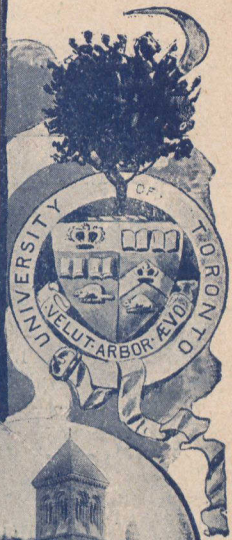
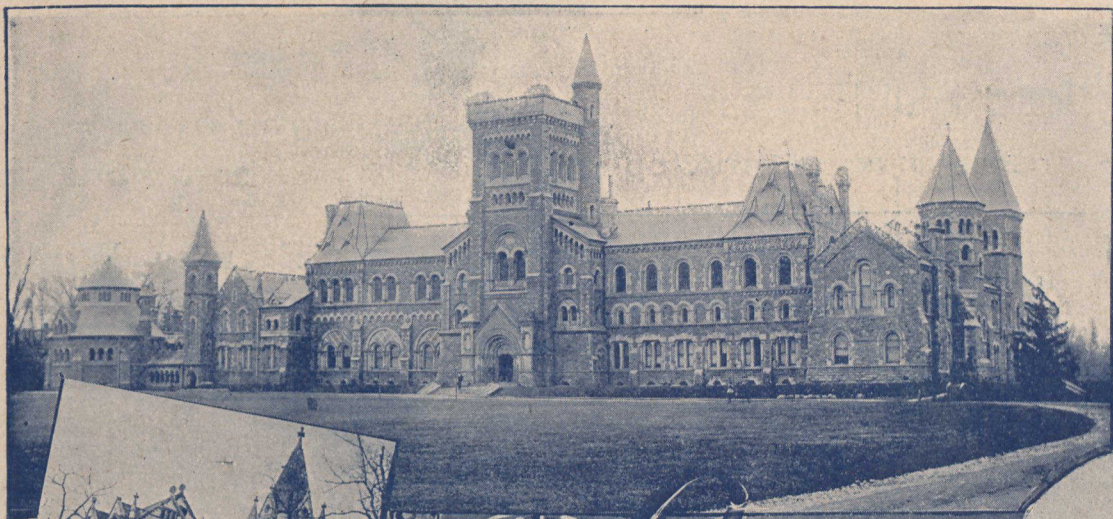


McNair W H



THE VARSITY

VOL. XVII. No. 15

University of Toronto.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 10TH, 1898.

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THE VARSITY.

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XVII.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, FEBRUARY 10, 1898.

No. 15

THE CLOUD SYMBOL.

"What is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

As Thou, O Cloud, o'er fraught with bursting rain,
Rumbling and low'ring fiercely, dark'st the sky,
And hurl'st thy flashing bolts down from the high
And awful arch of heaven to the plain;
As with life-giving showers upon the thirsting grain;
Or into blue dissolving, Thou dost fly
With mild and grateful shade, till bye-and-bye,
Resplendent, glorious, Thou dost retain
Far in the West the sun's most beauteous rays;
Symbol art Thou of all the life of man—
Troubled and rack'd with anguish and despair;
Or free from care, and filling all the days
With gracious deeds, till ends life's little span,
Divine approval stamped in light most fair.

BEN STACK.

A CANADIAN POET.

Since our earliest school-days we have heard the saying, oft repeated, that "Poets are born, not made." No one, indeed, would attempt to gainsay the truth of the proverb, although sometimes from the ambiguity of language we seem to make contradictory statements. According to one meaning of the word, "poet" may be applied to an indefinite number, but when the word is used in the sense of the proverb quoted, poets become scarce. This distinction, lost in expression, is clear enough in thought. There is no one who does not appreciate the difference between Milton, Tennyson or Scott and the numerous versifiers who also are called poets. The poems of the latter seem often to be the outcome of groanings of the poetic soul, groanings that apparently have had a narrow escape from becoming unutterable. There is a peculiar want of natural movement in the rhythm and a lack of freshness about the thought and its presentation; defects that mark the poet whose works are temporary from him whose works shall endure. Of course, *time* is the supreme test; verses that have survived the lapse of years and are still popular may surely be considered as classic and the writer as one of those poets who are "born, not made."

Judged by *this* standard, Canada can scarcely claim to have any bards who stand in the front rank. Our numbers are small and our Dominion is yet in its youth, so that we may have to wait many years before this country will give to the world a poet. In the meantime it may be worth while to look about us to see if there are not some who have given proof of possessing that gift of the gods—true poetic genius.

