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THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XI.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, JANUARY 12, 1892.

NO. II.

Editorial Comments.



It is with a certain degree of anxiety that we take up the pen recently laid down by the late editor-in-chief, Mr. J. A. McLean—anxiety for the welfare of *THE VARSITY*, as well as its continued popularity among the subscribers generally.

The editorial column, in the past, has been filled with well-written, spicy articles on current topics affecting University life and actions, which have displayed no partisanship nor bigotry, but have always maintained a thoroughly neutral course on all debatable subjects.

For these reasons it will be hard for us to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors and keep the editorial columns as free from evidences of individual prejudices as heretofore.

Still the success of a college paper by no means depends altogether on its editorial column, but to a much greater degree on general matter contained therein—such as the accounts of the proceedings of the various societies, its sporting column, its letters, and its locals.

The success attendant on the efforts of the editors in the past inspires us to put renewed confidence in our subscribers and rely on them to keep *THE VARSITY* up to its former high standard as a mouthpiece of the students on all subjects relating to college life.

We will be most happy to receive letters from any student who has suggestions to offer on any scheme which comes up before the student body for consideration.

As to letters. Newspaper men tell us the great trouble with regard to letters sent to them for insertion has been their length, circumlocution, and ambiguity. Let us be brief. No long, well-rounded sentences, which do not convey facts, but merely an evident attempt on the part of the writer to imitate some noted journalist whose chief recommendation is his peculiarity of style and not his strict adherence to the truth. All gratuitous contributions to the letter column, as well as others, should be boiled down to such an extent that the subject may be presented to the student-reader in as concentrated a form as possible, because he has not time to analyse every article to find out any beauty of style or diction which may be hidden therein.

Let us be plain. No high-flown, classical-sounding words and phrases, but good "every-day" English, which will beget a truer response from the heart of the student, a firmer belief in the truth of your statements regarding the scheme or reform you are advocating, a greater sympathy on your behalf than any long-worded, heaven-piercing dissertation which the ordinary reader has to puzzle his brain to understand.

Some students seem to have the erroneous idea, because they are not pursuing a course in English, it must

needs be they cannot write a readable letter. For this reason we lose many valuable suggestions from those who are afraid of expressing their opinions through the medium of the college paper on account of the adverse criticism which they fear will follow. Still it is a very significant fact that the average adverse sarcastic critic possesses a cerebrum whose weight and complexity is in the inverse ratio to the length and scurrility of his criticism. We have had many evidences in the past of persons who were practically unheard of during their college course, but who afterwards took a high stand in journalism as well as in the professions. Any person who has a scheme truly at heart can and will find suitable means of expressing himself and words with which to do it. Hence our appeal. Let every student take an interest in his college paper, and contribute in some way towards its prosperity. We cannot expect to accomplish anything without your assistance.

As this is the first issue of *THE VARSITY* for the year 1892, we wish to draw the attention of the students to the importance of their attendance at each and every meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society.

There is no association around college which has so many claims on the student-body as this most important institution, devised for the maintenance of a college spirit, the cultivation of literary tastes, the training of public speakers, as well as the innumerable advantages of social and intellectual intercourse. This Society is truly the students' parliament, and should be looked upon as such. It is here that all business is transacted which affects the whole mass of students, and in time we would like to see it transformed into a sort of council, which would have for its consideration all questions relating to university life and customs, and by means of it let every person in attendance on lectures, in every department of our University, keep himself in touch with all clubs, societies, and associations that materially affect the welfare of the College.

It shows a great lack of college spirit, this division into clans and sects. We are altogether too clannish as regards class societies, clubs, associations, and, in fact, organizations of all kinds, but not nearly clannish enough when speaking of the College as a whole. The average Fourth Year student of the Medical Department of our University seems to have nothing in common with the Fourth Year man in the School of Practical Science. Should it be thus?

Students pursuing a course in Theology, Medicine, Science, Law or Arts should have one common end in view, and that the promotion of a firm bond of union among all the different departments of our University, and thus present one common front to all outsiders. As things exist at present we are not looked upon as members of the same college—we are that in name but not in reality.

How is such a union to be effected? It cannot be done.

in a day, but we should all labor towards that end, and it will come in time. One great means towards the realization of this seemingly Utopian scheme is to create harmony among the students in the different branches; and the best means of bringing this about is to have one society which will include all that are in any way connected with the University. This may be considered too theoretical—altogether too theoretical to be successfully put in practice; still there would be no harm in doing all in our power to bring about such a noble end—and if we fail we fail. It may seem to some a sort of Imperial Federation fad and just as airy, yet we cannot see why the prospect of the realization of such a glorious scheme should not warrant the exercise of all our energy on its behalf.

We are in the midst of the January Supplementals—or rather Supplemental "Supps."—which, to some of us, recall very pleasant memories of an expected interrupted course. There must be something radically wrong in the Senatorial Statutes, which, like those of the Medes and Persians, alter not, else there would be no need for such unpleasant recurrences of a most unpleasant reminder or duties neglected or unperformed. Why were there so many "plucks" and "stars" last May? Does the whole fault lie with the student? Let us consider.

