

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

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MY TREES.

At evening, when the winds are still,
And wide the yellowing landscape glows,
My fir-woods on the lonely hill
Are crowned with sun and loud with crows.
Their flocks throng down the open sky
From far, salt flats and sedgy seas.
Then dusk and dew-fall quench the cry,—
So calm a home is in my trees.

At morning, when the young wind swings
The green, slim tops and branches high,
Out-puffs a noisy whirl of wings,
Dispersing up the empty sky.
In this dear refuge no roof stops
The skyward pinion winnowing through.
My trees shut out the world,—their tops
Are open to the infinite blue.

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

THE STUDY OF LANGUAGES.

Languages ancient and modern occupy a prominent place in the curricula of our high schools, colleges and universities, some think to the exclusion of other desirable subjects. For those intended for the learned professions, for journalism and other literary pursuits, the acquisition of languages is of no inconsiderable importance. It will help the physician and scientist in the knowledge of technical terms, which is so stringently essential in the study of medicine and science—of all sciences, indeed, and of all arts, each of which has perforce a distinct terminology of its own. A good knowledge of Latin and French is useful to the lawyer in acquiring legal terms. Hebrew and Greek are necessary to ministers of the Gospel for the thorough understanding of the Scriptures; and the latter language more than any other will aid a writer to attain purity of diction and grace of style. Peacock used to say that he owed everything to Greek. Perhaps this is the most difficult of all languages to acquire. We agree with De Quincy (who, when not blinded by prejudice, was an acute critic and a sensible thinker) that it takes a dash of genius to obtain a full knowledge of Greek,—that is, to be able to read, write, and speak it fluently. De Quincy himself was thus proficient,—could turn the English newspapers into classical Greek offhand,—and may be quoted as an authority. So different from those of our own are the ideas, idioms, and general structure of the language, that to master it one must think in it. Comparatively few men have been admirable Greek scholars: the two Scaligers, Salmatius, Dionysius Pet.

owine, Bentley, Porson, these are some of the names that suggest themselves; but whom have we at the present day who can rival the linguistic Titans of the past? Of elegant Latinists like Dr. Parr and De Pauw we dare say a somewhat lengthy list might be compiled, but Latin is a much less difficult language than Greek, though hard enough, perdy, for the average student. We doubt if William Worton and Elihu Burritt, who were acquainted with a score or more of languages, knew any, or at most one or two, thoroughly. These two men certainly had amazing linguistic ability, which is a natural faculty,—the possession of certain characteristics which render easy the acquirement of foreign tongues. We should say that the chief things required are the powers of observation and memory, intellectual grasp of idiom, and unswerving steadiness of application.

But, with all the advantages of linguistic attainments, there are some who maintain that it is not probable that they are of much use for the common purposes of life. All that is required, they say, in the shape of education our excellent public school system affords to all, and positions in all walks of life are ably filled by those who know no language but their own. Of what utility, they ask, is a knowledge of languages to a man engaged in mercantile pursuits, except, indeed, that it may contribute to his pleasure in his leisure hours? It will not, however, aid in the amassing of riches. It is true that a man with such knowledge may, if it be thorough, teach it to others, and thus make a living out of it, but how many who graduate from our universities have obtained a complete mastery over the tongues which they have studied? Suppose that one determine to gain a livelihood by teaching modern languages, such as French and German, it is certainly desirable that he should spend some time in the countries where they are spoken. This takes time and money. Teachers and tutors, too, are generally poorly paid. Could not the time spent in such pursuits be more profitably employed?

And much more of the same sort of argument is advanced, a great deal of which is fact, but fallaciously applied. The knowledge of languages, however, not only is of great value in especial cases, not only is a source of endless recreation and pleasure to its possessor, but the study for its attainment is pre-eminent among methods of intellectual training, its acquisition is one of the most excellent formative agencies of intellectual habits, and its possession is that which is best calculated to enable a man to adapt himself to his environment, and to endow him with versatility and comprehension. We do not, therefore, agree with Thomas Paine, who, in his "Age of Reason," underestimates the value of languages, but believe that their study bestows the general benefit of practical utility, in addition to that of scholarly satisfaction and that of specific application.

FREDERICK DAVIDSON.

THE CASTLE BY THE SEA.

(From the German of Uhland.)

"A castle crowns a wave-washed cliff,
With turrets old and gray:
And gold-edged clouds like spirits float
O'er it in bright array.

It seems as if 'twould bend to kiss
The waters crystal bright;
Or, rising, greet the fleecy clouds,
Imbued with floods of light."

"Ah! yes; I've seen that stately pile,
That castle by the sea;
Its walls were bathed in moonlight pale,
A mist slept on the lea."

"Heard'st thou the winds and billows wild
Dash round in madd'ning play;
Or from the lofty hall, glad sounds
Of feast and minstrel's lay?"

"The sportive winds were hushed to rest,
The waves had ceased to surge,
And from the gloomy hall I heard
A sad and mournful dirge."

"Saw'st thou the lord and lady fair
Pace through the spacious hall,
In gorgeous robes of crimson hue,
'Mid loud acclaims from all?"

Did they behold with looks of joy
A maiden tall and fair,
With face all wreathed in smiles and framed
In locks of golden hair?"

"Full well I saw that noble pair,
Nor gems nor jewels shone
On robes of mourning dark and drear,
For that fair girl was gone."

R. J. BONNER.

A MIDSUMMER EXPERIENCE.

