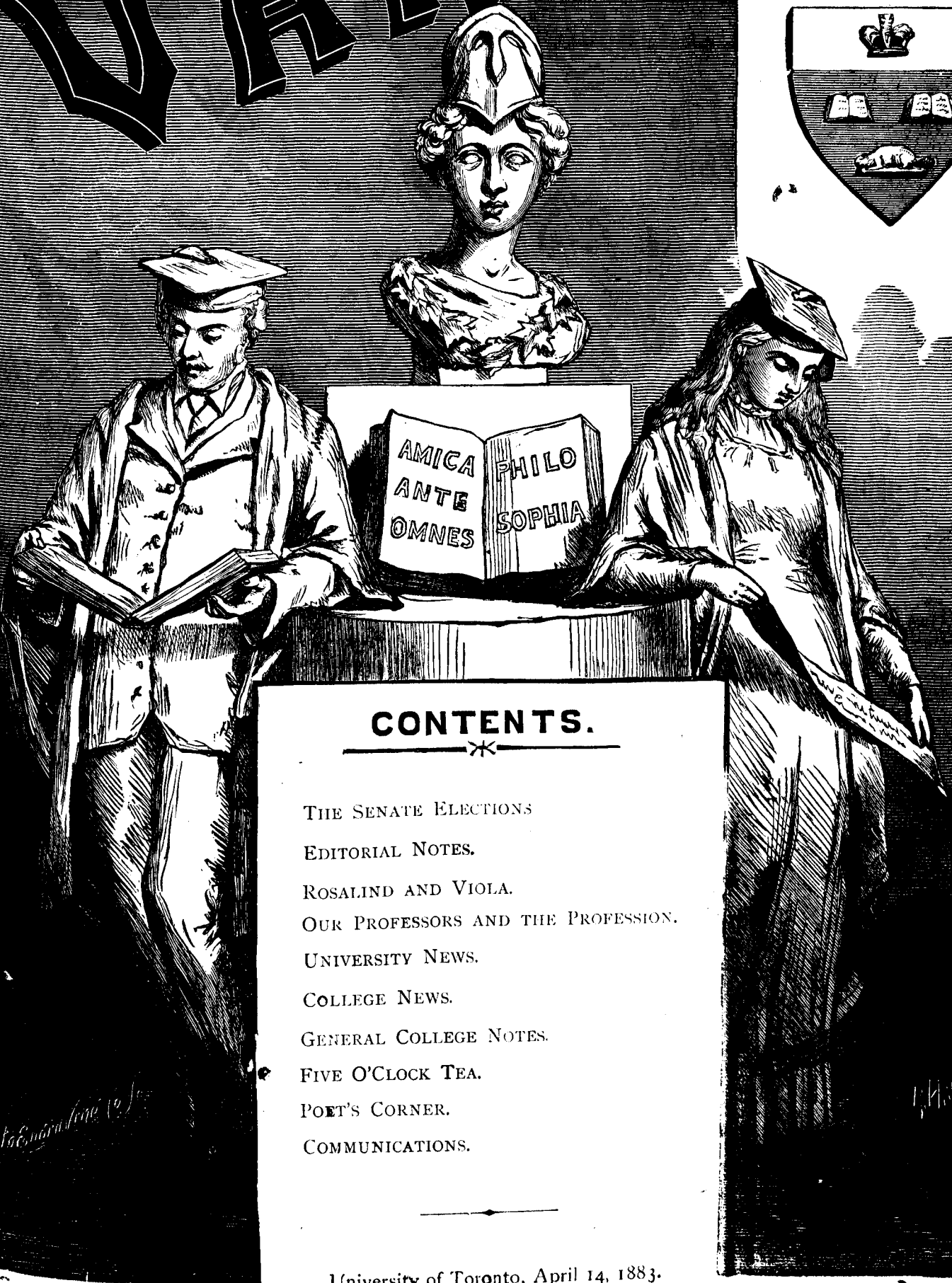


THE WARSTON



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VOL. III. No. 24.

April 14, 1883.

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THE SENATE ELECTIONS.

The annual notices respecting the election of members to the Senate have been sent by the Registrar, as the Acts respecting the University require, to all members of Convocation. The retiring members are Messrs. J. M. Gibson, Dr. Richardson and Jas. Bethune, Q.C. Another gentleman has been nominated, the Rev. Robert Cameron, M.A. The occasion occurs to us as opportune for the suggestion of one or two questions which should be answered before a satisfactory vote can be given. We assume, first, that the consent of those who are alleged to be seeking re-election has been obtained before they were nominated. We also assume that there is some theory of responsibility to those who have once elected them, and are asked to re-elect them. It is, therefore, fair to ask, How many meetings of the Senate have the three gentlemen named respectively attended during their term of office? On what Committees have they served? What measures have they advocated? What measures have they opposed? Have they any, and if so what, opinions on such questions as the demand for further endowment, an enlarged Residence, the higher education of women? Are they prepared to stand by the absurd distribution of Fellowships which has just been made? Did they support the premature and extravagant expenditure on scientific and mechanical apparatus so intricate that the Lecturers themselves cannot explain their operation. As to the gentleman who has received a nomination for membership, we think that those who are called upon to elect him are entitled to some expression of his views—to a statement of his record.

On the point of the attendance of the three members proposed for re-election at the meetings of the Senate, we shall endeavour to enlighten our readers between this date and that of the election.

But the fact is that the system, as at present organized, is wrong. The Act of 1881 provides that nominations for senatorships must be sent in a month before the date of the election, and no other nominations can be received. There is no provision for reminding the graduates generally of the fact, and the Senate takes uncommonly good care not to do it. It is therefore generally overlooked. The Registrar is therefore forced to run about with a nomination paper in a hurry, with the names of the retiring members, to get them re-nominated. The result is that this year the members of Convocation are once more called upon to vote blindly for three men out of four, on general principles of what is known about them, and without any idea worth having in the matter at all, except that they feel pretty sure that some of the three senators re-nominated have not been very constant or frequent attendants at the meetings, and have done very little.

This state of things will fortunately not go on for ever. The men who are graduating now are determined to have their say, and it is only a matter of a little time and patience and organization to have all these relics of an almost bygone system put right. It is, of course, a matter for the graduates themselves. If they take enough interest in the affair to interfere, they can have their own way. Hitherto it has been too much the case that all the lessons learned during undergraduate days about the benefit of organization are forgotten or lost sight of as soon as the same men graduate. But this defect can be cured.

While we are upon the subject we would also like to ask whether there is a vacancy in the place of Mr. Justice Taylor, and if so, how long it has existed, and if it has been filled by the

Senate as required by the Act, and if not, why not. We would also like to know why the Vice-Chancellor has not called together the committee appointed by Convocation to consider some measure for the increase of the endowment.

The next meeting of Convocation, unless called as it has been once before, by the Senate at such a time that nobody can find it possible to attend, will probably hear something further about these questions.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A report of the meeting of the 'VARSITY stockholders will be found elsewhere. Financially the year has been successful, and the Treasurer is enabled to declare a small surplus, after the additional expense of bringing out the extra numbers which it is intended to issue. A change was made in the mode of transferring stock, and it will now be possible to know in whose hands the stock lies. A large amount of scrip has changed hands, several of the large holders having parted with a portion of theirs in order that new men, of the first and second years principally, might be admitted to the ranks. This, it is hoped, is the preliminary to an influx of new energy into the 'VARSITY, for we desire to impress on all stockholders that their duty is by no means ended by becoming subscribers, and that, though paying \$5.00 into the coffers of the 'VARSITY is a meritorious action, it cannot rank beside taking an *active living interest* in the working of the paper.