According to the present Statutes an Honor man, if "starred" in more than one Pass subject, is plucked out-and-out, and is compelled to write his whole examination over again the following year, and gets no credit whatever for past work. Tests of knowledge should not be so mechanical. Such hard and fast rules are well enough for school children trying an entrance examination or candidates writing for Provincial Certificates, in which cases the persons so writing are spread over a whole Province, which necessitates the mechanical part of the test. But for a University it seems somewhat ridiculous, where each student's knowledge is supposed to be tested, to a certain extent, throughout the term.

Under existing regulations what inducement is there for a man pursuing an Honor Course to devote his time and energies to Pass subjects which are tagged on to his main course like manacles to the foot of a Sing Sing reprobate. We do not say these Pass subjects are unimportant, but they are treated as such by the Senate, and, of necessity, by the student. There is no stress laid on them in examinations, only in so far as they constitute the drive-wheel of the plucking-machine.

Take, for instance, two men in the Natural Science Department: each is contending for first place in the Honor Roll, each is manacled in the same way by Pass subjects, of which he can see no use except as Senatorial stumbling blocks cast in his way by the judges in this mimic obstacle race. One man devotes his time to them and gets them up well, the other, treating them as bug-bears, neglects them till the latter part of the academic year, when he crams them up and just skims through in these, what he considers, unimportant subjects. While the former has been dealing with these side issues, the latter has been concentrating all his energies on the main theme. May comes. Each goes up to Pilate's judgment-hall for cross-examination. The latter has got the start of the former, by many hours, on his specialty. As a result of his neglect of Pass work, he is far advanced in his

Honor subjects. The former takes 100 per cent. in the Pass subjects, the latter only 33. What matters it to the devotee at the shrine of Specialty? They are both ranked the same—in alphabetical order. How have the Honor Departments fared? The latter, on account of having spent more time on these subjects than his rival, not on account of his possessing superior ability, outstrips him in the race and is ranked far above him. Why it should be thus we cannot see. Let a man be ranked in Pass as in Honor work, according to his stand, if the regulation referred to above continues to be kept in force. Of course, we may be accused of selecting extreme cases: we have done so to show the absurdity of the present regulations. As long as matters exist as they do at present men will neglect their Pass subjects and devote their time to the different branches of their Honor Departments.

Still we are not in favor of ranking students at all in the different Honor or Pass Departments. Let there be two classes only—viz., First and Second—and do not attach so much importance to class stand, nor let so much depend upon mere exigencies. Let all years be governed by the same rules as the present Fourth Year, then there would not be so much cut-throat plugging—more education and less cramming.

We wish every person who takes an interest in the welfare of VARSITY would contribute any local items concerning the whereabouts and movements of graduates or undergraduates which may escape our notice. We are always pleased to receive such contributions, either at the office or by writing. If this is to become an ideal college journal, it should have means of obtaining information regarding those who have gone through the mill, and thus keep in touch with our ancestors in University genealogy. As we have no direct means, at present, of obtaining such information, we are forced to depend on the students to furnish us with it.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, at our solicitation, kindly furnished us with a small book of his poems, which have not yet been made public as these volumes were published last year for private distribution. He regretted not being able to give us something "wet from his pen," on account of scarcity of time. These poems are chiefly verse translations from Latin authors; those from Lucan and Lucretius are especially good. It is needless for us to say anything in the praise of this renowned literary man, as he is not only known in Canada, but throughout the whole literary world, as one of the purest writers of English prose. With his kind permission we have sent several selections to the Press, knowing the avidity with which they will be perused by THE VARSITY readers.

UNIVERSITY LECTURES.

The Easter Term of Saturday lectures in connection with the University of Toronto will be as follows, in each case at 3 p. m. in the University hall:—January 16th, William Dale, M.A., "The Greatness of Ancient Rome"; January 23rd, Prof. Ashley, M.A., "Methods of Industrial Peace"; January 30th, Sir Daniel Wilson, LL.D., F.R.S.E., Tennyson; February 6th, Prof. Hutton, M.A., "Phases of Athenian Politics"; February 13th, Prof. Baker, M.A., "History of Astronomy, The Systems of a Great Problem"; February 20th, Prof. Ramsay Wright, M.A., B.Sc., "Corals and Coral Islands"; February 27th, H. Rushton Fairclough, M.A., "The Ancient and Modern Stage"; March 5th, Prof. Loudon, M.A., "Ampere; His Life and Work."

THE MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The Modern Language Club held the third English meeting of the year on Monday, December 7. "American Poets" was the subject of the day, and the larger audience which the announcement of "an English meeting" does not fail to call out listened with interest and appreciation to the excellent essays read.

A good deal of business had first to be disposed of. The most important item was the consideration of Mr. Hellem's motion that, the Treasurer in future should be chosen from the second year instead of the first. The passing of this by the club was probably a wise measure, as it will be much easier for a man who has already spent one year in University corridors to collect the necessary fees, than for one who has practically no acquaintance with the Second, Third, and Fourth Years.

A solo by Mr. Edwards, with banjo accompaniment, opened the programme. The audience expressed their pleasure by an eager demand for an encore, but Mr. Edwards passed out, and was seen no more.