Once more I was free, for 'exams.' were over, (at least mine were, and what cared I for the fellows who had another week to stay! They might have taken my course; it is the best; our own course always is); so I took the west-bound train for home with a light heart at the prospect of four months of air and freedom, yet now and then suppressing an embryotic oath when I thought of the mistake I had made in the form of that arorist passive. But vain regrets so disappeared, and Minerva lost an ardent worshipper, while Ceres gained a decidedly reluctant one. Haunts of my youth were visited once more—the old beaver-meadow in the depths of the wood, where, in the long moonlight winter nights, the still forest re-echoed the ring of skates and the shouts of merry companies—the tortuous creek where, in the dark murky nights of spring, we trudged along with hickory torch and brandished spear (*crispantes hastilia*) in search of the unwary pike upon the shallows, and startled the night-owl in the gloomy trees above us—the beech-wood by the school-house, where, in still earlier days, we chased the chipmunks to the hollow logs at noon-spells, built our little play-houses of moss and leaves and branches, had our little quarrels and our shy reconciliations. There was the river, too, where we used to go down to swim, the scene of many a truant frolic in the sultry summer time, (and, alas, of many a bitter disappointment in the fishing season). Much despised is the Canadian Thames, but there

are along its course (until, at least, it enters the low lands of the western counties) scenes of much real beauty, quiet landscapes that cannot fail to please, with here and there some lazy, old-fashioned, stand-still villages, left far behind by the neglectful railway, and destined to be no more than what they are—the sites of the earliest settlements.

It was one of these beautiful landscapes that I was enjoying one afternoon last June. The river lay before me in a vast glittering semi-circle, and disappeared beneath an old gray bridge two miles to the right, and as far to the left, between thickly wooded banks, where a pretty white church raised its spire among the trees. Standing at the top of a clovered hill-side that rose abruptly from the river below, I looked out over the low-lying valley opposite. Had I been a stranger there I would have been surprised at the absence of the usual snug farm-houses and barns, the trim well-kept fences, and fat lazy cattle of our Ontario farms. These fields presented an appearance of general neglect. There were here and there traces of what once were fences, and between them, strips of ploughed ground, through which the grass had grown again. A few weather-beaten, toppling, half-rotten hay-stacks stood in the corners of the fields, while on the rising ground beyond there were several log huts and unpainted frame houses, surrounded by a wilderness of weeds. This was the reserve, these the dwellings of the Oneidas, one of the branches of the Six Nations Indians, of whose exploits we read so much in early American history. I moralized a while on the fate of that proud people, on their present degradation and their inevitable extinction in the future. While thus engaged the sun began to sink behind a dark cloud in the west that cast its deep shadow on the hill-top where I stood, on the river, and on the flats beyond. For a moment, however, the golden rays of the setting sun flooded the opposite hills with a "magic light" and lent a strange beauty to the scene. The old neglected orchards, the little Indian school-house by the bridge, and even the poor miserable houses themselves, assumed for an instant a cheerier aspect, but suddenly the shadow came and covered all. I was about to turn homeward, when my eye was attracted by several human forms moving down the hill-side towards a hut that stood on ground a little lower than the others. Not far behind came as many more, and soon along a different path others appeared, with evidently the same destination. I knew the Indian that lived in the hut. He had often worked on my father's farm. So I became curious to know what was to happen that night at his home. The shallows in the river were immediately below me. I had often before taken off my shoes (if I had any on) and waded through on the gravelly bottom to try how the fishing was along the other bank, or to drive back the cattle that had obstinately refused to recognize the identity of a seven-rail fence and the river Thames. The impulse came to do it once more, and down I ran with rapidly increasing strides (indeed I thought then of Peter Schlemmil and his seven-mile boots) and made my way, shoes in hand, to the other bank. Up along the winding path I went, that led from the crossing place near by the Indian's door. When I appeared, he greeted me with a smile and hearty hand-shake, while the assembled visitors gave signs of mingled curiosity and pleasure. I asked what was going on. "Oh, feast!" says Washington (for that was his given name), "feast, make friends; you see soon." So I took up my station in a corner and awaited developments. Shortly the feast appeared, in the shape of pies, cakes, biscuits, boiled potatoes, turnips, and cheese; but what seemed to be the most important dish was a curious looking mixture of boiled corn and beans. I was repeatedly urged to eat of it, but I found

it very unpalatable, although the other food was good enough, for whatever other virtues these Indians lack, they are certainly to be praised for their scrupulous cleanliness in the matter of food.

The meal over, an old gray man came forward with tottering steps, and spoke a few sentences to them which, of course, I could not understand. Then there was a pause, and they seemed to be expecting something. Suddenly someone said: "White man, make friends, make friends!" I turned to my host for an explanation, and he asked me: "Will you make friends with me? Then you see; come." Thinking surely nothing serious could befall me by "making friends" with any one, and determined to know the meaning of it all, I agreed. So he led me to the centre of the room (there was only one in the house), the others formed a circle around us and the old chief stood before us. Washington gave him a ten cent piece and looked significantly at me. I fumbled in my pocket for a similar coin, and gave it also to the chief. He exchanged the two and returned them to us. He then addressed us in what seemed, from his earnestness and fire, to be words of eloquence, and as he proceeded the crowd around us would at times give a great simultaneous grunt, accompanied by one slap of the hands, or a stentorian "yah! yah!" that seemed to come from a single throat. Finally he ceased, and then they broke out into a song of wild and curious melody, which was accompanied by rapid movements of the arms, legs, and whole body. This ended the ceremony; and then Washington began to tell me, as well as he could, what the old chief had said. He had reminded us how bad a thing was hatred, and how much sorrow it had brought upon their people. Especially he referred to the necessity of peace and good-will between Indian and whiteman. They were once enemies and slew each other, but he was glad they were at peace now, and was peculiarly pleased to see two men, one from each race, pledging their faith to each other. We promised, he said, to help each other in time of trouble, to wait upon each other if sickness came, to defend each other from the wrongs of ill-minded men, and whoever died first was to leave the other his good clothes. Such, in effect, was the old man's speech.