During the Christmas holidays, when we all went home to get a chance to do some hard study, there came into my hands a volume of poems bearing the euphonious title of "The Khan's Canticles." The dedication on the fly-leaf at once aroused my curiosity:—

"I have been a Bohemian for twenty years, and during that time I have found but one friend whom I could trust as far as I could throw a bull by the tail. To that one—to thee, my Mother, I dedicate this book."

On the same page occur two suggestive verses:

"I heard the sudden Binder roar;
I heard the Reaper shout;
God flung me on His threshing floor—
His oxen trod me out!"

"And here I lie, all bruised and brown—
Beneath the trampling feet—
The Ragweed and the Thistledown;
The Cockle and the Wheat!"

I found the same stamp of originality and genius throughout the book, and I am now inclined to think that we have at least one Canadian who is a born poet. Mr. R. K. Kernighan, writing under the *nom de plume* of "The Khan," is I believe, not widely known outside of journalistic circles. While his lighter verse has appeared frequently in the daily papers, few of those whose approval is of value, take time to read the usually vapid effusions of the newspaper poet. This, combined with the fact that his poems have but lately appeared in convenient form for criticism, can be the only reason for the little attention his efforts have received.

The Canadian poets that I have read rarely equal him in the smoothness of rhythm which is found in all he writes.

"O, wonderful congregation,
Who rise in their temple broad,
To thunder a freeman's anthem
Their fathers had learned from God.
The tapering tamaracs tremble;
The far-away prairies ring—
When the song of freedom is sounded,
And a people stands up to sing."

You never feel that the rhymes are made-to-order nor that the lines are padded or stretched to make the syllables fit the metre. You do not hear the sound of the axe and hammer nor see the sweat on the brow of the workman as he raises line by line his temple of Parnassus.

A striking feature of the Khan's verse is its similarity in matter and method to that of Scotland's immortal Burns. They both are rough sometimes, but always fresh and strong. Their poetry affects you like the breath of cool pure air and the beauties of sky and field after the heated atmosphere and forced vegetation of the conservatory. Mr. Kernighan is a farmer's son, and has read Nature in the original and without a "key." Those who have "been there" can appreciate "Wilson Keefer's Thrashing," "My Summer Fallow," "So-Ho Bossy, So-Ho," and the other farm-ballads he writes. I give a verse chosen from "Supper's Ready":

"The horses halt and slack their traces,
The weary workers lift their heads,
Light is on the hired-men's faces,
As through the field the anthem spreads;
The brown-faced girl I love is standing
Tip-toed on the kitchen landing;
She cannot cry nor call in vain,
Her sounding voice rings down the lane—
'Supper's ready!'"

These lines describe simply yet accurately the rough but hearty welcome given to the storm-staid traveller :

" Dinner'll be ready in half a minute ;
Th' old woman's bilin' the half er a ham,
'N thur's turmots, 'n cabbage, 'n taters, 'n jam ;
Load up the stove with hickory, Sam—
Stranger, draw up to the fire."

" Jim, hang up the gentleman's overcoat ;
Ye come from the city I see, like's not—
Yer welcome to stay and share what we've got.
Mother, what's that bubblin' top of the pot ?
Dumplings? Dumplings !
Stranger, draw up to the fire."

The Khan excels in portraying these peculiarly rustic scenes and events, with which, as a farm-bred boy, he was so familiar. In describing inanimate nature he again shows strength combined with delicacy of touch. His descriptions are not elaborate. An apt word or expression, and the scene is before you.

" The bushes and the trees
Spread the old brown blanket ;
Snugly round their knees
Lies the old brown blanket ;
And the saucy flowers hide
'Neath its folds, to there abide
Till they hear the robin red-breast and the blue-bird sing.
Yes, they'll snuggle down and sleep
In a slumber soft and deep,
'Neath the old brown blanket, till the Spring."

Mr. Kernighan evidently knows what it is to " knock about " in the world. He has been " a Bohemian for twenty years," and understands human nature with some thoroughness, although he seems at times to be rather too cynical. Here is a characteristic verse from " The Popular Thing to Do " :

" My head is quite level :
Good Lord or good devil !
On either I'm ready to call ;
If he doesn't get off
I'm ready to scoff ;
If he does I will cheer him, that's all.
If they crush him I'll hiss him,
If they don't I will kiss him,
And at his reception attend ;
If he's guilty, I'll chase him,
If not I'll embrace him
And swear I was always his friend.
For Smith has got into trouble ;
There's a terrible hullabaloo !
And now the quandary's bothering me :
What's the popular thing to do ? "

He is proud of his native land. No one can read his patriotic poems and doubt it. There is an inspiring ring about them that makes one's heart beat faster.