Mr. Beatty then followed with an essay on Whittier. An interesting description was given of the poet's Quaker home in New England, and the puritanical atmosphere in which his early years were spent. "Martin Smith's Diary" was mentioned as giving a very clear idea of what such a home would be. The legends of New England are the subjects of many of his poems, and he has painted with a gentle grace life among the hills and dales of these Eastern States. Mr. Beatty alluded to the interest Whittier took in the war, and quoted several from the many songs of war and slavery which show us the poet's feeling on this question. Many of his poems are addressed to persons for whom the poet felt a deep admiration; of these two were noted, those to Wm. Wordsworth and Burns, two poets in whose works Whittier took an especial delight. In concluding, the essayist pointed out the deep religious belief which we find speaking in all his poetry and voicing the faith and veneration in the soul of the poet.

The next essay, on William Cullen Bryant, was read by Miss Mackenzie, and showed a careful study of the author's life and work. Attention was drawn to the very arid condition of American poetry when Bryant commenced his work, and the deep impression which his early poems made on the reading public. Born of a poetic family, when still very young the boy began to display real poetic ability. Nature was his earliest inspiration. Of her beauties he sang when still a boy at home; and later, when a student at Williams College, he gave expression to his genuine admiration of the natural world about him in many exquisite poems. He was much given to that meditation which characterises those who drink in calmness and rest and new life from the fields and brooks and sky, but had not the slightest trace of the moroseness which often results from that very depression and disappointment of spirit which communion with nature is calculated to banish. "Thanatopsis," Bryant's first permanent work, in its simplicity and strength seems a type of the poet's own life. On this poem he had expended much thought, and its having been taken as a model by subsequent writers is sufficient proof of the excellence of the work. From the age of thirty-one to that of eighty-four he lived a life of success in New York. Much of his work here consisted in contributions to magazines, and his simplicity, his pure, genuine love of nature, his deep sympathy with the sorrows and woes of humanity won for him throughout the land an audience of enthusiastic admirers. From '54 to '57 he visited the Southern and Western States. While lingering in the prairie land of Illinois he received the inspiration for what is probably his best and certainly his best-known poem, "The Prairies."

Miss Mackenzie's essay was illustrated by many well-chosen quotations which lent to it an added interest. Miss Allan's reading of Bryant's "Thanatopsis" was the next number and was enthusiastically received.

The last essay was a very able one on Whitman, by Mr. Edgar. Whitman too is a poet of nature, but cast in a stronger mould than Whittier and Bryant, and the originality of his genius has given rise to most exaggerated admiration for him and prejudice against him. Through his poems there breathes a great personality, which seems often to become an intense egotism. But before judging the poet too harshly, we must look at the beautiful life he lived. His worship of nature from earliest years; his strong democracy of spirit and sympathy with mankind; his noble self-sacrifice, seen in his work in the hospital wards during the war; and that insight which showed him a divinity in most insignificant things, were traits of his character which made his whole life a true poem. The essayist considered Whitman's choice of new, strange forms for his poetry justified by the fact that conventional forms were ill adapted to the robustness of his genius. Unfortunately, owing to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Edgar felt it necessary to omit part of his essay.

The programme of meetings of the Modern Language Club for the Easter term is as follows:—

- I.—Jan. 11. A Public English Meeting at which Mr. D. R. Keys, M.A., will deliver a lecture entitled: "A Grammarian's Holiday."
- II.—Jan. 18. Subject of evening, Voltaire. Essays are Life; Candide; Henriade.
- III.—Jan. 25. Subject, Auerbach. Essays, Life; Baigne; Volks Bücher.
- IV.—Feb. 1. A Public English Meeting, a further announcement of which will be made early this term.
- V.—Feb. 8. Subject, Lamartine. Essays, Life; Jocelyn; Les Confidences.
- VI.—Feb. 15. Subject, Schiller. Essays, Life; Poetry.
- VII.—Feb. 22. Subject, English Lady Novelists. Essays on Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, and Miss Mulock.
- VIII.—Feb. 29. Subject, Mme. de Stael. Essays, Life; Corinne.
- IX.—Mar. 7. Subject, Contemporary in German Novel. Essays on the Lives of Storm and Scheffel, and Immensee.
- X.—Mar. 14. Subject, Cardinal Newman. Essays on Life; Novels; Other Literary Work.

HORACE, OD. III. 21.

O nata mecum consule Manlio.

TO A CASK OF WINE MADE IN THE YEAR IN WHICH HORACE WAS BORN.

My good contemporary cask, whatever thou dost keep
Stored up in thee—smiles, tears, wild loves, mad brawls
or easy sleep—
Whate'er thy grape was charged withal, thy hour is come;
descend;
Corvinus bids, my mellowest wine must greet my dearest
friend.
Sage and Socratic though he be, the juice he will not
spurn,
That many a time made glow, they say, old Cato's virtue
stern.
There's not a heart so hard but thou beneath its guard
canst steal,
There's not a soul so close but thou its secret canst
reveal.
There's no despair but thou canst cheer, no wretch's lot
so low
But thou canst raise, and bid him brave the tyrant and
the foe.
Please Bacchus and the Queen of Love, and the linked
Graces three,
Till lamps shall fail and stars grow pale, we'll make a
night with thee.

—From "Bay Leaves," by Goldwin Smith, D.C.L.

The Varsity

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BY

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We are not responsible for the opinions expressed in our correspondence columns.

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JANUARY 12. 1892.

LITERARY SOCIETY.