Other friendships were then pledged, with similar ceremonies and songs, while I looked on at the curious scene. I thought what all this might have come to if the course of the world's history had been different, what a literature might have sprung from the songs of such ceremonies as these, and how the "river of willows" might have been immortalized in it. But the old men sat gloomily in the corners, and the little children played innocently around their mothers, as their ancestors might have done a hundred years ago in the forests of New York, neither the one nor the other dreaming of the thoughts of the would-be philosopher among them.

A glance at my watch told me it was time to leave, so I shook hands with my old "new friend" and with the chief who had spoken to us; then, bidding the others good-night, I left them to themselves. Yes, good-night, strange people, good-night! for is it not a deep dark night that settles down upon you? That was but a feeble, wandering ray from out the sunnier past, that friend-making feast of yours, a last faint throb of an older life that once beat loud and strong!

I passed down the winding path again, through the weeds and grass, and crossed the river in the light of the moon, that seemed to fall coldly, yet sadly, on the neglected fields behind me, but brightly and cheerfully on the pleasant, quiet farms of the industrious whiteman.

In September I happened to meet the old chief again. He recognized me instantly, and asked how I had been since

spring. In return, I enquired about his health, and asked if they had had any more feasts for making friends. "Yes," he said, "a week ago we had another: all there but the white brother. Why was not the white brother there?"

ALU.

LITERARY NOTES.

Tennyson has been suffering from rheumatic gout for over a month, and is beginning to fail and to show his age.

A second edition of "Essays in Criticism," by the late Matthew Arnold, is announced for this week. The list of contents includes "The Study of Poetry: Milton, Gray, Keats, Wordsworth, Byron, Shelley, Tolstoi, and Amiel."

"William Shakespeare: A Literary Biography," by Dr. Karl Elze, translated by L. Dora Schmitz, ought to be an excellent work. It has been most favourably criticized in England, and is said to deserve to rank as a standard on the great dramatist.

In a new edition of Wordsworth's poems, which is to be published by MacMillan & Co. before the close of the year, will appear a hitherto unpublished poem of about seven hundred lines entitled "The Recluse." At the same time they will issue a volume under the title "Wordsworthiana," consisting of a selection of papers read before the Wordsworth Society. Matthew Arnold, Lord Coleridge, R. H. Hutton, James Russell Lowell, and Lord Houghton are among the contributors.

A story in the current number of *Blackwood's*, called "Aut Diabolus aut Nihil: The Story of an Hallucination," has been exciting a good deal of attention in Paris, where doubts are expressed whether the tale is altogether a product of the imagination. Some years ago a popular preacher of rather decided freethinking tendencies, after delivering an eloquent sermon on the personality of Satan, in which he did not believe, had his ideal corrected by a personal interview with his Satanic Majesty. The wisecracks even go so far as to give the names of the leading characters and are greatly exercised over the identity of the author, who has, so far at least, successfully hidden himself behind the mystic letters X. Z.

De Quincey's "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater" is a fine philosophical criticism of many interesting phases of life, combined with curious speculations given with a charming confidence in the reader. The style is delightful, ornate, yet lucid, and very refreshing. One's curiosity, however, is not altogether satisfied with regard to the minutiae of the divine but dangerous drug.

A book interesting to the admirers of Dante Gabriel Rossetti as poet and painter will shortly appear in London, under the probable title of "D. G. Rossetti as Designer and Writer;" notes by W. M. Rossetti. This tribute to the memory of the great poet-painter from his surviving brother will be a series of details given in semi-narrative form of the works in literature and art of Rossetti. The details of method of work, and all the delightful incidents and whims of a life that a brother would have so many opportunities of recording, will serve admirably in guiding us to form an accurate knowledge of his personality. There is one intended project in the work, however, to which we must take strong and indignant objection. All who have trodden through the poetical mazes of that marvellous sonnet-sequence, "The House of Life," must learn with anger that the wonderful imagination on which the poem rears itself is to be strained through the cold medium of a critic's explanatory prose. The thoughtful editor intends to parody his brother's verse in prosy paraphrase.

THE VARSITY.

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THE CLAIMS OF NATIONALITY.

The recent appointment of Professor Ashley to the Chair of Political Science afforded the President an opportunity to refer in terms of strong disapproval to the cry, "Canada for the Canadians," often raised by interested parties when such appointments are to be made. With the "Know-Nothing" spirit, as manifested in college affairs, we have no sympathy. Than such a spirit, as Dr. Wilson forcibly said, none more mischievous can be imagined. To gratify the ambition of an individual, it would sacrifice the interests of a generation.

An anonymous correspondent of a city daily has ventured again to raise this question of the claims of nationality in connection with the choice of a man to fill the Chair of English, to be endowed—as he believes—by the City of Toronto. In the opinion of "A Graduate," the choice should be made from among Canadian applicants for the position.

Assuming, with "A Graduate,"—and we shall indeed be glad if the assumption prove correct,—that a part at least of the city's grant of six thousand dollars will go to make more adequate provision for the teaching of English in the University, we are disposed to agree to a certain extent with his conclusions, however we may disagree with some of his premises. While it is, indeed, folly to claim that the mere accident of Canadian birth should weigh in favour of one applicant when set against the superior qualifications of another, we must bear in mind that the relative qualifications of opposing candidates are themselves affected by differences of mental training, and that it is possible that the man who has been all his life subjected to Canadian social and intellectual influences may be more acceptable to, and hence more effective among, Canadian students. In the case of mathematics or classics, or indeed of most subjects taught in the University, this fact has little significance. But with the teaching of English the case is different. The business of a Professor of English and English Literature in a Canadian University must be not mainly the mechanical dissection of word and sentence and paragraph in the works of our great authors; not mainly the dull drilling of wearied students in the facts of literary history, but the cultivation in the minds of the undergraduates of that taste for literature which we so sadly lack, and of an intelligent appreciation of the best work of the best English men of letters, and, finally and chiefly, the fostering of true and high literary aspirations, which will display themselves in the after-work of the students themselves.