Adam Smith said of the college professors of his day that they had long ago ceased to make any pretension to teaching. Things have changed very much since the time of the great political philosopher, but there is room still for more improvement. If Canada is to lead the vanguard of progress in national education, as she seems in a fair way of doing; if we are to continue to advance toward the perfect ideal of an educated nation, it is plain that we must look the defects of our present educational system boldly in the face, exaggerating nothing and extenuating nothing. It must, we think, be fairly acknowledged that our Provincial College has still much to learn on vital questions of education. The main cause of this backwardness is set forth with sufficient precision in another column.

The behaviour of the College Council in ignoring so far the strong and repeated protests which have been made against the partial distribution of the Fellowships has, what *ought* to be, an instructive parallel in comparatively recent Canadian history. When the House of Assembly presented a petition to the Governor, Sir John Colborne, praying for redress of the grievances which the people were suffering, from the high-handed actions of the Family Compact, the only satisfaction the Assembly got from the Governor was the curt remark, 'I thank you for your address.' We all know what was the result of such conduct on the part of the Government. Can it be possible that anything resembling a Family Compact exists in our Council? It is not to be denied that there is some evidence that such is the case.

But it is a more pertinent inquiry, whether certain gentlemen appear in the Council Chamber in a proper character as members of the Council, that is as *trustees*, on whom is imposed the duty of acting in behalf of the best interests of education in general in our College, or whether they do not appear rather as delegates, advocating exclusively the interests of their own par-

ticular departments. The recent action of these gentlemen bears on it all too plainly the professorial impress, and the Council table is, we take it, no place for professors, qua heads of departments.

At all events, if there be any reason for the very partial action of the Council, that reason should be made public. Secrecy and mystery are the characteristics of paternal and arbitrary governments, and are not at all in harmony with the spirit of our free Canadian institutions.

J. B., in a letter published elsewhere, criticizes at length the scheme for a Literary and Athletic Union. It will be seen that his unfavorable comments deal more particularly with the injustice of forcing *all* undergraduates to pay for benefits which are reaped by a few. This objection to the proposed plan would, he thinks, have the effect of hindering a general amalgamation of all the petty societies about the University; but granting that the inadvisability has been shown of associating such societies, we consider it by no means proved that a union of the larger College institutions, which are, or ought to be, of interest to all undergraduates, would be impracticable or unjust. The argument from evolution is not to be indefinitely relied on in the case of College Societies, and we may in this instance readily refute it by referring to the Glee Club—though ranking second to few College institutions in point of importance, it has never managed to secure enough money to carry it through the year without applying for external aid.

Let one advantage of such a scheme not be lost sight of. Our Football Clubs, Glee Club, and now, our Rowing Club, will always be in need of trifling bonuses or loans to carry out their intercollegiate matches. The difficulty of securing even small sums for such objects is often so great as to cause such enterprises to fall through, and, if the money be secured, it is obtained by an unjust levy on individuals. Now, intercollegiate athletic contests we believe to be of such importance that means should be taken to prevent them from collapsing, from no other reason than that of slight financial disability; and such contests are matters of general interest, and it is therefore proper to apply to all undergraduates for aid in carrying out what will redound to the athletic renown, not merely of individuals, but of a whole College.

In another column our readers will find an account of the annual meeting of the Glee Club, with the names of the officers elected for next year. The results show that the Club has been struggling hard to come up to the standard of last year, and though nothing as gigantic as *Antigone* has been performed, a beginning, at any rate, has been made of a yet more arduous enterprise, namely, the *Cædipus* at *Colonus*; and if we make allowances for the extra pressure brought to bear last year by the exigencies of the Greek play, and compare the Glee Club now with the Glee Club of two years ago, or even as it was at the beginning of last year, an immense stride in advance is apparent. But let us hope that the Club will not be content to rest on the laurels of *Antigone*. Complaints were made previous to last year, and justly, we think, that it was scarcely worth while to join the Glee Club as long as nothing was attempted but a succession of little part songs, too often of very indifferent merit; and these complaints may still be urged against such musical trifling. The result can never be very brilliant; five minutes is the outside limit of duration, the impression on an audience is fleeting, and bears no proportion to the time spent in the preparation. Now, a great work like *Antigone* or *Cædipus* is well worth a year's steady practice; it is a satisfaction to the performers individually, a pleasure to an audience to listen to, and a credit to the Glee Club as a whole, and to the University. We understand that this year the scheme of a Glee Club Concert was given up because of the great expense attending it, the chief item, of course, being the orchestra. We are happy to be able to state that by next season this objection will be to a considerable extent set aside; all travelling and boarding expenses for members of the orchestra will be struck off, for Toronto is at last to have an orchestra of its own. Three concerts during the summer months are already announced, and by January of next year the Glee Club may look for a wor-

thy assistance from that quarter in producing *Cædipus* or any other choro-orchestral work. Let the newly-elected functionaries take this into serious consideration. It is said, moreover, that a neighboring College rejoices (?) in an infant company of enthusiasts that calls itself an orchestra; negotiations might lead to something of advantage on both sides.

A regularly organized club of Canadian students has been formed in Edinburgh under the name of the Edinburgh Canadian Students' Club, its objects being, as gathered from its constitution, to cultivate social fellowship among its members and 'to strengthen those common ties that bound all to Canada.' Such a Club will, we are sure, prove a boon to the Canadian contingent of students in Edinburgh, every year increasing in numbers, and more especially to new arrivals, who will no longer find themselves entirely strangers in a strange land. We hope to hear much of its proceedings, for, apart from the recommendation of its being Canadian, many of us will be not unfamiliar with the *personnel* of its membership.

The proposal to erect a Medical School for women has assumed definite shape. That there is ample room for such an institution no one doubts, and it seems likewise to be generally thought that the end desired cannot be attained through the Medical Schools already founded. The difficulties in the way of medical co-education render the success of any such scheme so dubious that the promoters of the school are probably right in founding a separate institution. There will be no trouble in securing capable lecturers, and students will, from all accounts, be sufficiently numerous.

Public opinion with reference to the establishment in Toronto of a Free Public Library is gradually drifting from that unanimity which seemed to be shown in its favor by the vote in January. Objectors have taken different modes of attack. The practical difficulties have seemed to many insurmountable. Others cannot see advantages likely to accrue sufficiently valuable to allow of so large an addition to the City debt. More reasonable objections than these have been taken by men connected with the scheme, and entrusted with its carrying out; some of these *Bystander* formulates. A Public Reference Library is indeed sorely needed, for the Government Library is locked up from the public, and college libraries cannot be generally made use of. But such a Library as it seems at present to be the intention of the promoters to establish will not, we think, be worth the trouble and expense of its foundation. The character necessary to make it popular will detract from its usefulness; for the reference department will be altogether secondary, and that department of literature for the use of which such a library is unnecessary, will be of first importance. The fact that several cities in England and the United States, having given Free Public Libraries a long trial, have lately done away with them, is not without its lesson. Such a Library will not now, it seems from the discussion that has arisen, be established without much further consideration, and, probably, opposition. But changes can be made in the constitution such as to render it to every well-minded person, eminently desirable.