THE Literary Society assembled Friday evening, December 11th, with its usual want of promptness and proceeded to transact the following business. A committee was appointed to revise the societies' invitation list, and another committee of fifty-nine members nominated to co-operate with the general committee in making preparations for the annual conversazione. THE VARSITY directorate brought in a recommendation that any profits made on THE VARSITY up to the sum of one hundred dollars should be divided between the editor-in-chief and the business manager. The report was received but its discussion postponed. Mr. Cooper was appointed representative to Queen's annual dinner in response to an invitation from that college. After the routine of business had been successfully attended to, the Literary Society resolved itself into a miniature Parliament ready to transact a nation's business. Proceedings were inaugurated by the Honorable the Minister of Finance introducing a resolution to the effect that the House was in favor of unrestricted reciprocity. In eloquent and impressive language he pointed out the great advantages to be derived from such a policy, affirming that political boundaries are not commercial boundaries and that the geographical position of Canada renders inter-provincial trade abortive.

Mr. Sissons followed and begged a patient hearing

for his maiden speech. The number of debutants on the political arena was remarkably large and each in turn craved the kind indulgence of the House.

Mr. Green gave a short sketch of Canada in the various attitudes she had adopted with regard to the question under the consideration of the House.

Mr. McKinnon then rose from one of the Government benches. He believed in reciprocity and knew many extensive manufacturers who were in favor of it too. At this point the leader of the Opposition thought it necessary to rise to a point of order. It was unfair, he said, for two members on the Government side to speak consecutively without allowing the chance for a reply. Mr. McKinnon protested that he was an independent, and the Speaker ruled that he knew no party distinctions. Mr. Henderson was the next supporter of the Opposition.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence then proceeded to demonstrate that reciprocity means increased trade with the South American States. He believed in Canada for the Canadians, though as he affirmed in a grand outburst of eloquence he loved English with a true and never-wavering love, and the House was glad when it remembered that Mr. Parks was one of his country's brave defenders and wears the sergeant's stripes. When the hon. gentleman had resumed his seat the Speaker requested the members to confine their remarks to addressing the Speaker. Mr. Fry then rose to expound his views on the question at issue. He had at first been very strongly prejudiced in favour of the Government's measure, but a more extended examination of the question had converted him to the opposite view.

Mr. Boles followed and deluged the House with figures, all tending to show the undesirability of a reciprocity treaty. He did not think the Minister of Finance had outlined his policy clearly enough, and asked whether or not it was the intention of the Government to retain the custom houses.

Mr. Cooper, the leader of the Opposition, rose amid the vociferous cheers of his supporters. He would like to have spoken for an indefinite length of time, but heroically confined himself to two main points.

The leader of the Government, Mr. Lamont, was greeted like the last speaker with the enthusiastic cheers of his partisans. He began by congratulating the speakers of the evening indiscriminately, the speakers on the Government side for the excellence of their matter, and the Opposition speakers for the brilliancy of their rhetoric. The members of the Opposition, he said, raised but one objection to the Government's measure, namely, that it discriminated against our mother country. He showed that this objection was easily overcome, for even under the present system we are discriminating against Great Britain. A division was called for, and the House held its breath in silent excitement. A count showed that the ayes and nays were evenly divided, and it devolved upon the Speaker to give his casting vote. He voted with the Government.

The meeting of December 18th again took the form of a Mock Parliament, and the Government was defeated by a small majority.

During the evening a letter was read from Sir Daniel Wilson *re* the conversazione which put a damper on the Society's move in that direction. A committee consisting of Professor Ashley and Messrs. Odell, Lamont, Boulbee and Gillies was drafted to interview the President on the subject. The result of this interview is well known to all—no conversat.

The meeting held last Friday evening, as usual, was but poorly attended. There was nothing done worthy of report. Nominations took place for first year councillor, which resulted as follows: J. McArthur, R. Luden, N. M. Duncan, M. Ketchum, S. W. E. Wilson, R. Robertson. Next Friday night there will be a most interesting programme consisting of music by F. A. Murray and J. L.

Murray; reading, Mr. B. A. C. Craig; essay, Mr. Chrysler; debate, *Resolved*, That ministers of the Gospel are justified in taking part in politics—leaders, J. W. Griffith and F. B. R. Hellem.

The inter-collegiate debate with representatives from McGill University is expected to take place the following Friday evening (January 22nd) in the School of Practical Science Hall. Our college will be represented by the old veterans, Messrs. F. E. Perrin and J. A. Cooper.

THE SENATE MEETS.

In a recent issue of THE VARSITY we advocated certain changes in connection with what has been known heretofore as the Pass Course. It is with satisfaction that we learn that the Senate are proceeding to take action along the lines suggested. We do not propose to take the credit of having guided the Senate to this wise decision; it is more probably one of those remarkable coincidences which so frequently occur when great minds are occupied with the consideration of the same problem.

At the meeting of the Senate on Friday a statute was read for the first time, which, among other important matters, directed that "Candidates in pass subjects shall be arranged in the annual class lists in three grades, A, B, C, the minimum percentage for A being 75 per cent.; for class B, 50 per cent., all under 50 per cent. to be ranked in class C."

Mr. Embree, also, gave notice of motion that the Graduation Course, now called the Pass Course, be hereafter called the General Course.