To say that all this may be best done by the most eminent scholar, be he English, American, or Canadian, is no solution of the question. Granting that in England or the United States men may be found of spirit sufficiently cosmopolitan to rise above mere local feeling and inspire our students with an enthusiasm for literary pursuits in general, which would in time find expression in a form peculiarly Canadian, it is by no means certain that such a man can be lured from his native haunts by the pecuniary attractions of the post here vacant. The brilliant foreigners of whom we hear so much are not to be had in profusion at \$3,000 a head.

But, further, is it not a fact that such enthusiasm can be most easily aroused by one who, from the very circumstances of his life, from long intercourse with Canadians of all classes, has learned to appreciate more fully that Canadian feeling

which is, moreover, his own by right of birth? Is it not reasonable to suppose that such a man, understanding the Canadian point of view, and yet of no merely sectional sympathy, might be of infinite service as an instructor of Canadian youth? And, if it be possible to secure not a Canadian merely, but a Canadian whose qualifications will compare favourably with those of any present or probable applicants,—one whose scholarship is unquestioned, whose literary taste is above suspicion, whose teaching abilities are proven, and whose position as a writer is assured among the literary men of the English-speaking world,—if all this be possible (and we are convinced it is) there should be no hesitation. The kindlier sympathy between teacher and taught, the clearer understanding by each of the other's point of view, the encouragement given to the pursuit of letters in Canada in the national recognition of our foremost *littérateur*,—these are considerations which, in this case, give some colour at least to the claims of nationality.

LIFE, CULTURE AND UNIVERSITIES.

At the recent Convocation of Queen's University Professor Watson delivered a most instructive address on the aims and objects of a university with a particular application to Canadian colleges. Dr. Watson admirably defined a university as "the mediator between the past and the future, the life of thought and the life of action, the individual and the race," and pointed out with clearness what really constitutes the proper sphere of university work.

While acknowledging that even the highest culture may be obtainable outside of universities, and that many men of genius have owed nothing to the direct teaching of universities, Dr. Watson truly says that the culture so obtained is often obtained "only by a useless expenditure of energy," and that the most of us ought not "to handicap ourselves at the start, but rather to assume that having no claim to the rank of genius, we have no claim to be a law to ourselves." And why? Because: "the narrow experience of the individual needs to be supplemented by the wider experience of the race, and only he who has taken pains to enter sympathetically into this wider experience can hope to live a complete life," and again because: "The result of this wide culture, if it is pursued in the right spirit, is to make a man look at things from a large and unselfish point of view, and to call up in him a passion for a higher national, social, and individual life."

We have referred to this address because it emphasizes a fact too often lost sight of, viz., that the acquisition of what is often sneeringly called "culture"—has a very practical bearing on national life and character. Dr. Watson does not at all undervalue nor ignore the so-called "practical" tendency of modern education, but points out that "the work of a university is not to supply men with useful information, or to provide them with a valuable intellectual gymnastic, or even to make them skilful in their vocation." He admits that "a university of the proper type cannot fail to do all these things, but it will do so because it aims at something more and higher." And this "something," this "culture" aims to produce "noble, intelligent unselfish men. . . . to lift men to an altitude where they shall be able to contemplate human life as an organic whole, ruled by the idea of order and law, and where they shall be moved as by a divine constraint to consecrate their lives to the common weal." If this is, and we firmly believe it to be, the goal of modern culture, then that selfish and narrow view of life which denies to culture any practical utility, is a most mistaken and mischievous one.

NEEDS OF CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES.

The practical suggestions contained in Professor Watson's recent address are worthy of notice. He states some truths which may be unpleasant reading to those who are prone to regard our educational system with a large but uncritical complacency. The points touched upon are not altogether new to readers of THE VARSITY, but we are glad to reinforce

our previously-expressed opinions with the authority of so competent a critic as Dr. Watson.

And the first point is this: That our universities have been most inadequately equipped. Whatever causes have contributed to this state of affairs in the case of denominational colleges, no such excuses as may be made on their behalf will apply to the Provincial University. However, the day of small things is drawing to a close, we hope, and a new era is beginning, in which our university may be enabled to fulfil to the fullest extent her mission in this Province. Dr. Watson says there is good hope that Canadian universities are now entering upon a fuller life, that our universities are gradually becoming easier in their financial condition, and have begun to add to their teaching staffs. All this is true, but there is ample room yet for improvement,

The next point is that little or no provision is made for post-graduate study in Canadian universities, and that "when our young men have wished to carry their studies to a higher point they have been forced to go to the universities of the old world, or to those universities of the new world where a higher conception of the vocation of the scholars has prevailed."

Dr. Watson next refers to an undoubted fact, and one which THE VARSITY has repeatedly called attention to, and it is this: "That the first two years of a Canadian student are usually spent in doing work that ought to have been done, and we may hope will yet be done, in the High School." In plain English, that the requirements for matriculation are too meagre, the training inadequate and the standards too low to permit of the universities taking up the educational work of their matriculants at the proper stage, and crowning the work with post-graduate courses. This is a serious charge to make, and yet it is one which is but too evident to those who have taken even a superficial glance at our educational system.

To meet this difficulty, Dr. Watson practically endorses the plan which THE VARSITY has been urging upon the acceptance of the University authorities of the Province for years past, viz.: The appointment of a University commission, permanent or otherwise, "for the purpose of enquiring whether our matriculation examinations might not be made more rational than they now are, and for the discussion of all questions affecting the interests of higher education." We cannot too strongly support this proposition, and unite with Dr. Watson in hoping for its speedy realization.