" Oh, we are the men of the Northern Zone,
Where the maples their branches toss,
And the Great Bear rides in his state alone,
Afar from the Southern Cross.
Our people shall aye be free,
They never will bend the knee,
For this is the land of the true and leal,
When freedom is bred in the bone—
The Southerner never shall place his heel
On the men of the Northern Zone."

Whatever else is challenged, the Khan is indisputably a master of wit. Possessing a keen sense of the ridiculous he writes " funny pieces " that are irresistible. I cannot

do better in closing this imperfect review than to quote some fragmentary selections which lose much, however, from being taken out of their setting.

" Of all the things in nature that afflict the sons of men,
There is nothing that I know of beats the depredating
hen ;

If you see a wild-eyed woman firing brick-bats from the
shed,

You can bet a hen has busted up her little flower bed.
She plunders and she scratches, she cackles and she
hatches,

And forty thousand cowboys couldn't keep her in a pen :
She was sent on earth to fret us, to excoriate the lettuce ;
She's a thoro'-going nuisance, is the depredating hen."

And three verses from " Gentle Spring " :

" I sit with my feet in the oven,
My nose close up to the pipe ;
I'm as jokey as any spring robin,
That's fresh and is rather unripe."

" I still wear my ear muffs and cap ;
I still to my overcoat cling ;
Yet I feel it my duty to sit
And warble of Beautiful Spring."

" But my warble is husky and harsh,
And my melody suffers from cracks ;
For the froglets down there in the marsh
Are shivering with humps on their backs."

The following is taken from a sarcastic poem entitled
" The Trooly Good Man." It explains itself.

" He in the Amen corner sits
On Sundays all alone,
And when the preacher shakes the tongs
He'll look around and groan ;
He cried, ' O, Lord, I have no lot
With publicans and thieves ;
But, O, the horse he sold to me
Is troubled with the heavens.' "

I make one more selection from a poem entitled
" Mandy Ann McGowan." To understand the piece the following explanation is necessary. " Mandy Ann, the sweetest girl in all the earth, in telling her ' expeeryunse ' in class-meeting, announces, after the manner of Paul, that she is the greatest of sinners. Her lover, Bill Dunn, knows better than that, and is naturally very indignant."

" In class-meetin, my Mandy Ann
She riz, and made my blood run cold :
She said, ' I am a sinner, Lord—
The biggest sinner in the fold ! '
Right here I make a big complaint
Agin sich foolish talk es that ;
It makes me sick to see a saint
Stand up a talkin thro' her hat !
Now, Lord, I'm sayin this to you ;
I know my Mandy, deed I do :
Look here ! in all the righteous clan,
From Saint Bersheba down to Dan,
Ther's nary woman, no—ner man,
Kin put a patch on Mandy Ann—
On Mandy Ann McGowan."

We cannot deny that the Khan's poems lack the element of culture. So do the verses of Burns Yet who would belittle the poetry of the Scottish bard whose name is honored the world over, because, forsooth, he shows no evidence of a University education ? True poets obtain their gift as a birth-right, and I think that no one can read Mr. Kernighan's book without feeling that the author possesses a very unusual amount of this natural poetic ability.

G. C. F. PRINGLE.

MY GREETING.

With college maidens two by two,
 You passed me by this morn,
 I was forbid to speak to you,
 And so I felt forlorn ;
 But when my eyes and yours had met,
 My slumbering spirit woke,
 For by that glance which thrills me yet,
 I know you felt I spoke.

TORONTONENSIS: A FRIENDLY CRITICISM.

To the Editor of VARSITY :

DEAR SIR,—I take the liberty of invading your columns with a few observations by a humble reader concerning the publication, *Torontonensis*, which has emanated from my *Alma Mater*, and which, if I accurately interpret the pages of your university organ, has been the subject of singularly violent castigation.

I have read all the communications which have been given to the public upon this subject, and I can dismiss those that were adverse to the volume with the solitary observation that they all, from Mr. McFarlane's diffuse, prosaic contribution, down—or rather up—to the latest critical comment, strikingly confirm the ancient oriental proverb that little minds are easily convinced.

