meeting.—Korean Mission. Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.
College Glee Club.—"Over the Don," "Buns." 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26TH.

College Glee Club Nominations.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.
VARSITY Editorial Staff.—VARSITY Office, 7.15 p.m.
Ladies' Glee Club.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 1 p.m.
Medical Society Elections.—Old School, 8 p.m.
Literary Society.—Mock Parliament. Notices of motion must be in for Constitution Night. Y.M.C.A. Hall, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 27TH.

Regular University Lecture.—"The Ancient and Modern Stage," H. Rushton Fairclough, M.A. University Hall, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 28TH.

Bible Class.—"St. Paul at Miletus," Acts, xx. 17-38. Rev. J. P. Sheraton, D.D. Wycliffe College, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 29TH.

Class of '92 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 9.40 a.m.
S.P.S. Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 5 p.m.
Modern Language Club.—"Mme. de Stael." Essays: Life; Corinne. Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1ST.

Class of '94 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.
Class of '93 Prayer Meeting.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 10 a.m.
Philosophical Society of '94.—Y.M.C.A. Hall, 4 p.m.

AMONG THE COLLEGES.

Four hundred young ladies were unable to gain admission to Vassar College, the institution being filled to its utmost capacity.

Mr. D. L. Moody has offered to receive twenty-five young ladies from Christian Endeavor Societies at his Training School for Christian workers for merely nominal rates.

Senator and Mrs. Stanford, in order to form an art collection for their new university, propose to have copies made of all the masterpieces of Europe. The King of Italy, the Czar, and the King of Belgium have consented to the project and will aid in making the selections.

NOTICE.

All reports of meetings or events occurring up to Thursday evening must be in the hands of the Editor by Friday noon, or they will not be published.

'MIDST THE MORTAR BOARDS.

William Brydone, B.A., '90, is studying law in the city.

William Climie, B.A., '88, is editor of the Listowel *Banner*.

Mr. C. P. Bishop, '92, is teaching in Listowel High School.

Mr. C. P. Clark, B.A., '86, is practising medicine in Buffalo.

We are glad to see J. H. Brown again. He favored our sanctum with a call this week.

Mr. Ambrose De Guerre, B.A., '83, is teaching mathematics in Galt Collegiate Institute.

Mr. T. C. Dirdge, '91, takes charge of the Mathematical Department in Listowel High School.

By the will of the late James McClaren, brother of William McClaren, D.D., Knox college receives the handsome gift of \$50,000.

We are promised a full and critical account of the Glee Club concert for next issue. Our columns are so crowded this week we cannot give it space.

Out of the 463 letters we received this week concerning "Old Roman," the majority of which were excellent, we select three of the best for insertion this issue.

The latest number of the University Studies in Political Science is written by Miss D. T. Scott, B.A. In it she treats of the labor question as it affects woman in Ontario.

Prof. R. Ramsay Wright delivered an excellent lecture on "Corals and Coral Islands" in the University hall on Saturday last. He displayed a fine collection of corals which was the gift of some benefactor of the University.

The Mathematical and Physical Society met in Room 16 on Thursday, Feb. 18. Mr. Gillespie, '93, read an excellent paper on "Trigonometrical Expansion." Mr. Chant, B.A., gave a short lecture on Polarized Light, illustrated by numerous experiments on the same.

Y. M. C. A.—At the meeting last Thursday reports of the Provincial Convention were given by the delegates, J. Menzies and J. McNicol. Next Thursday, at 5 p. m., the postponed meeting of Feb. 11th, regarding Y. M. C. A. Foreign Mission, will be continued. Mr. Frost, of the China Inland Mission, will be present. At 4 p. m. on Thursday there will be a short informal meeting of the members of the Association to talk over the matter.

A freshman in medicine who sits in the third row in physiology, and from whom the airy sentimentalities of youth have not been driven by excessive work, called round the other evening upon a Huron Street lady friend, and as a result expresses himself thus: "Of all the joys vouchsafed to man in life's tempestuous whirl, there is nothing that approaches heaven so near as company with a girl,—a rosy, laughing, buxom girl; a frank, good-natured, honest girl; a feeling, flirting, dashing, doting, smiling, smacking, jolly, joking, jaunty, jovial, poser-poking, dear little duck of a girl. The brightest, dearest, sweetest girl; the trimmest, gayest, neatest girl; the funniest, flushiest, frankest, fairest, roundest, ripest, roguishest, rarest, spiciest, squirmiest, squarest, best of girls: with drooping lashes half concealing amorous flashes—with rosy cheeks and clustering curls, the sweetest and the best of girls."

Modern Language Club had a very interesting meeting on Monday last. Mr. Norman, 1st Vice, in the chair. Considerable excitement prevailed among the members and some very radical motions were introduced, among others one requesting the Executive to set aside one meeting for the discussion of the Modern Language Curriculum—a somewhat pretentious undertaking, yet considering the enormous amount of reading men in moderns have to do we cannot but feel that an improvement might be made—at least so the club thought and accordingly passed the motion. Next Monday's meeting may therefore expect some curious developments in the way of setting up a new curriculum. The programme was commenced by a rousing German song by the Glee Club, followed by an essay in German on the Life of Schiller. The remainder of the programme consisted of two readings, the one from Schiller's Briefs, by Miss Cooke, '94, the other "Die Bürgerschaft," by Miss O'Rourke, '95. Both were well rendered and suggested numerous topics for the German conversation which followed.

DI-VARSITIES.

Nine-tenths of the men at Varsity are lazy enough to be aldermen—the other tenth are too intensely lazy.

Another Vacancy: Four years ago the Varsity owl was removed from his place in the Varsity sanctum. His position has never since been filled. Applications will be received up to the beginning of lent, and will be classed in the usual order of merit. 1. A well-bred owl. 2. An owl that has been bred abroad. 3. An owl that has served his apprenticeship as a hawk. 4. Ordinary screech owls. 5. Owl—any other kind.

Miss Allie Sedate would often sit late,
Though weary, unthinking of rest,
To catch the first trace of the moon's
lovely face
From her window on College street
west.

Miss Allie, no more, her window-sill
o'er
Leans watching the silvery light break,
Through a telescope glass, she dis-
covered alas!
The man-in-the-moon's but a fake.

Bosstock: "Say, old man, this exam. means ten dollars to me, as well as my reputation."

Hosstock: "Yes; in all about ten dollars and fifteen cents net." (Band disbands.)

Studentia: "Aren't you afraid of catching fever, Bobby?"

Bobby: "Naw! The professor gives me stuff to rub on my hands."

Studentia: "What is it?"

Bobby: "It's C. C. He's two bottles, one is 100 C. C. and the other is 200 C. C. The second bottle is too strong though and he mixes it with water." (Lights go out.)

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References: Dr. Needler, Mr. Squair.



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