One other point not, however, touched upon by Dr. Watson, occurs to us in this connection. It is this: That from time to time our Professors and Lecturers should be given leave of absence for a year at a time, for the purpose of travel, research, study and rest. It is impossible to expect that teachers and scholars will be able to keep themselves abreast of the latest and best results of modern research and scholarship if they are not given the opportunities of making acquaintance with them at first hand from time to time. Nothing can or ever will take the place of personal contact with the life and learning of other lands, and what might result in temporary inconvenience would ultimately be amply compensated for in increased efficiency and enthusiasm. In several of the leading colleges of the United States such a system has been tried with the very best results. It is worthy of trial here in Ontario.

THE ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT.

The announcement has just been made that Mr. J. M. Hirschfelder has retired from the Lectureship in the Oriental Department, and that he will be succeeded by Dr. McCurdy, who now receives the rank of a Professor in the University.

We cannot allow the occasion to pass without paying our tribute of respect to the venerable gentleman who, after a continuous service of considerably over forty years, now retires from a department over which he has presided with such

acceptance for so long a time. Mr. Hirschfelder's has been a familiar figure in University circles for well-nigh half-a-century, during which time he has had many of the present generation of the clergy of this Province as his pupils, and has seen his department of study grow in importance and in public estimation, from humble beginnings till its recent recognition as a separate graduating department in the University. During his occupancy of the Lectureship in Oriental Literature, Mr. Hirschfelder has published some original works, among which may be mentioned "An Essay on the Spirit and Characteristics of Hebrew Poetry," a new translation of Genesis, with notes, and a Defence of the Scriptures, being a reply to Bishop Colenso's Book on the Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua." Mr. Hirschfelder retires, carrying with him the respect and goodwill of his colleagues and his students, who unite, we are sure, in the hope that he may long be spared to enjoy his well-earned rest. Dr. McCurdy, who succeeds him, is well qualified to carry on the work of the new Department, and will doubtless be able to accomplish much towards increasing the popularity of the study of Orientals.

A DRAMATIC CLUB.

At divers times in the history of the University amateur theatricals have occupied the attention of the undergraduates, and more especially of those connected with the various societies. But, though plans for successful organization have been projected, and have even occasionally attained a transitory fulfilment, such as in the ever-to-be-remembered representation of *Antigone* under the auspices of the Glee Club, nothing of a permanent nature in this line has been established among our college institutions. Of late, however, a laudable interest in the Thespian art has made itself manifest in our midst, and we think that the time is now ripe for the taking of active and energetic measures towards the realization of the hopes of the past and the projects of the present.

Could not a Theatrical Society be formed, either by a union of the Literary Society and the Modern Language Club, or on a separate basis, the members of which should give, on periodic and suitable occasions, representations of the modern drama? What is there to prevent the immense impulse to university social life, and the direct benefit to the students individually, which would be the natural result of the formation of such a society?

Moreover, among the accomplishments which go to sweeten life and make their possessor socially popular, histrionic ability as displayed in amateur dramatic performance is no small or despicable factor. A recent writer accuses the collegian of "living educationally in the past" when he enters the larger sphere of life. This may be true if the latter creates for himself a little world of his own, of which the inhabitants are his books and himself, but not if, while acquiring his knowledge of arts and sciences, he neglects not the social duties which are his, and the infinite advantage and pleasure which may be his if he will. The cultivation of this histrionic ability is certain to develop also critical acumen with reference to the professionally-enacted drama, and, by analogy, to the broader drama of life which is being played with greater or less skill to its ends of joy and sorrow around us every day. In fact, the result of such culture is the acquisition of an intellectual habit of thought which should help us in grappling with and solving the later problems of real life.

On this subject of theatricals THE VARSITY has expressed itself before, has always cast its vote in favour of such feasible plans as have been suggested, and has endeavoured, as best it might, to stimulate the ardour of any movement in this direction. We still think that a dramatic society, if founded, would prove a source of endless enjoyment; and we hope that the interest of the students will not diminish, but increase until the idea shall assume a palpable form in actual organization.

We shall be glad to receive communications from our readers on this subject.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE EDITORS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPINIONS OF CORRESPONDENTS. NO NOTICE WILL BE TAKEN OF UNSIGNED CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE GYMNASIUM.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY :

SIRS,—Allow me through your columns to launch a modest suggestion for the consideration of authority. We are without a gymnasium. Could not arrangements be made with the authorities of the city Y.M.C.A. whereby the sum at present contributed by the students for the support of a gymnasium which is no more, should be transferred to the treasurer of the Y.M.C.A. gymnasium with the understanding that all members of athletic organizations connected with the College be admitted as members of that gymnasium without charge, and that other students wishing to join be permitted to do so on payment of say \$1.00? The numbers of those who are members of athletic organizations is small and of those others who would join still smaller. The scheme, therefore, would be fair to the Y.M.C.A. Viewed from our standpoint it would be an easy way out of a bad hole.

J. J. FERGUSON.

A PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY :

SIRS,—It is a reasonable thing to ask that an applicant for any professor's chair should have some natural aptitude for teaching. It will not do that he merely knows certain things; he should be able to teach them. Else he is not a professor, however great a scholar. Knowing is not the essence of the term professor. The university governors should not engage a man for knowing, but teaching. Some persons object to regarding a college professor as a teacher. Yet, whatever else he may be, he should certainly be that. And a term that is applicable to Socrates and Confucius, Emerson and Carlyle, is good enough for my purpose here. There has not been any attention paid to this requirement heretofore in University College, and this may have been the chief reason why our University authorities have been called on to compel attendance at college lectures which have not sufficient vitality in them to attract or benefit students. It is a ridiculous anomaly in our educational system that no one is allowed without proper qualifications as a teacher to take charge of even an infant class in our public schools, while professors are often engaged for our colleges who are utterly devoid of the teaching faculty.