ROSALIND AND VIOLA.

II.

In our last paper we devoted some space to the comparison of the circumstances under which *Rosalind* and *Viola* respectively assumed male attire. We now purpose to examine the manner in which they respectively behave while wearing that attire. In the first place, it may be said that the apparently objectless determination of *Viola* prejudices the mind against her to some extent. The Great Lexicographer even went so far as to impute to her the motive of making up her mind to set her cap at the Duke the moment she heard he was a bachelor. He looks upon her as 'an excellent schemer.' We do not go so far, but at the same time as it is hard to find an intelligible reason for her assumption of the dress, we have not the same sympathy with her as with *Rosalind*. Her first appearance in her new costume is in conversation with *Valentine*, who

congratulates her on her rapid progress in the Duke's favor. The Duke then calls her and desires her to woo Olivia for him. He notices that she looks more like a woman than a man—'all is semblative a woman's part'—but he says that that very fact will tend more to make her successful than if she was 'a nuncio of more grave aspect.' If Malvolio's description of Viola's behaviour at the gate of Olivia's house is correct, she seems to have adapted herself to her assumed character with much readiness. In her interview with Olivia she finds herself in an awkward situation, and discovers that Olivia is determined to make love to her herself—an uncomfortable position to be placed in.

In the second scene of the second act, when Malvolio gives Viola the ring, Viola tells us her own secret in very plain language:

'My master loves her dearly,
And I, poor monster, fond as much on him
As she mistaken seems to dote on me,
What will become of this? as I am man,
My state is desperate for my master's love.'

Her next appearance is in the scene where the Duke asks for

'That piece of song—
That old and antique song we heard last night.'

He then demands to know whether she has not loved, and when she says that she has loved a woman about the same age as the Duke, he makes the celebrated speech about the inconveniences of a man marrying a woman older than himself—Shakespeare might have added *teste meipso*. The clown is then introduced and sings a melancholy song, which reminds the Duke of wishing to send Viola once more to Olivia. Viola asks him—

'But if she cannot love you, sir.' The Duke says 'I cannot be so answered.' Viola says that if a woman were in love with the Duke, as he is with Olivia, she would not take such an answer, and then the conversation leads us naturally to a disclosure by Viola,—

'My father had a daughter loved a man,
As it might be, perhaps, were I a woman,
I should, your lordship.'

And the Duke then asks,

'What's her history?'

Then follows that most beautiful speech, commencing—

'A blank, my lord; she never told her love.'

and it is this pathetic speech which invests Viola, so far as we can appreciate her character, with the main interest which attaches to it. She seems to carry out the wishes of the Duke in a fair and determined way, and when she finds that Olivia has set her heart upon herself—she tells her in so many words—

'I have one heart, one bosom, and one truth,
And that no woman has nor never none
Shall mistress be of it save I alone.'

In the subsequent scene with Viola in the third act, which leads to the duel between Viola and Sir Andrew, Olivia once more descends on her love for Viola, and when Sebastian appears she marries him off-hand, thinking him to be Viola. This marriage leaves the coast clear for Viola with the Duke, and in the last scene of the fifth act before the mystery is unravelled, Olivia claims Viola as her husband, thinking her to be Sebastian. The Duke is enraged, but at the same time behaves with dignity and self-restraint. The only punishment which he inflicts is

'Farewell, and take her, but direct thy feet
Where thou and I henceforth may never meet.'

Sebastian then comes on the scene, and the brother and sister are brought face to face. After their mutual discovery, Viola says:

'If nothing lets to make us happy both,
But this my masculine usurped attire;
Do not embrace me till each circumstance
Of place, time, fortune do cohere and jump
That I am Viola; which to confirm,
I will bring you to a captain's in this town
Where lie my maid's weeds, by whose gentle help
I was preferred to serve this noble count.'

Then the Duke claims her, and says:

'Give me thine hand,
And let me see thee in thy woman's weeds.'

Viola says:

'The captain that did bring me first on shore
Hath my maid's garments,'

and the play closes with a speech from the Duke—

'Caesario, come,
For so you shall be, while you are a man,
But when in other habits you are seen,
Orsino's mistress and his fancy's queen.'

There is not any expression on Viola's part of unpleasant surprise at finding herself discovered in man's dress, and it is this

want of feminine delicacy which we think is the striking contrast between her and Rosalind. We cannot help thinking that there is a lack of finish in this feature of the character. Hazlitt stoutly contends that the great and secret charm of *Twelfth Night* is the character of Viola, and Mrs. Jamieson says that in the play of *Twelfth Night* there is surely sufficient probability for all the purposes of poetry. On the other hand, Schlegel speaks of her falling arbitrarily in love with the Duke, and, as we have seen, Dr. Johnson makes her no better than she should be, in trying to catch the Duke. The true opinion will seem to lie between the two extremes, but we cannot help feeling that if Shakespeare had made Viola utter some expression of uneasiness in her situation, the whole conception would have been more pleasing. The same want of kindliness is seen also in *Twelfth Night* as in the *Merchant of Venice*. Malvolio is so unmercifully badgered that there is to some extent a revulsion of feeling in his favor, and Viola could have been made to interfere on his behalf without doing any violence to the plot. The absence of any such interference strikes us unpleasantly, although, to our robust ancestors, the whole affair was probably only a good joke.

In Rosalind's character, Shakespeare has not overlooked the feature of feminine shyness and modest delicacy. When she hears that Orlando is in the forest, her very first thought is—

'Alas the day! what shall I do with my doublet and hose?'

After the scene in which she, as Ganymede, pretends to be Rosalind, and plays at wooing with Orlando, she and Celia are left alone, and Celia says:—

'You have simply misused our sex in your love prate'—

and Rosalind replies:—

'O coz, coz, coz, my pretty little coz,
That thou didst know how many fathoms deep
I am in love.'

But all the time she never forgets that she is a woman, and is made to re-appear in the last scene in her proper costume, which is not the case in *Twelfth Night*.

To those who wish to have a just estimate of Rosalind, we commend Mrs. Jamieson's remarks on the character. They are so true that we cannot better them—but we cannot accept her estimate of Viola.

The comparison has been forced upon us by the late representations which have been given here. We forbear any comparison between the two charming women who lately revived, in our midst, the glories of the stage. We only attempt to reproduce the impression which the two characters themselves, considered as individualities, made upon us. As the task has been interesting to ourselves, we hope it has not been unpleasant to our readers.

OUR PROFESSORS AND THE PROFESSION.

The term Profession is a complex conception. An analysis of it discovers the following elements: The present state or condition of the materials, whether they be of matter or of mind, which are the immediate objects of professional efforts: the methods and appliances which are to subserve those efforts; the state in which the objects of professional labors shall be left when the direct labors shall have ceased; and the character of the preparatory training which every member of the profession should have received. It is our purpose to investigate more particularly the last named of these elements, as it is found in the profession of teaching.