We give below the text of the more important parts of the statute:—

"On the supposition that such additions to the staff as may be required will be made, the following scheme is proposed, with the recommendation that it be applied in the first and second years of the course:—(1) Requirements in pass work in first and second years—(1) Students in attendance on lectures are required to obtain at least 33 per cent. on the May examinations, and also 33 per cent. of the aggregate number of marks assigned for the May examination, for work done during the term, and for attendance at lectures, according to the following schedule: May examination, 100; term work, 30; attendance on lectures, 20; total, 150. (2) Reports on term work in the department of English shall be based on the essays written during the session, of which five shall be required from each student. In other departments such reports shall be based on those parts of the work which the professor or lecturer may deem most appropriate as tests of proficiency. The maximum number of marks to be assigned for term work shall be 30; and no candidate shall be credited with marks below 10. Reports of attendance at pass lectures shall be required in all departments, and marks for such attendance assigned as follows: For attendance at four-fifths, 20 marks; for attendance at two-thirds, 13 marks; for attendance at one-half, 7 marks. The Senate may, for good and sufficient reasons, excuse non-registered students from attendance at lectures; and shall dispense in such cases with the above requirements with regard to term work, except in the case of English. The Senate may, upon the report of the University or College Councils, based upon the recommendation of a professor or lecturer, excuse registered students from term work and attendance on lectures in individual subjects, except in the case of English. Candidates in pass subjects shall be arranged in the annual class lists in three grades, A, B, C, the minimum for A being 75 per cent., and for B 50 per cent., all under 50 per cent. in class C."

The following are the regulations concerning the award of the Edward Blake scholarships:—

"1. Every candidate for scholarship at matriculation shall make application to the registrar on or before the first of June, and the fee for matriculation shall be for-

warded with the application. 2. The papers at examination for scholarship shall be those for the High school leaving and matriculation examination, with the omission all alternative questions except in the case of essays, and the addition of one honour paper on mathematical problems. 3. The answers shall be read by the examiners who prepare the papers. 4. A candidate shall be considered to have first-class standing in a department if he obtains 66 per cent. aggregate on all the papers in such department, and in the case of Modern Languages and Science departments if he be classed in honours in each subject of the department."

[The above report of the meeting of Senate came to hand too late to receive much comment, as our editorial was then up in type and ready for press.—Ed.]

MEDICAL NOTES.

The electric light lately introduced into the dissecting room was for some time decidedly more ornamental than useful. Each evening after 5 o'clock, just as the students had got nicely to work under its refulgent beams, it went out with provoking suddenness and without a moment's warning, leaving its victims to grope about in the dark for what is not easily found even in broad day light. To provide against such a contingency the more ardent spirits provided themselves with wax candles, by whose flickering flame they might have been seen continuing their labors after electricity failed.

It seems that proper arrangements had not been made with the engineer at the Varsity who runs the dynamo, and that he closed up as usual shortly after five.

However this matter seems to have been looked to, as the last two evenings the lights have been burning till 6 o'clock.

As to the character of the light furnished some disappointment has been expressed. Certainly the dissecting room has not been radiant, whether it is owing to insufficient current or to the limited number of the lamps, which, moreover, are hung much too high to give the best effect.

Possibly the less pretentious but more reliable method of lighting by gas would give better satisfaction to the students.

The lecturers and also the students suffer considerable annoyance in the west wing lecture room of the Biological Department from the tramping of not the most light-footed gentlemen passing by the back stairway to the dissecting room. It has been suggested that at a trifling expense, matting of some kind could be laid down in the hallway at the back of the theatre which would prevent or lessen this source of disturbance during the lectures. Certainly the idea is worthy of the Faculty's consideration.

One of our well-known students of Anatomy, who has marked poetical genius, has hit upon a novel and ingenious method of remembering, or recalling, anatomical descriptions. As a pastime he puts his thoughts into verse and arranges it so that the idea or initial letters of the words will recall the different relations. He has thus expressed himself on the right pneumogastric nerve, the significant words of which are in italics:—

With reason ¹refulgent he crosses the ²stream,
With ³vows left behind and ⁴midway between,
From ⁵to per to ⁶laziness quickly he goes,
And in ⁷perfect negligence seeks for repose.

¹Refulgent—restiform body.

²Stream—sub-clavian artery.

³Vows—vein.

⁴Between—vein and artery.

⁵To per—trachea.

⁶Laziness—lungs.

⁷Perfect negligence—plexiform network.

"Two chords then arise which with the œsophagus blend,
 Along with the aid of an excellent friend;
 Then ¹⁰solar and splenic affections arise
 And in ¹¹cœliac ecstasies he reaches the skies.

On Friday, December 11th, we were visited in the dissecting room by Vice-Chancellor Mulock, Prof. Ramsay Wright and Prof. MacFarlane. The boys evinced their pleasure at this unusual occurrence by giving their noted visitors a right royal ovation.

A very interesting meeting of the Medical Society was held in the Old Medical School, on Friday evening, December 11th. Mr. Hagerman presented a paper on Erysipelas of the Face, Mr. T. McCrae one on Cell Division, and Mr. T. H. Whitelaw a paper on The Nervous Mechanism of Respiration. The papers on being read were discussed, and gave evidence of careful preparation and earnest work on the part of their writers.