The title of the proposed new chair in Toronto University implies that the person chosen to fill it should have special ability in each of the two departments of Language and Literature. The danger is that in making the appointment the distinction between these two departments of the subject will be lost sight of. And so a linguist may be appointed who is not a literary scholar, or a littérateur who is not a linguist.

The terms language and literature are frequently so loosely employed that it is pardonable to lay stress here upon the difference between them. Briefly then, literature is the expression of life and experience, language is but the instrument of that expression. Literature is the building, made in beauty or fitted for noble uses; language is the rough material with which the building was constructed.

A professor of the English language and literature, therefore, has two functions to perform and he requires special knowledge and ability in two departments of thought. He must have a thorough scientific knowledge of the language as it now is and as it has been so far back as history takes us. He should, moreover, have sufficient acquaintance with the cognate tongues to be able to draw upon them readily for proof or illustration.

But as a professor of English literature his qualifications must be quite of another order. The simplest requirement in this case is a large fund of available information of a general nature, respecting the greater English writers and their works. A rarer and more indispensable faculty is an independent critical judgment, the ability to estimate the real value of any literary production. The professor must speak with the authority of personal knowledge and conviction and not as a mere phonographic echo of European critics. But the highest and rarest qualification is the possession of creative power, a strong, original literary energy, asserting and embodying itself in forceful words.

While allowing due place to the analytical and critical study of literature, one can easily see that the tendency is to attach too much importance to this division of the subject. Not many years since the study of literature consisted merely in committing to memory the history of literary men and the opinions of critics upon their writings. Afterwards authors' texts were prescribed, but they have been used mainly as a basis for philological and rhetorical notes which were also to be committed to memory by the learner. Little if any attempt has been made hitherto to develop original literary taste in the student or to draw out and cultivate his own powers of expression. It is time for a change. We have had enough of analysis and criticism by themselves; let us now have as well some construction and creation.

This last quality, the ability to write with imagination and power, is so far exceptional among applicants for professorships in English, that the men in whose gift these offices are, have come to overlook it altogether. This is surely a great mistake. If we want to acquaint ourselves with any other art we look for a master to whom we may listen. Our respect and admiration for what he can do in his art adds immeasurable force to whatever he may say about it. The dullest intellect receives inspiration from the mere presence and example of such a man.

Especially now is there need for a man of recognized literary power in the chair of English in our university. Canada has now reached a stage in her growth when a rich and varied original literature is not only a desire but a possibility. There are numberless new phases of life and character among us; the aspects of nature manifested in our country are fresh in beauty and infinite in variety; incidents of romance and adventure wait everywhere to be told in story and in poem,—abundant material here surely for a native literature.

There is, too, a feeling in the air thitherward, a new impulse and desire among many young Canadians to mould this material into adequate literary forms, strong and beautiful. This aspiration it is plainly the highest duty of our provincial university to foster and direct. This can best be done by placing a proper person in the chair of English. The time and the opportunity have arrived. Where is the man?

A. STEVENSON.

A DRAMATIC CLUB.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY :—

SIRS,—It has at different times during the last few years been proposed in your columns to organize a College Dramatic Club, but nothing has been done. Hence I venture to call the attention of your readers to the subject again. The benefits of such a club are so obvious as almost to need nothing said of them. Any one who remembers the representation, some six years ago, of the *Antigone*, will remember what a good training in music, elocution, and gesture those fellows got who took part in it, not to speak at length of a by no means unimportant consideration—the good comradeship promoted by such an organization. The study of dramatic literature, whether it were the Elizabethan or later writers that should be taken up, would be a great help in English. But, while the benefits are so obvious, there are also difficulties which must be met, and that in a fair way.

1st, There will be an objection on the part of not a few students on the score of work. Of course, we come here to attend to that first of all, but we must remember that all our training is not received in lecture-rooms, and that it is the study that we do ourselves that benefits us, not that which is done for us. Besides, if standard plays are taken up (and none else should be), the work might be made to tell even at examinations.

2nd, The time required for meetings would, with that required for other societies, be a serious consideration to many; but, if the club is properly managed, the time would not be lost.

3rd, I am not concerned at present about the argument for or against the theatre, for none of the features rightly deemed objectionable by many could have a place in such an organization. One of the largest guarantors for the performance of the *Antigone* was a gentleman well known in religious and philanthropic circles, who yet could see nothing inconsistent in supporting a drama presented by college men, though, doubtless, he does not approve of the theatre as it now is conducted.

D. E. G.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

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

PROFESSOR ASHLEY'S LECTURE.

Professor Ashley delivered his inaugural lecture on Friday, the 9th inst., to a large and representative audience assembled in Convocation Hall. The subject of the lecture was summed up in the words, "What is Political Science?" and around this text the Professor skilfully grouped the discussion of the most prominent questions which arise in the study of political science. It is to be regretted that, owing to the well-known acoustic properties of Convocation Hall, much of the lecture was lost to a large part of the audience. The University is to be congratulated on the large audience, composed as it was of some of our most prominent citizens, which attended on this occasion. The fact that the fair sex was not deterred by the very unfavourable weather from taking advantage of this opportunity for intellectual enjoyment has been the subject of much comment.

LITERARY SOCIETY.

The 139th public debate of the Literary Society was held on the evening of November 9th, in Convocation Hall. The weather could not have been much more unpleasant, but there was nevertheless a large and appreciative audience present.

Sir Daniel Wilson occupied the chair.

The first item on the programme was a selection by the Glee Club, "A Capital Ship," which was enthusiastically encored.

The President then gave his inaugural address, after which Mr. J. D. Spence read Tennyson's "Defence of Lucknow."

The Glee Club next sang "Speed Away," and were again encored.