A professor of the art of teaching is called upon to perform the duties of both an instructor and an educator. In the capacity of instructor his great prototype is Homer; as an educator, he must look to Socrates for his inspiration. When the blind old bard sang on the Chian strand his immortal epics, he stood there instructor of the ages, and the model for instructors for all time. His lessons of history, of morals, and of religion came from living lips and not from manuscript of ancient date and musty smell. His flowing words of wisdom burned themselves into the minds of his hearers and kindled an undying fervor there. When Socrates met his disciples in the Academy, it was as a living teacher of living men; no scroll or tablet was in his hand, but the air surged with the magnetic power of his presence and the audible expression of his mind. He awakened in his followers a craving they never had felt before. He led them hungering to the storehouses of knowledge and fed them there.

At a subsequent period of the world's history, the principal instructors and educators of the people were the rhapsodists who recited the poems of Homer to crowds of eager listeners at the Olympic games, and the actors who worked over again in the Greek theatre those soul-stirring problems of reason and passion which Æschylus, Sophocles and Euripides first gave to the world. These rhapsodists and actors had a higher aim than merely to reproduce the words of the original speakers. They appealed not to the intellect alone but also to the emotions of

their hearers. They sought to give expression in its fullest form to the *ideas* of those ancient master-minds. They went through a long and arduous training of voice, look and gesture before they assumed the duties and responsibilities of instructors and educators of the people.

But, O tempora, O mores! the times have changed and so have the manners, though the change in this case is, we fear, not for the better. When the Honorable the Minister of Education for Ontario is choosing an occupant for a vacant chair in University College, the question with him is *not* 'What qualifications does this applicant possess as an educator and an instructor?' Oh no, he asks 'What is his standing in the class lists of his college, and what degree does he hold?' Moreover some short-sighted people have been very anxious that the professor elect should be a Canadian, while they have never shown the least concern that he should be a teacher. Yet neither nationality nor a university degree is a guarantee of ability to teach, and one would have supposed that a Minister of Education might have known that the best scholar is not always the best teacher, and that a college professor no less than a public school teacher, requires some knowledge of the art of teaching before he can teach. What a remarkable anomaly our educational system presents in the fact that no one is legally qualified to teach in the meanest of our back-woods' school houses who has not received some professional education, and yet the well-endowed chairs of our provincial college are held entirely irrespective of any professional qualification whatever. Our country is very careful that the time of her children shall not be wasted through inefficient teaching; she is not so careful about her young men. Is it because a child's time is more valuable than a man's, or is it because it requires more skill to teach the alphabet than to teach conic sections?

But some may say that it is not desirable that the acquisition of knowledge should be made an easy matter for the student, since this very surmounting of difficulties is in itself a most important part of his education. Granted that it is, still this argument is valid only on the supposition that there is only a limited number of difficulties for the student to encounter before he shall have received a finished education; or, in other words, that there is only a certain limited amount of knowledge available to mankind, and that, therefore, the student's mind should be exercised as much as possible in acquiring this knowledge. But the 'Pierian springs' are inexhaustible to finite beings; the less difficulty we have in drawing therefrom the more we will draw; and if knowledge is of any value at all the greater amount must have a higher value than the less.

We shall assume, then, that it is the duty of every teacher first to arouse an interest in his pupils for their work, and then to give them every reasonable assistance that they require and that circumstances permit. One fundamental test of good teaching is the presence of enthusiasm for knowledge in the pupil; if this is absent all the academical machinery in Christendom will fail to turn out educated men. One duty of the professor is to awaken this enthusiasm for study, put the student on the right track, and guide him with the least strain along the path of wisdom and of power. We have several such professors in University College. Foremost among them is probably the venerable professor of metaphysics, to whom, more than any other man, Ontario is indebted for the great reform which was made in her public school system ten years ago. Metaphysics is in itself the most abstruse subject on the whole curriculum, yet such is the interest aroused in this subject by the skill of the teacher, that the students throng to his lectures, and his honor classes contain probably half of all the honor students in the college. So patent is the latter fact to everybody, that some of the honor students in the other courses, ignorant of the true cause of this preference, and feeling that some explanation is necessary, have stated that this course is popular because it is easy. This is a mistake; the metaphysical course is popular, *not* because it is easy, but because the professor is pre-eminently a teacher and not simply a scholar.

But University College has had, and perhaps still has, professors sadly lacking in professional ability. In one respect it matters little that these gentlemen were perfectly willing to assist the students as far as they could do so, zeal not according to knowledge does not count for much among the world's forces. No one can doubt that these gentlemen had great scholarly ability, yet what did it avail to the students that their professors were possessed of all the knowledge of the ancients and of the moderns also, if they could not impart that knowledge? It fell to my lot not very many years ago to attend lectures given by one of these gentlemen. It was at the beginning of the course, and the professor was dealing with a subject which was entirely new to the great majority of his class, yet such was the character of his lectures that they were almost entirely unintelligible to students who had made considerable progress in the study. Indeed, a scholar in this department was heard to remark that few of the honor men, except of the higher years, professed to understand his lectures.

In the first place, the professor's articulation was rapid, careless and indistinct, students in the back seats were frequently at a loss to know what he was saying. His tone of delivery was as monotonous as that of a Japanese praying machine, which is worked by a crank, and there was about as much life and expression in his look and actions as in those of an automatic chess-player. His sentences were obscure, unconnected and unfinished, and the plan, if plan there was, on which the whole lecture had been arranged was past finding out. Yet this professor was more noted than any other in the college for the frequency and severity of his written examinations. He kept dropping his examination bucket down empty wells, hoping that by some mysterious means it would be filled. But all in vain, for 'ex nihilo nihil fit' was as applicable to this professor's lectures and their results as it ever was to anything. Is it any wonder, then, that these lectures were unpopular with the students, and that only those attended them who were compelled by sheer necessity, or were attracted by pure love for the subject? We have said that this gentleman was a splendid scholar, *he* knew the subject thoroughly, but what of that? We do not suppose that the province of Ontario engages a teacher for *knowing*, but for *teaching*. What he *knows* or does not know is not the question, it is only from what he imparts to others that the country derives any benefit, and if he fails here, he fails entirely.

It is not out of place to observe that the lecture system at best is little adapted to the requirements of the modern student. In bygone ages, when books were scarce or entirely lacking, and students received all their information directly from their professors, it might have been necessary to have recourse largely to this method of teaching. But we live under a new order of things. Through the invention and improvement of the art of printing, the wisdom of the past and of the present is freely ours to an extent limited only by our capacity to acquire it. 'Quære fontes' is the sage advice of the Latin philosopher, and we can follow it in all our studies. We do not need to get our knowledge at secondhand from our teachers. The instruction which we require from them is mainly by way of exposition of the views of others, as we have them presented to us in our text-books. A professor may occasionally find it very advantageous to give a formal lecture summarizing those views, or in expression of opinions of his own in opposition to them, but it is only in such cases that lectures are of much service.