A publication, such as has been contemplated and eventually executed by the graduating class of '98 is not expected to have attained to the lofty altitudes of perfection which all university men are endeavoring to ascend. The average graduate of the University of Toronto has scarcely more than attained the year when the law contemplates him as *sui juris*. That a mind of twenty-one, or many minds of twenty-one, should perform what at forty or even twenty five they will recall with imperishable veneration and cherish with immortal reverence is in human estimation scarcely probable. The book, *Torontonensis*, in many of its pages is distinguished by indications of immature intelligence. And this is why it should be prized ;—because alien and more experienced hands have not sought to render it what it was never intended to be,—something other than the product of the class of '98. As the vast years come and go, and 1898 has passed into the region of obscurity, and even the nineteenth century remains but in the echoes of voices which have sought to make it live, graduates of this year will, on looking over the pages of *Torontonensis*, recall the golden memories of their academic years; they will see pictured before them in majestic magnificence the image of the great theatre of many university events, the rugged outline of undergraduate reminiscences, the old building, the professors, the many social scenes, the examinations, and then the memorable moment, when in the eyes of not only their friends, but also their year, they went forth as graduates from old Varsity to snatch an hour of opportunity from the wealth of the future and to carve it with their lives into memorials of imperishable fame. This book may not be carried by the hand of endurance down the corridors of the centuries to survive as long as the Palavi, the Vinaya, the Saddarma, the Upanishads, the Code of Manu, or the Ackaranga Sutra ; it will probably be forgotten long before the English language has perished, and even while Homer and Hesiod and Virgil and Lucretius are still expounded in universities ; but as long as the graduates of 1898 survive, as long as the less renowned graduates remember with veneration the Inksters and the Hobbs, the Hills in the Valleys, the Blacks with the Blues, the

Biggar Gunns and the smaller guns, the Gahan and his Losses, the Fitzgeralds and the McFarlanes, and all those who have contributed to render 1898 a year that will never be forgotten, so long shall the master creation of that master year, *Torontonensis*, be cherished by those who next spring will go forth from the pillared halls of Toronto University to conquer or be conquered by the world.

Critics of this compilation have contended that portraits of residence men have appeared too frequently, and that unnecessary prominence has been given to those who have resided within the walls of the University. Is Mr. Martin a residence man ? Has Mr. Shotwell spent his four years in residence ? The portrait of the former appears several times ; the latter has an entire page devoted to his biography. The reason is apparent. One whose ability was directed toward the development of athletics at the university occupied honorable and eminent positions upon two bodies whose members have been photographed. These photographs have been reproduced. Must the portrait of Mr. Martin be excluded from one group simply because it appears in another ? Yet this is what the irrational critics apparently advocate. Mr. Shotwell and Mr. McFarlane and Mr. Inkster have during their academic careers filled vaster horizons than many of their contemporaries. Then was it unfitting that they should have their all too brief biographies recorded at a greater extent than others who have come and gone like an hour of sunshine, which glimmers on some distant world that no one yet has seen.

The humor it is declared is prosaic. Perhaps it is scarcely equal to the humor to be found in *Munsey's* or the *Toronto Saturday Night*. But of the humor published in these journals—how much is remembered ?—how much is even relatively meritorious ? Has it not been repeatedly irrefutably demonstrated that only one joke in a thousand is immortal ? And even it often becomes immortal merely by accident. Some of the humor published in *Torontonensis* is worthy of endurance ; some of it is not. And therefore it is at least not inferior to the average, and not below the standard cosmopolitan publication of our times.

Some of the biographies have been unintentionally severe. This is probably because none of their subjects were required, as in many similar publications, to perform the invidious duty of writing their own. The labor of producing the compilation was shared by few. That these few should have given necessary diversity to so many biographies is a circumstance deserving of the loftiest admiration. We might all write accurately the biographies of the renowned undergraduates of any year. Yet who could correctly delineate the distinguishing features in the characters of those who are obscure. This has been done, and done in a manner which reflects credit, not only on its authors, and not only on the year of '98, but also on Toronto University.

Adapting the words of Shakespeare :

“ Take *it* for all in all,
 I shall not look upon *its* like again.”

ENDYMION.

February 3rd, 1898.

P.S. Since writing I have been informed that the biography of each member of the class was written and sent in by another member by request of the editors, and that most of these biographies were subsequently changed. If such is the case, whoever mutilated them had unbridled audacity.

E.

MR. GAHAN DENIES.