The debate followed on the question, "*Resolved*,—That Canada should foster a military spirit." Messrs. J. N. Elliott and J. J. Ferguson supported the resolution, while Messrs. A. J. Hunter and W. G. W. Fortune opposed it. The Chairman, after summing up the debate, gave his decision in favour of the affirmative. The First Year men were conspicuous by their absence, owing no doubt to their fear of hazing.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

"George Eliot and her Works" formed the subject of last Monday's meeting of the Club. The attendance, especially of the lady members, was large. The President occupied the chair.

After routine business, the literary programme was proceeded with, consisting of essays by Miss Robertson and Mr. T. D. Dockray, and a reading by Mr. A. J. Hunter. Miss Robertson's essay was perhaps the most enjoyable read before the club this year. It dealt with "The Mill on the Floss," giving a good *resumé* of the plot and an excellent analysis of several of the characters. Mr. Dockray's paper on "Adam Bede," though short, was well written and interesting.

A motion by Mr. Bonner, seconded by Mr. Rutherford, to hold a public meeting of the club on Monday, Dec. 3rd next, was lost.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE GYMNASIUM.

In response to a request from the Senate about 60 graduates and undergraduates met in the College Y. M. C. A. hall Saturday evening, 10th inst., to discuss the club scheme, Vice-Chancellor Mulock in the chair. An encouraging communication was read from Mr. Creelman, convener of the committee, expressing regret at his unavoidable absence and reporting some \$2400 in subscriptions. Prof. Ramsay Wright's cheque for \$60 was also received. In view of the fact as explained by the chairman that interest at 6% would be allowed on subscriptions deposited with the Bursar it was moved by Dr. Acheson, seconded by Dr. Ferguson, and resolved: That all subscriptions to the gymnasium fund be collected as soon as possible and paid to the Bursar. On motion of Messrs. DesBarres and Peck it was resolved: That Mr. Creelman be requested to report further at the next meeting the progress made by his committee. During the

evening subscriptions were received as follows: The chairman, \$500; Mr. Barwick, \$100; Dr. Reeve, \$60; Dr. Ferguson, \$50; Mr. Dick, \$50. On behalf of Prof. Baker, Prof. Dale reported \$500 from the faculty. It was moved by Mr. Barwick, and seconded by Dr. Ferguson: That a committee be appointed consisting of Profs. Baker and Ramsay Wright, Dr. Ferguson, Messrs. Creelman, Barwick, W. H. Blake, A. H. Young and J. J. Ferguson to co-operate with the general committee already appointed to obtain subscriptions in Toronto and vicinity for the proposed gymnasium, and to report to a meeting of graduates and undergraduates to be held on Saturday, November 24th, at 8 o'clock, p.m., and that the committee have power to add to their number and that Mr. Barwick be convener. Several speakers protested vigorously against this motion on the ground that it might be taken for a vote of censure on Mr. Creelman's committee, but on Mr. Barwick explaining that nothing was further from his intention the motion carried. The meeting then adjourned.

The University College Glee Club, under the leadership of Mr. Fairclough, gave an excellent entertainment to a crowded audience at the Asylum on Tuesday evening. The patients and undergraduates were mutually pleased with the affair.

"K" Company paraded 23 file strong for the field-day on Thursday last. The regiment travelled to High Park, and spent the day in manœuvring and field exercises. Owing to the beautiful weather, the boys spent a satisfactory day; and if the appetite with which the contents of their haversacks were devoured is to be taken as a criterion, derived considerable benefit from the day's outing. The officers of the company are to be congratulated on the showing the company has made this fall.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

The 'Varsity team played a return match with the Torontos on Saturday, the 10th inst., on the Toronto grounds. The game was a very fine exhibition, and resulted, after a close contest, in a score of 3—0 in favour of the 'Varsity. A dispute arose as to whether this score, composed of a safety touch and a rouge, was sufficient to constitute a victory, and the question has been referred to the Union.

The annual Rugby match between the 'Varsity and Trinity Colleges took place on the lawn on Tuesday, the 13th inst. In the first half the 'Varsity had considerably the best of the game, scoring 9 points to nothing, but after changing ends the contest became closer and only 1 point was added to the score. The bad weather which has prevailed all season did not fail to turn up on this occasion in the shape of a fog, which considerably obscured the game.

Those who say that the spirit of Residence is on the decline know little of the true life of the College. Yesterday these enterprising inhabitants of the east wing invited the remainder of the Association Foot-ball Club to meet them, and after a close and exciting struggle succeeded in defeating them. The greater part of the match was played in the dark, which prevented the spectators from distinguishing much of the individual play, but nevertheless the form of Schemie Watt kept looming up continually through the gloom, disturbing the equilibrium of his less sturdy opponents, or charging down the field with the ball in front of him. The two Senklers, McClean and Carling also distinguished themselves amongst the Residence men, while for the outsiders Peet, Ball and Forin did good service.

PERSONAL.

W. H. Hunter, '87, J. Ross, '86, C. E. Burkholder, '86, and W. H. Walker, '85, have lately passed the Second Intermediate Examination of the Law Society of Ontario.

H. C. Boulton, '88, has passed the First Intermediate Examination of the same Society.

We learn with pleasure that Prof. Montgomery, of the University of Dakota, has been elected a fellow of the Society of Science and Letters of London, Eng. Professor Montgomery graduated from the University of Toronto in 1877, and has since distinguished himself in the field of ethnological research.

J. A. Taylor, '87, is studying law in the city in the office of F. McBride.

W. C. Gemmell, '91, has transferred his allegiance to Trinity College.

The following graduates and undergraduates of the University of Toronto have successfully passed the Solicitors' examination of the Law Society of Ontario:— Graduates: J. A. V. Preston, W. C. Chisholm, M. S. Mercer, J. Standish, A. Collins, S. A. Henderson, W. E. Thompson. Undergraduates: T. R. Ferguson, F. C. Jarvis.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

The regular Thursday meeting was held last week, under the leadership of G. W. Robinson, '90, who spoke on the Vine and the Branches, John 15.