These lectures are given for the purpose of instruction, but the great duty of our professors is not so much to instruct as to educate. As a prominent Canadian scholar and author has said, 'Less instruction and more education would be more to the purpose.' In this process of education the principal actor is to be the student and not the professor. That greatest of all educators, Socrates, was so strongly impressed with this fact that he held that all non-historical knowledge is merely reminiscence, and that the sole function of the educator is by *judicious questioning* to bring this knowledge to the surface and make it available for present use. While Socrates was no doubt wrong in the former part of his theory, yet he was right in practice, and if his system were in more general use at the present day, we cannot but think that it would be the better for the student. But under the present system it would almost appear that the main function of some of our professors is neither to instruct nor to educate, but merely to deliver a certain number of lectures, and to get over a certain amount of work. It would appear to be a matter of quite secondary importance whether the student can follow or not; the work is done if the professor 'gets over it.' How often do we hear the remark from our professors, 'This is a very important point, I should like very much to dwell on it, but we have not time, there is so much to be *gone over*.' Not enough time! For what? To be properly educated and instructed? Certainly we have, what else do we come to college for? Of course it is not necessary or possible that we should know everything, but it is possible and it is necessary that we should know well what we do know. This 'getting over' work, as it is expressively termed, is a 'mockery, a delusion, and a sham,' and we wonder much that professors do not see the folly and the childishness of such a procedure. Some of the professors lay the blame of this state of things on the senate, the council, and the examiners. These gentlemen, they say, have appointed such and such books to be read, and they will expect us to have gone over them. Ah! we have reached the root of the evil at last. *Examinations*, then, are the end of all education. An education is valuable only in so far as it enables us to pass examinations. Knowledge, *per se*, has no worth; its value is conferred on it by the demand of examiners and any knowledge which is not in demand with them is worthless. The college registrar is to keep an account of the growth of our souls by a sort of intellectual, double-entry book-keeping, and we students are to be graduated and sent forth into the world with the stamp of the examiner on us as 25, 50, or 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % men, as the case may be. Oh, that those who are responsible for this condition of things were possessed of a little common sense! At the same time, they have indirectly shown

that the amount of work required is excessive, and that consequently their teaching is inefficient; else why should they be satisfied with so low a percentage obtained by students on examination? It is currently reported that only 25% of the total marks attainable is required on a pass examination. This must mean that while the professor has not time to teach us one fact properly, and in such a way that we will understand it and remember it, he yet has plenty of time to teach us four facts, but in such a way that he expects us to remember only one of them!

The foregoing considerations render it obvious that we have great need in Canada of a School of Education, at which our professors, and high school teachers also, might receive a professional training corresponding to that provided for members of the legal and medical professions at their professional schools. The necessity for such an institution has been recognized by other countries, England, Scotland, and the United States, but they have for the present compromised the matter by establishing chairs of education at their principal colleges. When Ontario shall have made this reform, our system of education will be almost perfect, the admiration and model of the world.

A. STEVENSON.

UNIVERSITY NEWS.

'VARSITY' STOCK COMPANY.

A meeting of the shareholders of the 'VARSITY' was held on Wednesday afternoon. About thirty were present, Mr. Kingsford occupying the chair.

The Treasurer, Mr. Campbell, gave a very satisfactory statement of the financial standing of the company, and showed that the receipts for the year would cover the expenditure, and leave a small surplus on the books.

Mr. Blake urged the undergraduate members of the company to throw their energy into the 'VARSITY', and endeavor to make its subscription list much larger, and its matter more worthy, in every way, of the institution it represents.

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Cane, that Article I. of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: 'The Company shall be a Joint Stock Company with \$500 paid up capital in one hundred shares of \$5 each, with power to increase the capital. All transfers of shares shall be made through the stock-book of the Company, which shall be kept by the Secretary.'—Carried.

It was moved by Mr. Campbell, and seconded by Mr. Blake, that the thanks of the company be tendered to Mr. Ellis, of *Grip* Publishing Company, for his kind attention to their wishes, and indefatigable labors on their behalf.

Messrs. H. S. Osler and G. M. Wrong were appointed auditors of the accounts.

The Company then adjourned to meet again on the 10th of Oct.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE Y. M. C. A.

The regular meeting was well attended this week. The subject for consideration was 'Christ our Pattern.' Mr. W. H. Smith opened the subject, and at once inquired why we should take Christ as a pattern. First, we should follow the pattern, because it is a perfect one.

Those around us, and those who have preceded us, may have been good, and yet they come under the description of David, 'There is none that doeth good, no not one.' But in Christ we have one in whom there is no guile—a perfect example. A second reason why we should follow Christ is because He wished us to do so. His words are, 'If ye love me keep my commandments.'

But the question now arises, what are some of the perfections of Christ which we should aim at imitating? Foremost among those is humility, which characterized our Saviour all through His life, from His lowly birth to His ignominious death on the cross. He was meek and lowly in spirit, finding His associates among those of humble extraction, and 'eating with publicans and sinners.' Now, how necessary it is for us who by nature are inclined to be proud, to copy our Saviour's meekness of mind, and so be preserved from falling. Another of our Saviour's perfections, which we would do well to adopt, is His unselfishness. His whole life was one of self-sacrifice for others, and even on the cross His thoughts were of His mother, nor did He refuse to minister to the thief by His side.

Again, the Saviour's reverence for, and constant use of, the Scriptures, are points which may, and should be, followed. The word of God is 'the sword of the spirit,' the Christian's most effective weapon. But though we should all endeavor to follow the example of Christ in the respects referred to, let us see first that we have Christ's nature implanted in us. Let us not cultivate these perfections in order to become followers of Christ, but because we are his followers, and then we shall be accepted of God.

Mr. MacMahon made a few remarks on the necessity of following Christ, when it is said of Him that 'He went about continually doing good.' Our lives should not be made up of mere negations but of positive devotion.

Mr. Wrong said we may gather a good lesson as to the manner in which we should speak to others on the subject of personal religion, from considering our Saviour's dealings on such occasions as his conversation with the woman of Samaria. There must be an earnest dealing with sin, and yet there must be an absence of offensive abruptness.

Election of officers for the ensuing term resulted as follows:—President, Mr. W. P. McKenzie; Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Smith; Recording Secretary, Mr. H. R. Fraser; Corresponding Secretary, H. J. Hamilton; Treasurer, A. H. Young.

The report of the retiring General Committee was next read, and showed a decidedly prosperous condition. There was special stress laid on the desirability of engaging more actively in mission work. The Treasurer's report showed a respectable balance on hand. The General Committee were instructed to make inquiries as to the expense, etc., of sending a delegate to the International Convention to be held in Milwaukee in June. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the retiring committee.

ANNUAL MEETING OF GLEE CLUB.

The fourth annual meeting of the Glee Club was held yesterday (Friday), at four o'clock. The Hon. Pres., Prof. Wright, took the chair and opened the meeting by an address in which he expressed his regret at having been unable to attend the practices of the Glee Club during the year, owing at first, to pressure of work, and afterwards to his unfortunate accident. He concluded by congratulating the Club on their position at the close of the present season, and the bright prospects for the next, and resigned the chair in favor of the President. The business of the meeting was now proceeded with. The retiring Secretary read the following report.

To the Members of U. C. Glee Club:

GENTLEMEN,—In presenting this the 4th annual report, your committee begs to congratulate the Club on its success and great improvement during the past year. The Club has been very fortunate in again securing the services of Mr. Torrington, and to whom all thanks are due for the untiring interest he has shown in the Club. In all Mr. Torrington attended 13 practices, and at the end of which he expressed himself as highly pleased with the advancement the Club had made. The Club numbers 62, and although now less than last year's membership, the number of good voices is considerably greater than last year's.