The same Society held a regular meeting two weeks previous to the above, at which Dr. Ferguson, our President, Dr. Peters, and Mr. T. E. South, '93, gave very instructive papers. Owing to a misunderstanding this meeting was not reported at the proper time.

EXCHANGES.

We are pleased on our return to find the Christmas exchanges lying snugly on our table. This spell of brisk weather has evidently invigorated the several editors. The latest editions to hand are unusually spicy.

The December *Manitoba Journal* contains a pleasing article by Rev. Dr. Bryce on "Six Old Names." These names are mostly Anglo-Indian, such as Assiniboine, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, etc. Acta Victoriana's editorial on "Merry Merry Christmas" is quite nice. "A few Minutes with Lowell," by F. Ernest Fletcher, is the main attraction however.

We are in favour of racy locals. Even a pun is permissible at times, though it does not necessarily lend dignity to a journal. The *Ottawa Campus*, Kansas, heads its personal column by remarking that some one whose Christian name is Eli "is getting there Eli." This is a Solemn 'un.

The *Bates Students*, Lewiston, Me., in the December issue has a fine steel engraving of its editorial staff. Here's a hint for VARSITY. Our journal should be made as attractive as possible. It also contains a "Poets Corner" where we find some rhyme of more than usual merit. The article on Democracy in England and Ethics of Doubt are very good.

The *Denver Hesperus* is a breezy little exchange, a weekly. The latest edition has an interesting continued article on "Glimpses of German Students Life," by Prof. E. F. Stroeter.

The Jan. 2nd edition of *Brunonian* is by far the best on the table. It is extremely readable and digestible, and at the same time has a genuine college ring about it, solid but not pedantic, racy but not frivolous.

THE VARSITY, a Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thoughts and Events. Vol. XI., No. 9. Toronto. It was Charles Dickens who said, "No one who can read ever looks at books, even though they lie unopened on a shelf, like one who can not." So, we venture to state, no old boy who has graduated from the beloved pile in University Park, can ever understand, as he gazes at its noble doorway, the hungering, longing feeling of the middle-aged man who was not. The student has his grateful recollections; the other has regrets, mingled with a thirst of curi-

¹⁰Two chords—to œsophagus.

¹¹Excellent friend—branch from left pneumogastric.

¹⁰Solar and splenic affections—solar and splenic plexuses.

¹¹Cœliac ecstasies—cœliac plexus.

osity hard to describe. But though, like the disconsolate Peri at the gate of Eden, the crystal bar of the class room move not for him, he can still learn, for two dollars a year, from the pages of THE VARSITY (in part) what goes on inside. The December number tells us of the doings of the Glee Club, The Economic Seminary, the Modern Language Club, the Political Science Club, the Literary Society, the Saturday public lecture, and the Y.M.C.A. And it has a story of a certain 'Arry, B.A., who describes how he took his degrees:

As 'istory didn't count much
 I let the hold subject go 'ang;
 Modern languages I couldn't touch,
 But I did a good paper on slang,
 In racing I passed like a bird,——

—The Monetary Times.

THE PRESIDENT.

It was with feelings of regret that we heard that Sir Daniel Wilson has of late been seriously ill. The prevailing epidemic, which has seized upon so many distinguished men, has not let him pass; then in addition to this, other complications set in which rendered his condition serious for some time. However, thanks to the strength of his constitution, he is now overcoming the effects of the attack. The latest information we have received is to the effect that he is progressing favorably. We but voice the common sentiment when we express the desire that our honored President may soon be well again and long spared to us.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the Natural Science Association was held in the Biological Lecture Room on December 15. The election of First Year Representative resulted in the return of Mr. Currie. The appointment of a committee to award the prizes offered by the Society for scientific collections was, after some discussion, referred back to the general committee. An interesting paper on "Coffee: its Constituents and Chemical Analysis," was read by Miss Curzon, in which the subject was reviewed in an excellent manner, affording much information and pleasure to the Society. At the next meeting, to be held in the Chemical Lecture Room, Mr. Wheaton will read a paper on "The Methods Employed in Cheese Factories and Creameries for the Examination of Milk."

Y.M.C.A. NOTES.

The first meeting was held last Thursday at the usual hour, 5 p.m., and was conducted by Mr. Wheaton. Mr. Rennie, of the Bellevue Hospital, New York, was present and spoke a few words about his work there among the outcasts of the great city.

J. T. Blyth and D. A. Fowlie were nominated for the vacant office of Recording Secretary.

The regular meeting next Thursday, the 14th, will be led by the General Secretary.

The Y.M.C.A. has so far given up the use of their building to the College societies that every evening in the week, between four o'clock and six, through the whole term, except Saturday, some meeting is going on in the Hall.

The old Sustentation Fund runs out during the present year, and a special effort will be made by the committee to renew it in order to set the Association on a good footing financially for the next few years. A new plan also has been adopted which by means of a life membership, continually increasing from year to year, will in a number of years do away with the necessity for a Sustentation Fund. Circulars setting forth this plan will shortly be published.

THE DEBTOR.



HE rain was beating against the car-windows. There were but a few passengers, and most of them were dozing. Worthington found it impossible to sleep, impossible to do anything but anathematize the chance that had first delayed him and then the train.