Editor VARSITY:—

In view of the letter from a junior which appeared in the last issue of VARSITY, I beg leave to state that I did not lead Mr. Biggar to suppose that he had my support for the spring editorship, nor did I ever canvass this junior in any way for Mr. Gunn; that I never claimed that VARSITY was the private venture of the business manager and the two editors; and finally that, as editor, I had full power to alter, rewrite and insert what punctuation-marks I pleased in any reports submitted for publication, in exactly the same way as any city editor may change the reports that he receives.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,
Very truly yours,

BURRISS GAHAN.

CLIQUEs AND CLIQUEs.

Editor VARSITY:—

The following letter, received by me some time ago, will show to all interested that if there be a clique from a "western provincial town"—in which I am presumably included—at work in the college affairs there is also another clique at work, and in justice to the Seniors whom Mr. Alexander, a junior, attacked in such a bitter and personal way, I desire to publish this letter:

120 Huron St.,
Toronto, Jan. 24th, 1898

MY DEAR ESLIE,—

You are probably aware that an Athletic election is impending in our year. We propose to run the following ticket (though you needn't say much about it):

Alexander Macdougall.
Eric N. Armour
Thomas A. Russell.

I append a list of men for whose votes we depend entirely upon yourself. I trust we may count on your support.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM HARDY ALEXANDER.

P.S.—I shall want to see you shortly re the Lit elections

Enclosed with this letter was a list of five of my personal friends, and my instructions from "headquarters" were:

"Find out:

- (1) How many will vote the whole ticket?
- (2) How many will vote it in part, and for whom?"

I am at a loss to know to whom the "we" in the above document refers, unless from the personnel of the ticket one might conclude that one member of the ticket and the writer of the letter above, who come from an eastern city and who belong to two different Greek Letter Societies, have in their wisdom effected a combination of forces for political purposes. How far they will succeed remains to be seen.

I do not publish this letter out of animus toward any of the gentlemen concerned, but they have posed as purists and haters of cliques long enough, and it is now time that they appear as they are.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Yours very truly,

ESLIE CARTER.

The College Girl.

It is very interesting for a Toronto University girl to meet with a woman who has enjoyed the pleasures of a College Residence life. It makes one long for the time when our University will have a Residence for its women students. For, such an institution, it seems to me, if it were established on sufficiently broad lines, would solve many of the difficulties which lie in the way of the realization of the ideal higher education of our Canadian women.

I was talking with a graduate of Westfield College a few days ago, and from her I got a glimpse of an English university girl's life in Residence, which was to me so bright and interesting that I thought some of the Women's Residence friends would also find it interesting.

But first to explain the situation of Westfield College and its position among other colleges—for I believe it is only about eight years old, and, comparatively speaking, not very well known. The college is very prettily situated in North Hampstead, one of the suburbs of London. It is affiliated with the London University, and its graduates receive a London University degree, which is considered about equal to the degree of B.A. conferred by Toronto University. Westfield is entirely a resident college, no girl under eighteen years is allowed to enter; and the average age of the students is rather above that age. The maximum number of students is never allowed to exceed fifty.

The college is beautifully laid out, the main building being devoted to convocation, chapel, and lecture halls, while the wings are set apart for the residence. Each girl has a good sized study and bedroom opening into each other, both of which are well lighted, and heated by cozy little fire-places. Individual tastes soon transform these into fascinating little dens—delightful retreats to which my graduate friend looks back with longing. The dining hall is large, bright and airy, and the drawing rooms, which are free to all, are most tastefully and daintily furnished.

The students are comparatively unrestricted, except, of course, by the personal influence and opinions of the seniors. The tone of the *Westfield College Magazine* shows a bright, healthful womanliness—a charming picture of the woman of the coming generation.

Their entertainments are very humorous, and many of them are decidedly original. But the most popular seems to be the little "cocoa parties" in the girl's rooms, where a few congenial spirits meet together to have a cozy chat over their cocoa cups.

The out-door life of the students is one of the features of the college. Physical exercise and sports are encouraged in every way. The grounds are laid out in three tennis courts, a great hockey field and bicycle track. The matches played against rival schools are most enthusiastically supported, and the champion players are the heroines of the college, the admired and respected of all the students. Not the least enjoyable part of their out-door life is in the fire brigade; and the tales of their daring deeds are enough to thrill the heart of any girl who does not tremble at the sound of the cry "Fire! Fire!"

From Miss Maynard, the principal, whose extensive travels have served to broaden a mind already splendidly educated, to the youngest "innocent" in her first year, every one seems influenced with the same spirit of liberality in thought and action which fine minds always have about

them, and, at the same time, they show the gentle human sympathy which is such a large part of the true woman.