In the beginning of the term it was decided to give a miscellaneous concert for the benefit of the Club at which was to be given Mendelssohn's 'Œdipus at Colonus.' It was found, however, that this concert could not be given for less than nine hundred dollars, and as only one hundred dollars could be raised as a guarantee fund, your committee did not feel capable of shouldering so great a responsibility. The matter was therefore dropped. Nine songs have been got up this year in addition to several choruses for Œdipus. The Club has appeared in the public debates and at the Conversaciones, on which occasion the sixth chorus of Antigone and the third chorus of Œdipus were rendered very creditably.

The thanks of the Club are due to the Literary Society for so generously granting it the sum of \$50, and to Mr. Thompson, Manager of the Horticultural Gardens, for sending complimentary tickets to the Eichberg Concert, and which it is to be regretted were not more freely taken advantage of.

The Treasurer's report is not yet ready for presentation.

The results of the election of officers which followed are:—Hon. Pres., Mr. F. A. Vines (acclamation); Pres., E. N. Hughes (acclamation); Secretary, G. A. Cameron; Treasurer, A. D. Passmore; Leader, C. W. Gordon (acclamation); Committee:—3rd year, J. F. Brown and G. F. Cane; 2nd year, H. J. Hamilton and R. Baldwin; 1st year, A. H. Scott and F. W. McLean.

QUICQUID AGUNT.

For the examinations follow closely on the kindred pests of Spring Poetry and the first robin, and, in calmer diction, begin on the 18th.

Lectures in Metaphysics are over for the year; other lecturers will quickly follow suit and leave the gorged undergraduate to retire behind his oak, and digest the dry and unwieldy mass.

The Wycliffe Divs. debated last night to an admiring audience of friends, the question: 'Resolved,—That Protestantism has been assisted rather than hindered by sectarian divisions.'

Notwithstanding the long-continued humidity of the ground, the stalwart cricketer has once more appeared on the lawn with fire in his eye, determination in his step, and wickets in his hand.

Lovers of the beautiful will be pleased to know that certain quill-

drivers in connection with the 'VARSITY' took occasion, before the departure of Mr. F. C. Wade, to have their faces ineradicably reproduced on paper by the aid of the Sun.

'To him that hath.'—The beneficent Council has 'advised' all undergraduates to attend the College examinations, thinking, doubtless, that the careless student might be led to neglect the means extended to him of acquiring an education (?)

As might have been supposed, the applications for the Fellowships have been numerous; other courses will be gratified to know that, if the prize is to be denied them, Science will have her claims represented to the extent of nearly a Fellowship per man.

The members of the Company are unanimous as to the warlike appearance which No. 9 presented at the march-out last night. It is rumored that the bouquet which a fair one presented to the Company was intended for C—, but as some thirty claim it, it is difficult to decide.

COLLEGE NEWS.

KNOX COLLEGE.

Robert Haddow, B.A., of '82, who is at present teaching in the Cayuga High School, was with us for a few days lately.

J. W. Mustard, B.A., of '82, also paid us a flying visit while on his way to Walkerton. J. W. finds it exceedingly difficult to accommodate himself to the 'Hollow.'

R. C. Tibb has been appointed Librarian to Knox College. This appointment gives universal satisfaction, especially to University students who in past years had to forego the use of the Library for theological students at the close of the session, owing to the Librarian being from one of the latter class.

J. C. Smith, B.A., received the appointment of Classical Tutor for sessions '83-'85, D. M. Ramsay, B.A., the former incumbent, having graduated.

OSGOODE LITERARY AND LEGAL SOCIETY.

The usual interest was taken in the proceedings of this Society on the occasion of its meeting on Saturday evening last. Quite a number assembled at the regular hour, no doubt anxious to know what steps would be taken as to the formation of a new Government. Our President occupied the chair, and after the usual preliminary business, was enrolled as Speaker of the Mock Parliament.

A look of surprise and wonder was perceptible on the faces of those present when our late Premier was again called upon to form a new Government. Such a course of action had been suggested, by way of joke, by some members most extravagant in their ideas, but none had dared insinuate that our Premier would accept it, were the offer made, after his late crushing defeat. The glitter and tinsel of office, however, presents charms to the youthful and ambitious, charms that cause them to act contrary to their better judgment, and in this case persuaded Mr. Haight to accept the task of forming a new Government, which your reporter was pleased to observe contained the names of H. F. Kelly, Minister of Finance; J. W. Taylor, Minister of Customs, and G. F. Cairns, Secretary of State, who, it is generally conceded, will add weight to the Government by their remarks, always carefully considered, and by holding in check the other irrepressibles. The Address from the Throne was presumed to have been read, after which the mover and seconder of the Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, acquitted themselves creditably in short but pointed addresses. Mr. Mahoney followed, and criticized the Speech from the Throne in scathing terms, complaining of the meagre bill of fare placed before the House, and attacking several unimportant measures that the Address foreshadowed. Several other speakers on the different sides of the House followed with speeches that showed a considerable knowledge of the public questions of the day. At the close of the Parliament, a pleasing episode took place: The President, on motion, left the chair, and the First Vice-President, Mr. C. S. Mahoney, presided. It was then moved and seconded in a manner expressive of very good taste, that this Society tender its congratulations to Judge McDougall on his recent elevation to the Bench, the mover dwelling, in particular, on Mr. McDougall's well deserved popularity, his kindly interest in the students, and his indefatigable exertions to make our Society a flourishing body. On rising to reply, he was greeted with storms of applause, and spoke eloquently, assuring the students that, although he was about to be removed from every day intercourse with them, he still would remember his own student days, and while remembering those, would extend to every student an encouraging word and the benefit of his own experience, and that they might all be certain that, in the discharge of his judicial functions, he would always see that they should get fair play. He farther stated that he would use his every endeavor to be with them

at as many meetings of the Society during the remainder of the year as was possible. Mr. McDougall has the esteem of every member of the Society, as the prevailing enthusiasm plainly evidenced.

Reference was made to the 'Annual Dinner,' but as the Committee had not received replies from Messrs. McConkey & Webb, nothing further was done. It was suggested that if the Society should decide to dispense with holding the Dinner this year, they should have another Public Debate. This will probably be the termination of all the talk about this affair. The Society then adjourned for a week.

GENERAL COLLEGE NOTES.

Dalhousie is to have a Law School.—*Ex.*

The *Princetonian* changes its editors this week.

The McGill University Library contains 20,000 volumes.—*Ex.*

Denison University is looking forward to a bequest of \$100,000.

The freshmen of the University of New York hold a dinner next month.

The *Dalhousie Gazette* advocates the erection of a museum for the College.

Columbia's new Library Building will accommodate 80,000 volumes.—*Ex.*

Ann Arbor has just been donated a peal of bells for the clock in the library tower.

The Princeton Glee Club gave a concert at Ann Arbor, on Wednesday last.

The *College Mercury* purposes to give in its next number a complete history of its foundation and work.