With contracted brows he was gazing sulkily into the black night outside, when his attention was drawn again to the nervous movements of the woman opposite. Her eyes shone from her sunken cheeks, her lips continually parted in smiles as she laid her hand uncovered save by the hard, coarse skin, upon the bosom of her dress. She was of middle age, the careworn lines about her face were deep and permanent.

"New Durham!" shouted the conductor thrusting in his head for a moment, and then banging the door again.

The woman started to her feet, and hurried out. Worthington buttoned his coat, seized his grip-sack and umbrella, and stepped off on the small covered platform, placarded as *New Durham Station*. At the farther end was the ticket-office. He called out to the man who was standing in the lighted doorway:

"Has Dr. Miller's carriage been here?"

"Don't know," responded the official without moving.

"What's the time?"

"About two."

Worthington turned away, and muttering to himself, opened his umbrella, drew his hat down firmly and set out into the storm. He made his way through the darkness to the road, which ran westward behind the station to the Village of New Durham. After wading on for a few steps in the mud he came to an abrupt standstill. Directly in front of him, he discerned the outline of the woman's form bent beneath the heavy torrents of rain. The next instant he had overtaken her.

"If you are going to the village, madam, let me offer you the slight protection of my umbrella."

"All right," said the woman peering at him, "but I'm in a hurry."

"I am also. What a wretched Christmas morning!"

"Taint neither; it's the best Christmas morning I've seen for many a year."

And she laughed.

Worthington found it difficult to follow her uneven gait.

"Are you returning home?" he asked.

"No, somethin' better."

"You don't live in this neighborhood, then?"

"I live away off in the city. I was raised here. I ain't been here, though, for some time. Lord! I thought I'd never get back."

He was about to respond in some vague way, when the woman exclaimed:

"I'm wonderin' how he'll look."

She strove to make still greater headway.

"Every Christmas I kept sayin', now I guess I'll be able to go back this day year. I wanted to go back on Christmas day, fur that were the day I left."

"I see."

"I got the money in November, an' then I waited round to see how things would go. But Jimmy sloped after all"

They were struggling painfully forward, unable to see more than a few yards along the road, the zigzag fences on either side were barely defined. The woman spoke in a coarse agitated voice, and coughed frequently. He knew that her hand was still fumbling about the bosom of her miserable garment.

"I think it will clear, presently," Worthington remarked.

"I'm bringin' him back the money, every bit, every cent of the two thousand dollars, and more too, so he can go on with a new trade."

"You are paying a debt, are you?"

"I'll tell you what I'm doin'. When I lived here—I was handsomer in the face then—I was goin' to marry

Jimmy Elwood. He could write beautiful, he wrote too beautiful—I've kind of hated the thought of layin' hands on a pen since. If he'd only have wrote his own name—but he wrote other people's, an' he'd have been in jail, without I'd got the two thousand dollars."

My Lord! how much further is it? I'm willin' to walk the world for this, though. My feet is swimmin' wet."

"It cannot be very much farther."

"You'd like to know how I got the two thousand dollars fur him. I went straight to John, an' told him. He gave me the money, he'd been savin' it fur a long time to start a new trade. He gave it to me as if it was my own."

She drew a deep sigh.

"Jimmy, who I'd always been kind to, who wasn't fit to fasten the other's shoe, he sloped after all. I went away then on Christmas day, without speakin' to anybody. I aint been here since. I've just kept workin' and workin', so as to bring back the two thousand dollars to John. I've worked my hands to the bone, but I've got the money here. I'm wonderin' how he'll look."

Worthington was lost in amazement. Here was a human being apparently devoid of the idea of time. She spoke of what must have been twenty years ago, as if it had been yesterday. He pictured to himself the young girl, full of strength and passion, leaving a little country village, losing herself in the labyrinth of the great metropolis, struggling desperately in order to get food to maintain her life, and money to pay this debt. Years had passed, youth had passed—unnoticed. Now with the money gained, the young girl was returning—She was the old woman at his side.

"Do you live in these parts?"

"No—I did at one time."

"Mebbe you'd know him, John Trench, the blacksmith."

"John Trench!" shouted Worthington, recoiling aghast.

"You've nothin' against him."

"No, woman, no."

They were standing in the middle of the road in the cold rain. He shivered in an agony of hesitation.

"I can't wait here," she said, hastening forward.

He followed hopelessly. Confused images were passing through his mind. Now, he saw the woman toiling through the streets at night to her miserable garret, now, the swing of that strong, patient arm above the anvil. He remembered the grandeur of the man, his life a constant sacrifice, his desires never satisfied, his troubles never told, his spirit never weakened. He beheld the woman stumbling on, all the empty years of her life converging into this blank centre.

"I'm wonderin' how he'll look," she cried, and then halting suddenly, "you've got to tell me what you know about John Trench."

"Friend," he said very gently, "I know nothing about him now, nor can you."

He bent his head as if to receive a blow. She straightened herself and stood erect and silent. Presently her lips began to move, but they gave no utterance.

"He died five years ago," said Worthington almost inaudibly.

Again there was a silence. In the field close by, there were two trees. One, full-grown and tall with all its branches, sighed and swayed beneath the wind and rain; the other charred and burnt to the solitary trunk remained quite motionless. At length she said:

"I'm goin' back."

"I shall go with you."