* * *

The Conversazione of the year '98 was a great success. All the arrangements seemed to be perfect. There was no confusion during the whole evening and every detail showed an excellent organization. I think the gentlemen of the committee are to be congratulated on the excellent success of their evening.

* * *

Y. W. C. A.

The first missionary meeting of the Y.W.C.A. for the Easter term was held last Wednesday afternoon at the usual hour. The members of the society had the pleasure of an address from Mrs. Hardie on the Corean Woman. Mrs. Hardie's talk was very interesting indeed. Miss Robertson, '01, favored the society with a solo, which proved a treat to all.

Mr. Barron, the general secretary of the Y.M.C.A., then spoke to us concerning the Cleveland Convention. It was decided to send at least two delegates, if possible. A committee of four was appointed to look into the matter and to collect funds. If the members stand loyally by the society, there is no reason why two delegates should not be sent, at a trifling expense to each member. A more profitable investment it would be impossible to find. The spiritual life of the society, and hence of the college, would be greatly deepened. The missionary spirit would receive an enormous impetus from the mere contact of our delegates with the other students who attend the convention, and especially with the delegates from all the various mission fields of the world.

* * *

As the regular report of the Women's Literary Society was delayed last week, the following list of committees appointed to take charge of the various departments in connection with the At-Home to be held on Saturday was necessarily omitted.

Finance Committee: Misses Northway, Mullins, Dickey, E. Fleming and Forest.

Tea-room Committee: Misses Cleary, Bently, Tennant, Burgess, D. F. Wright, Cockburn, Robertson and Darling.

Decoration Committee: Misses Rosenstadt, M. S. Wright, L. K. White, E. Crane, Hutchinson, Lawson, J. Johnson.

Reception Committee: The executive of the Women's Literary Society and Misses Grant, McDonald, Stovel, Pearce, Kirkwood and MacDougall.

* * *

It is to be regretted that erroneous ideas have got abroad that "Sesame" has not been a financial success. We are pleased to be able to say that the girls have given it their most hearty support and that the whole edition has been sold.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

Many interesting papers have been read at the meetings of the Natural Science Association during this college year, but perhaps none have been more so to all branches of the department than the two presented for the edification of those who were present at the meeting held on Wednesday, January 26.

The subject of the first paper was "The Song Birds of Ontario." Mr. W. H. McNairn, '99, in the course of

his remarks, made his audience acquainted with some of the most noticeable features of the various species of the feathered tribe that favor us with their presence in this country, delighting us with the brilliancy of their plumage and the blithesomeness of their song. He exhibited, by lantern slides, the form and favorite surroundings of a dozen of our most common species, wreathing each by explanations of the peculiarities of each individual type presented.

Mr. D. Whyte, '99, in the second paper, discussed the causes of, and certain facts in connection with "Color in Animals." He treated it from two standpoints. In taking up the physical aspect, he touched lightly on the effects of absorption and reflection of light by various pigments to give the difference of tint and hue found in the coating of animals. On the biological aspect he spent the greater part of his time, dealing at considerable length with noticeable cases of protective resemblance, varying resemblance, aggressive mimicry, warning colors, and protective mimicry. Though various theories have been put forward to account for the variation and adaptation of color, he considered that "Natural Selection" is the chief influencing factor.

C. M. FRASER, '98, Sec'y.

THE LADY OF LEARNING.

I know a house of grey, grey stone,
Miss Pallas liveth there,
Full forty owls surround her throne,
Their learned brows are greatly grown
And puckered deep with care.

This seat, where wisdom holds her court,
Was built for man alone,
But woman came, sublime of port,
And bravely stormed the Norman fort,
Since when it is her own.

Adown the carved and classic halls,
On the resounding floors,
Cutely each little footstep falls,
And all your love for learning palls
When she comes through the doors.

She floateth there, the sweet freshette,
The gentlest thing on earth;
Her eyes are made of blue and jet,
And if you have not seen her yet
Your life is little worth.

For she is always fair and fine,
She only came this year;
But I'm the oak and she's the vine,
And some day, some day, she'll be mine,
The learned little dear!

O lordly Senior, dost grow red,
Despite thy store of wit?
Come, come! your *vale* must be said,
Your Rugby days are past and fled,
The time has come to flit.

But in the times that are to be
You'll think those days were pink,
When fresh were you and coy was she
At dear old, dear old 'Varsity,
Where you were taught to think!

W. T. ALLISON.

The Varsity

TORONTO, February 10th, 1898.