The Columbia Glee Club gave a concert in Brooklyn last week, and intend to give one in New York.—*Ex.*

The Johns Hopkins University conducts five journals, devoted to original investigation in various fields.—*Ex.*

The Yale College students have already raised \$33,000 for the new athletic grounds there, and hope to raise much more.

The next annual regatta of the American Canoe Association will be held at Stony Lake, near Peterborough, Canada.—*Ex.*

The *University Monthly*, from Fredericton University, suggests that a fair knowledge of the bible be required for a degree.

The performance of 'The Honeymoon,' by the students of Princeton was disappointing, financially at any rate, though it netted \$400.

The Total Abstinence League, started at the University of Notre Dame, has been very successful. The League has more than 100 members.

Amateur Drama seems to flourish at Ann Arbor. Last year they presented Latin and French plays and now they intend to give two farces, one English and the other French, accompanied by a 'ballet intermede.'

Queen's College Library has recently received upwards of 200 volumes from the library of the late John Hamilton, and nearly 200 volumes from miscellaneous donors.—*Ex.*

Alderman Philip Casey, of Brooklyn, known as a baseballist, is agitating the opening of the Brooklyn parks to the boys on Sunday for football, baseball, cricket, and like healthful and innocent amusements. The mayor is opposed to the idea, but Mr. Casey will petition the park commissioners.

The diversity of titles of heads of American colleges and universities has its parallel and perhaps its origin in England. At the University of Cambridge, all the heads of colleges except two—the Provost of Kings and President of Queens—are uniformly known as 'Masters.' At Oxford, however, the head of Christ church is the Dean, who is, in fact, the Dean of the Cathedral of Oxford; All Souls, Keble, New and Wadham have Wardens; Brasenose, Jesus, and all the Halls, or smaller colleges, have Principals; Exeter and Lincoln have Rectors; Oriel, Queens and Worcester have Provosts; Corpus Christi, Magdalen, St. Johns and Trinity have Presidents; University (the oldest college), Balliol and Pembroke have Masters.—*Ex.*

Glasgow is likely to have a repetition of the scenes which recently disgraced Aberdeen on the occasion of Dr. Bayne's attempt to deliver a Rectorial address to the students, if the Senatus of St Mungo persist in carrying out their present arrangements with regard to the visit of Mr. Bright on Friday. There are 2,600 students attending the University of Glasgow, and it is proposed that seats should only be provided for 1,100, the remaining 1,500 being allowed standing-room during the delivery of the right hon. gentleman's speech. If this arrangement be insisted upon, I fear that very few of the Lord Rector's words will be heard. The proceeding is utterly unjustifiable, as the Lord Rector is elected by the students, and it is for them that the address is intended, and not for the sisters, cousins, and aunts of the professors.—*Truth.*

The construction of new athletic grounds in Holmes field, Cambridge, Mass., will shortly be begun. It is proposed to construct a quarter of a mile track, which will be when finished the finest in the United States. The top layer, to a depth of three inches, will be composed of fine cinders and blue sand mixed: the second layer, six inches deep, of coarse cinders and gravel. Beneath this will be a third layer, three inches deep, of coarse quarry rubbish, burnt clay, tin cans, &c., and beneath all, in the middle of the track, a narrow ditch, six inches deep, filled with cobble stones, for the quicker absorption of moisture. Except on the home-stretch, about one hundred and fifty yards, where it will be twenty feet wide, the track will be fifteen feet wide in all parts and the cost of its construction will be \$2,500. There will be plenty of room inside the track for foot and baseball games. A board fence nine feet high will surround the grounds. A grand stand of great architectural beauty, capable of seating 1,300 persons, will be 200 feet long, and 15 feet high, with a distance of 6 feet from the ground to the lower tier of seats. Beneath the stand, and easy of access, will be found dressing-rooms, &c.—*Mail.*

The Theological Faculty at Oxford has just been reinforced by the appointment of the Rev. John Wordsworth. It is difficult to know why a new Theological Professorship was created. There were already six professors and a reader in this one subject. There are four 'Regius' Professors, viz.: one of Divinity, one of Ecclesiastical History, one of Pastoral Theology, and one of Hebrew; a 'Margaret' Professor of Divinity, Dean Ireland's Professor of Exegesis, and a Grinfield Lecturer on the Septuagint. The first five are the best paid Professors in the University. The Professor of Exegesis, which, being interpreted, means Interpretation, has identically the same duties as the new Oriel Professor of Interpretation. As the number of undergraduates who study theology, especially amongst those who aspire to honors, is declining, it is odd that two professors should be necessary to cover the same ground. The real reason of the creation appears to be that the Provostship of Oriel used to have annexed to it a Canonry of Rochester. The Provost of Oriel may now be a layman, so the Canonry has been severed from it. To preserve the Canonry to Oxford, the Commissioners, in February, 1881, decided to annex it to the Ireland Professorship; but eventually, in April, 1881, upon second thoughts, they created this new professorship, annexed the Canonry to it, and so preserved it to Oriel College.—*Truth.*

The unprecedented success of the 'Œdipus Tyrannus' at the Commencement exercises last year has encouraged the Greek classes to bring out another Greek play at the Commencement exercises in June. The 'Antigone' of Sophocles has been chosen, and, we understand, no pains will be spared to make the production as successful as possible. The opening scenes in the 'Antigone' are not so fine as those of the 'Œdipus,' but, as the play goes on, there is as fine a field for action and declamation in the 'Antigone.' The success of the 'Œdipus' last year was undoubtedly due in a great measure to the excellent music and training of the choruses by B. Anselm, Professor of Vocal Music at the University. The music was his own composition, and admirably adapted. This year, we understand, the grand choruses of Mendelssohn's Sophocles' Antigone have been chosen, and we have no doubt that, with the excellently trained choristers, it will be brought out with grand effect. It is said this year a libretto is in preparation at D. Appleton & Company's for the 'Antigone' at Notre Dame, so that those who do not understand Greek can follow the drama through the translation. The Greek text and the English translation will be printed on opposite pages. The libretto is similar to that gotten up by Ginn & Heath for the 'Œdipus' at Harvard, two years ago. The 'Antigone' was brought out at the University of Toronto a year ago, but, we believe, without a libretto. With the proposed arrangements, we predict that the production of the 'Antigone' here next June will be a grand success.—*Notre Dame Scholastic.*

The *Scholastic* is incorrect in saying that the 'Antigone' was produced here without a libretto. A libretto was printed and the choruses were sung to Mendelssohn's music. We wish Notre Dame all success in an undertaking, which we know from experience will prove by no means a light one.

FIVE O'CLOCK TEA.

THE BATH.

With rosy palms against her bosom pressed,
To stay the shudder that she dreads of old,
Lysidice glides down, till silver-cold
The water girdles half her glowing breast;
A yellow butterfly in flowery quest
Rifles the roses that her tresses hold:
A breeze comes wandering through the fold on fold

Of draperies curtaining her shrine of rest.
Soft beauty, like her kindred petals strewed
Along the crystal coolness, there she lies;
What vision gratifies these gentle eyes?
She dreams she stands where yesterday she stood—
Where, while the whole arena shrieks for blood,
Hot in the sand a gladiator dies.

We are not aware who is the author of these lines. Can any of our readers help us?

Nature is not content. Ha! I have heard her
Rushing at night swift down the streaming plain;
And, when the storm was thick and black at night,
Have seen her press her face in blackened mask
Against my window pane, and sob and weep,
And wail, until the great round tears ran down.