"I'm goin' alone."

"But, friend, stay, the village is so near, come with me! It is so wet and dreary."

Slowly and sternly the old woman answered: "I don't care about nothin' any more."

And turning, she plodded back into the darkness.

NOTICE.

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

'MIDST THE MORTAR BOARDS.

Miss W. D. Watterworth, '90, is teaching Moderns in Orillia.

D. B. Pruyan of the School of Science has taken up his abode in Residence.

Mr. Dunc. Walker, '90, has secured the position of Mathematical Master in Deseronto.

The amaranthine locks of James Brimstone Peat floated sunnily about our sanctum last Friday.

Our College-renowned Fellow, Maggie, is superintending the examination of the unfortunates in the Supps.

Charley McPherson, of Glee Club fame, has turned pedagogue, and is wielding the ferrule in one of the back townships up west.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. J. H. Binn's father. Our fellow-student has the sympathy of the whole student-body in this his sad bereavement.

It is reported that the Toronto Cricket Club offers \$500 for the use of the Varsity for a period of ten years; from Commencement to Convocation each summer.

Dr. George McGorman, '91, is settled in St. Mary's, and has already laid the foundation of a good practice. His many friends here wish him every success.

We are pleased to see the familiar countenance of Davie Duncan in Varsity precincts again. He will be welcomed by all, but more especially by the football element.

John A. MacKay, B.A., '90, student-in-law, gave us a friendly call on Saturday last. Jack will long be remembered around Varsity Halls as one of the Federal Fathers.

There will be an open meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society on Friday, Jan. 15. Mr. W. J. Loudon is expected to read a paper on "The Construction of Musical Scales."

K Company, Q. O. R., armory inspection on Thursday, December 3rd, scored highest points of any company in this district, including all companies of Q. O. R., Grenadiers and 13th Battalion.

Miss Addie Clayton, B.A., '89, has succeeded Mr. W. C. Ferguson, B.A., '89, in Moderns at St. Mary's Coll. Inst. Mr. Ferguson has taken a similar position in the London Collegiate Institute.

The ex-ex-editor, Doc., who now adorns a position in the Faculty, dropped into the sanctum the other

evening. Dear to the editorial staff is the wisdom of the ancients—of THE VARSITY staff.

At the Grand Opera House, January 14, a rousing welcome, no doubt, will be extended to Rose Coghlan in her new comedy, "Dorothy's Dilemma." It has been a success this season on the road everywhere.

Mr. R. U. McPherson, B.A., LL.B., '83, has been elected a member of the Toronto Public School Board. We congratulate the city on obtaining the services of such a worthy citizen and distinguished graduate of our University.

Ninety-five was at home on December 12, and the whole programme was an undoubted success. Mr. Ewert's crayon drawing—which is a new feature in social evenings—was much appreciated, as were all the items of the programme. Then the refreshments were discussed with all becoming seriousness, and then the first social evening of '95 was a thing of the past.

A dramatic club, the Cap and Bells, has been formed on the same lines as those existing in the leading American universities. The aims of the club are mainly social, though the avowed object is the encouragement of the dramatic art in the university. A burlesque may be looked for in February, in which there will be a grand ballet. The membership is limited to forty.

At a meeting of the Guitar and Banjo Club, held in Room 28, Residence, the following officers were elected: President, W. P. Parker; Sec.-Treas., Aubrey Moore; Committee, Messrs. Langley, Edwards, Rolls, and N. Lash. The Committee were instructed to draw up a Constitution, so that this year the Club may start on a firm basis as one of the recognized institutions of the College.

Mr. J. McCrae, '92, who was sick with typhoid fever during the Fall Term, has decided to remain out till next year, and will graduate with the class of '93. His many friends here will be pleased to hear of his complete recovery and his receiving the appointment of Lecturer in the Ontario Agricultural College. Jack's jolly, jovial, genial countenance has been greatly missed by the fourth year Natural Science class.

The last meeting of the Classical Association for the Michaelmas term was held on Tuesday, Dec. 8th, Mr. Bonner being in the chair. After brief remarks by the chairman the programme was proceeded with, which consisted of the following essays: (a) "Tacitus as an Historian," Mr. J. A. McVannel, '93; (b) "Government of Tiberius," Mr. J. D. Morrow, '93; (c) "Roman Influence in Britain," by Mr. W. Trench, '94. Mr. Dale and

Mr. Milner were present and gave short addresses. The next meeting will be duly announced.

A party, composed of thirty men selected from the Glee Club, left the city on Tuesday, Dec. 15, on the first annual tour of the Club. They gave concerts at St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Brantford and Chatham. The following are the names of the men chosen from the Club who went on the tour: 1st Tenor, Messrs. Bigelow, Crosby, Lamont, Shaw, Gillies, Rolls, Michie; 2nd Tenor, Messrs. K. D. McMillan, F. Langley, Pease, Fielding, Macallum; 1st Bass, Messrs. L. A. Moore, McLaughlin, Barker, Mitchell, M. Lash, N. Lash, Dunbar; 2nd Bass, Messrs. McKay, McAllister, Robertson, Blythe, H. A. Moore, Edwards, Alison, Fry, Wilson. Mr. E. W. Schuch (Conductor) and Mr. Percy Parker (Pianist) accompanied the Club.

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