W. H. Harvey, President of the College Y.M.C.A., represented the Association as delegate at the Inter-collegiate Missionary Alliance Convention at Cobourg last week, and read a paper on Protestant Missions in the Papal Countries of Europe.

WEEK OF PRAYER.—The programme for the week of prayer, Nov. 11th to 17th, was as follows:—

Sunday, at 9.30—Prayer meeting, led by John Munro, '88.

Tuesday, at 5.—Address by R. P. Wilder.

Thursday, at 9.30—Addresses by Sir D. Wilson and R. P. Wilder.

R. P. Wilder, who addressed the association on missions on Tuesday and Thursday, is a recent graduate of Princeton, N.J., the son of a well-known missionary, the friend of Mr. John Forman, who visited Toronto some two years ago, and with him the organizer of the College students' missionary movement. He has been one of the principal speakers at Northfield for three years past. His speeches are earnest and eloquent.

The week of prayer for young men was begun on Sunday morning by a meeting at half-past nine, when Jno. Munro, Sciences '89, gave an address on prayer, basing his remarks on Matt. 6, first part—The Lord's Prayer. The main points brought out were that prayer was to be made daily, to be honestly made, to be offered because by example and teaching Christ showed the necessity of prayer, and because, while God knows what we have need of before we ask Him, He wishes us to acknowledge our dependence upon Him.

Mr. R. P. Wilder, B.A. of Princeton and of Union Seminary, after visiting McGill, Queen's, and Cobourg, arrived in Toronto on Monday night. He addressed meetings in the various Theological Colleges, at the University Medical School and in the College Y.M.C.A.

On Thanksgiving-day morning, with Sir Daniel Wilson presiding, Mr. Wilder spoke of the countries in which no missionaries, or very few, are. Among these are Chili, Bolivia, Argentine Republic, various parts of Africa, Arabia, Thibet, Afghanistan, Beluchistan, Anam, Mongolia and Siberia.

The second part of the address was on the crisis in the various fields. In Japan and India the natives are giving up their old religions and are ready to take what is put before them. Christianity competes with a reviving Buddhism, theosophy, and Western freethought. Therefore, if they are to be Christianized there must be a greater activity in missionary work, more men must be sent out. In South America it is a question of giving up Roman Catholicism and of accepting either a purified Christianity or agnosticism. Volunteers, men who will give themselves willingly, not as under compulsion, are needed, else the work cannot be done. Various objections were successfully met. After prayer by Sir Daniel Wilson the meeting closed.

There were in all (not including medicals) thirty-one new names added to the list of volunteers, thus making a total of eighty-four. Of these Messrs. Lafamme, Davis and Garside are in India, Messrs. Goforth and MacGillivray in China, Messrs. Cooper Robinson and W. V. Wright in Japan, and Messrs. Gale and Harkness on their way to Korea.

Mr. Wilder left town yesterday for Worcester, Ohio, and will, by the end of the college year, have visited over fifty colleges besides theological seminaries.

A. H. Y.

Mr. R. C. Wilder addressed a meeting of the Association on Thursday morning last.

Sir Daniel Wilson occupied the chair, and in a brief opening address emphasized the danger that in the enthusiasm for foreign missions the claims of the home field might be forgotten.

Mr. Wilder was warmly received. He spoke from the text, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields," and directed the attention of the audience to the fields yet unoccupied by missionary workers, illustrating his remarks with frequent references to a large map of the world which hung behind him. Referring to South America he said that the opportunities for evangelistic work there, were very great. A crisis seemed approaching when the people would decide in great masses for Christianity or Agnosticism. In India, the people had to decide between Christianity on the one hand and Hinduism, Theosophy or Agnosticism on the other. An attempt was being made by the opponents of Christianity to revive the old Vedic faith. Again, the country was being flooded with sceptical literature, and the works of the "greatest living American," Col. R. G. Ingersoll, were to be found in remote sections of the country. The speaker referred to the spread of Buddhism, from India over the greater part of Asia, and prophesied a like result for Christianity when it should once have laid hold of the country. Speaking of the crisis in Japan, he said that by the year 1900, Japan would be either infidel or Christian. The old religions were losing their hold on the people. Mr. Wilder's address was listened to throughout with deep interest. He speaks quietly and absolutely without affectation, displaying, however, great enthusiasm and wide and accurate knowledge of the facts of missionary enterprise. His appeal for volunteers (not conscripts) was strong and touching.

A short after-service was held at the close of the meeting.

BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY.

The following are a few of the more important books added to the library during the last four months:—

Schiller.—Maria Stuart, ed. by Sheldon.

Goethe.—Gotz v. Berlichingen, ed. by Ball.

Goethe.—Faust, Pt. 1, ed. Jane Lee.

Stewart & Gee.—Practical Physics, Pt. 1.

McLelland & Preston.—Spherical Trigonometry.

Xenophon.—Hellenica, Bks. 1 and 2, ed. Hailstone.

Homer.—The Story of Achilles, ed. Pratt & Leaf.

Euripedes.—Hippolytus, ed. Mahaffy & Bury.

Horace.—Odes, ed. Page.

Horace.—Satires, ed. Palmer.

Horace.—Epistles, ed. Wilkins.

Cicero.—Second Philippic, ed. Mayor.

Sallust.—Cataline, ed. Merivale.

(To be continued.)

ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE VARSITY is conducted by undergraduates of the University of Toronto, and is published every Saturday of the academic year. It aims at being the exponent of the views of the University public, and will always seek the highest interests of our University. The Literary Department will, as heretofore, be a main feature. The news columns are full and accurate, containing reports of all meetings of interest to its readers.

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