—*Joaquin Miller.*

Justice Gray, of the Supreme Court, albeit every inch a judge, 'hath a pretty wit.' While on the bench in Massachusetts, a lawyer not overstocked in the upper story, and noted for his verbosity and shallowness, was trying a case before him. The case was plain, so there was very little use of argument, and Master Shallow had the strong side, but he was determined to 'improve the occasion.' The judge leaned over and said: 'Mr. —, the court is with you "without argument."' 'But will you not hear my argument?' 'Oh, certainly,' said the judge. Then ensued a characteristic harangue of an hour or two. At its conclusion the judge said: 'Mr. —, the court is still with you, notwithstanding your argument.'—*Ex.*

Professor to sleepy student—'If you wish I will send out for a bed.' Sleepy student, with great *sang froid*—'Don't go to that trouble, sir, I have a *crib* with me.'—*Ex.*

OINOBERON.

I remember round our diggings, when a storm like Mr. Wiggins' Was a-shaking all the riggings of the shutters and the door, I was lying, lying thinking, and to sleep was quickly sinking, With my eyes already blinking, and in time would 'gin to snore, When I caught midst all these noises a small sound I'd heard before;

Only this and nothing more.

It was almost half-past seven, and I longed for the replevin Of the glorious summer heaven gone from us two months before, And was thinking, p'raps was dreaming, of the sunset light that streaming Used to fill with radiance gleaming, all the room from top to floor, When this sound, not unfamiliar, startled, as in days of yore, All my being, nothing more.

'Ah!' I said, 'I am not dreaming; well indeed I know the meaning Of that quite familiar screaming, and I straightway will explore; Maybe 'tis my darling Obby shivering out there in the lobby Where my former fellow Robbie oft has shivered much before, Obby who in summer twilight oft I've chatted with before, 'Tis Oinoberon, nothing more.

Quick I did undo the shutter, and to Obby softly mutter, 'Come in, dear, without much splutter, lightly tread upon the floor, For you know Mamma has told me that she horridly would scold me If you ever dared to fold me, precious, to your arms once more. I'm so glad you've come to see me. Not a sound upon the floor.' Quoth Oinoberon, 'Never more.'

'Not in vain have you entreated with your vows so oft repeated Darling Obby pray be seated on the sofa near the door. Hist! I am afraid that's mother, or perhaps my mother's brother, P'raps indeed my old grandmother knocking at the study door. Hurry, hide beneath the sofa, 'neath the sofa near the door; Only that and nothing more.'

Entered then, no, not my mother, nor indeed my mother's brother,

But, alas! my old grandmother entered at the study door;
And she laid herself reclining on the sofa's cretonne lining,
Chatting softly, not divining anyone was on the floor,
And she stayed of hours three-quarters or perhaps a little more;
Just that long, and nothing more.

Soon as grandma had departed quick I for the sofa started,
Much annoyed that she'd us parted for three-quarters of an hour,
When in stepped my only sister; quickly I embraced and kissed her,
Told her that her fellow missed her, nay, her presence did implore;
But she smiled and said she just had let him out the front hall door,

Only this and nothing more.

Then she 'gan a ceaseless chatting, I the while with my foot patting

The brown cocoanutt matting newly nailed before the door;
Then she raved about the 'Lillie' till she nearly drove me silly,
And my blood grew, oh, so chilly, for poor Obby on the floor,
It was two long hours of parting from the boy whom I adore,
Only two, and nothing more.

Oh! it seemed as if the Devil had prepared a little revel
For poor Obby stretched out level on the hard, cold, dusty floor,

For no sooner had she left me than my reason almost left me,
And of all hope bereft me of seeing darling Obby more
That evening; for ma called me to rock baby to a snore;
'Ah!' I murmured, 'Never more.'

After waiting long and hearing only her the cradle steering,
Obby turned his head and peering through the crack beneath the door,
Saw it was half-past eleven, and exclaimed, 'Ah! gracious Heaven,

It was hardly half-past seven when they gan off me to score,
And I've lain beneath this sofa of long hours just about four,
Only four, nothing more.'

Then he got him up and stretched, feeling more than simply wretched,
And his hat and gloves he caught, and quite fearfully he swore:

'Rather badly have I figured, and indeed may I be jiggered,
Yes, indeed, may I be jiggered if I come here evermore,
I will choke beneath a sofa for no female any more.
Quoth Oinoberon, 'Never more.'

—SWIGLEY.

POET'S CORNER.

AMBITION.

IMITATION OF A GERMAN SONG.

Despair not yet, my heart, despair not yet,
The morn must come altho' the night be long;
Then pain and suffering shall this breast forget,
And break forth into light and gladsome song.

I panted in the weary race, and hot;
And sought in vain the blue and starry skies:
Fain would I mount, and all my lack forgot,
But to the radiant heights I could not rise.

Let tired ambition rest for a short day,
No longer let it ease and quiet scorn;
Sorrow and sighing then shall flee away,
The night shall pass, and joy shall come with morn.

And learn, sad heart, that happiness is found—
Not in ambition's proud, disdainful race—
Not on the heights, but on the common ground;
True happiness is found in lowly place.

B.

COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor of the 'VARSITY.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with great attention the article which appeared in the 'VARSITY' the week before last, advocating a Literary and Athletic Union. At first sight the plan seemed fair and feasible, and it appeared to remove those difficulties which all have met with who have attempted to collect money from the undergraduates for any cause, however good. But upon closer inspection the scheme develops features that are by no means 'fair.' If the Union is to do a good work, the work is to be done by benefiting not a few, but the great mass of students. But if we look at the subscriptions paid by students during the current year we shall find that the average student does not spend more than \$4.00. He will join the Literary Society, will subscribe to the 'VARSITY, and will also join one of the Football Clubs. All this will amount to \$2.75, so that we are leaving a margin of \$1.25 for extra expenses. We venture to assert that the majority of students do not spend more than \$4.00 in Societies during the year. But to join the Union they would have to spend \$5.00. This extra dollar would be utterly thrown away as far as they are concerned.

But there is another view of the matter and one that displays the scheme in an unfavorable light. In order to join one Society, all must be joined. But what earthly good would it be for a Modern Language man, for instance, to find that he has joined a Union that will allow him to attend the meetings of the Natural Science Association if he feels inclined to do so. We may be quite sure that the Natural Science Association will not want his presence at their meetings, and yet he has a perfect right to attend, and he can not be kept out from one society without being shut out from all. The Modern Language man, under this scheme, is supporting the Natural Science Association as much as the Natural Science man himself, and it is not fair that he should. The writer of the article referred to assumes also that we all admit the need of societies which, nevertheless, cannot support themselves. I, for one, do not. One need not be an evolutionist to see the excellent sense of the theories referring to the survival of the fittest. If a Society does not possess strength enough in itself to subsist, the reason is surely quite clear, such a Society is not wanted, and the sooner that it wakes up to that fact the better. The excellent intentions of the writer of the article on a 'Literary and Athletic Union' are fully appreciated, but to me it seems such a Union would be likely to keep many undergraduates from joining any Society rather than join all.

Believe me, I remain, etc.,

J. B.

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