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NO NEED of our University—and certainly it has plenty of them—has been so strongly emphasized during this term as the need of a suitable building for public meetings. At each of our Saturday popular lectures people have been turned away for want of better accommodation—a fact which speaks volumes for the popularity of the University extension idea even in these small homœopathic doses, but one which reflects no credit upon our limited capacity for receiving a crowd. Neither the Students' Union nor the Biological Building is adequate for such uses. And two weeks ago on the occasion of the McGill Debate, the Literary Society was obliged to look beyond our borders for a hall—and that not a large one—commodious and comfortable enough to serve their purpose. This is surely a lamentable lack in our equipment and one which has few parallels, if any, in other universities.

* * *

But there is another lack here, and that is the want of a chapel. This is a recognized institution in various forms among American colleges, is regarded as an integral and indispensable part of the University, and completely in charge of the University authorities. We cannot see why Toronto should not reap great advantage from such an addition to her present resources. Now THE VARSITY places these two wants together in order to direct attention to the obvious fact that both may be supplied at a single stroke. And we offer this suggestion especially to those wealthy friends of ours who are yearning for some way of applying their money for the good of the University, and incidentally it may be of handing down their names to posterity.

* * *

The necessity of a better hall for meetings will be readily conceded by everybody, but possibly the advantages of a college chapel may not be so apparent at first sight. But we believe that a careful consideration of our

own circumstances, and of the experience of universities that have tried chapels will lead us to a favorable conclusion with regard to them.

* * *

The charge has been made repeatedly that Toronto is a godless university—a charge to which all state universities are liable. If the religious convictions of the undergraduates be taken as the ground of this charge, it is utterly foundationless. President Angell of the University of Michigan has published recently, with the object of refuting this contention, a pamphlet containing the results of the religious census of the students of several representative American State Universities. The result in general was, that over 50 per cent. were found to be members of the so-called evangelical churches, and about 89 per cent. were either members or adherents of churches. These figures correspond very closely with results obtained from a similar number of denominational colleges. In this regard we do not think Toronto would take any back place by comparison. But the University as such recognizes no duty to cultivate the higher spiritual nature of its undergraduates, if we except the ten o'clock prayers in room 3 which have unfortunately been made far too frequently a butt of ridicule by the thoughtless. We cannot stand behind our neighbors in this particular without loss to our own best interests.

* * *

The methods of conducting these chapels vary somewhat in different places, but in all as far as we know they are directly under the management of the College authorities. In some colleges attendance is compulsory as at Yale, at the State University of North Carolina, Amherst, and Williams Colleges. At Harvard, till recently, attendance was obligatory, but was made voluntary by President Elliott. The best results are obtained where attendance of students is optional, as at Cornell, Columbia, and the University of Michigan.

At Columbia, they have a paid chaplain, who holds service every week-day at 12:30, but none on Sunday. At Yale, a service is held every morning at 8:10 which is conducted by the President and lasts twenty minutes. On each Sunday a regular church service is held, conducted by the best men available in the section. Harvard's chapel is somewhat similar, but there one preacher remains for three weeks at a time devoting himself to the students. But the ideal we think is the Sage Chapel at Cornell. This is richly endowed, and is thus able to secure the very best preachers. No services are held on week days, but every Sunday morning a service for students is held, and so great is the interest that seats have now to be reserved for students. At the beginning of each term the authorities make out a program giving list of services and preachers. One has only to glance at a few copies of the Cornell Daily Sun to see what interest is taken in these services by the students.

* * *

Now we see no reason why we should not have a similar system in Toronto, could we but get a building for the purpose. We have not the endowment of Cornell to

bring the greatest preachers of the continent, but right here in Toronto are men who would regard it an honor to give their best thought to the students of the University once a year. Advantage could also be taken of the visits of distinguished men from abroad—men of intellectual power and culture who would deal with religion and not theology, and whose presence could not but have an elevating and stimulating influence on the moral life of the undergraduates.

* * *

The fact that Toronto is a State University might be urged against the proposal, but a little reflection will show the weakness of such a position. The new arrangement would be simply an extension of the principle that has always been recognized in the reading of morning prayers. We invite discussion from our readers on this subject.

* * *

We have no doubt that most of our readers will agree with Mr. McDonald that personal communications are out of place in a college paper, and that as far as THE VARSITY is concerned they should cease at once. Last week Mr. Alexander gave us a letter which we felt was not of the most desirable kind for our columns, but which could not be refused insertion, especially as the present editor came in for a share of his attack. This week in simple fairness to all concerned we give space to a letter from Mr. Gahan and another from Mr. Carter, '99, dealing with Mr. Alexander's charges. We believe the controversy may drop here without doing injustice to anybody. THE VARSITY cannot afford any longer to have its tone as a reputable university journal lowered by continuance of this cross-firing of personalities, and we shall therefore positively refuse in future any communication of this nature.

LET THERE BE LIGHT.

Editor VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—As a constant reader of VARSITY I feel compelled to protest against the way in which your paper is used as a medium through which some students give vent to their feelings of animosity towards certain of their fellow students. It can not please many of your readers to see letters printed in VARSITY which would be more in place in the columns of some sensational evening newspaper. It seems to me that if there is any "clique" about the University, it is composed of these gentlemen who have made themselves ridiculous in their attempts to heap abuse on some of our prominent students.

While it may be edifying to these gentlemen to see their names in print, the character of their articles is such that most of VARSITY readers must find this sort of literature very objectionable. If an appeal to their common sense will not put a stop to these outbursts of personal invective surely the columns of VARSITY can be closed to such stuff.

Yours truly,

C. S. MACDONALD, '98.

Toronto, Feb. 4th, 1898.

THE CONVERSAZIONE.

The Conversat for '98 has come and gone—in many respects the most brilliant social success of the kind ever held in these halls. Profiting by the mistakes of predecessors, the committee made many improvements. They prevented the over-crowding which caused so much

unfavorable comment last year, and thereby greatly increased the comfort of the guests last Friday night. From the hour when the first arrivals gathered in the grand old pile—so gaily lighted up and so gorgeously decked out as to be scarcely recognizable—till the last tired merrymaker turned homeward, all was brightness and gladness unalloyed.

The decorations were specially fine, and ahead of all previous occasions—the electric lights in the rotunda and Simmons' flower display showing to splendid advantage. Up to ten o'clock the guests promenaded through the halls to the sweet strains of the orchestra, or lingered around one of the special exhibits. The S. P. S. display was well patronized as well as that of the Natural Science men. In Room 16, some of the latter presented splendid limelight views of western scenes, together with some good cartoons on the professors. In the west hall the Philosophical men gave many fine colored views—one of the University in flames, exciting particular admiration. The coloring of these plates was done by Dr. Kirschmann who devoted much time and pains to the work, and cannot be complimented too highly on the result of his unselfish efforts.

After ten o'clock the centre of attraction was transferred to the east and west halls, where scores of bewitching damsels and gallant partners tripped the light fantastic till an early hour. Very often, however, retreat was sought for a quiet tête-à-tête in one of the cosy nooks apart, so thoughtfully provided by the committee. The refreshment rooms were not neglected by the guests, and the appointments there were excellent.

The Conversat has gone, but it will long live as a pleasant memory in the minds of all who had the good fortune to be present.

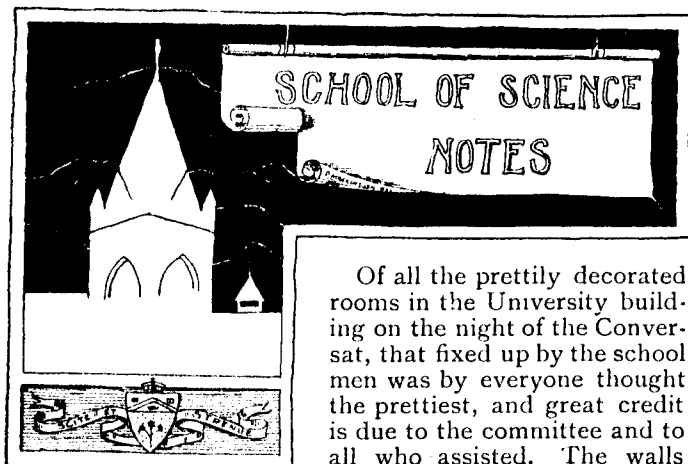
BARREN LANDS OF CANADA.

President Loudon presided at the public lecture in Biological Building last Saturday and introduced the lecturer, Mr. Tyrrell, as a graduate of our own university, who by his valuable discoveries and researches has given us a vast store of information upon the barren lands of Canada. A large crowd was present and greatly appreciated the lecture, which was illustrated with excellent lime light views.

Mr. Tyrrell dwelt principally with the barren lands lying west of Hudson Bay, a tract 1,200 miles long from south-east to north-west, and twice as large as the area of Ontario. The permanent inhabitants are about 2,000 Esquimaux, who live by hunting and fishing, and 500 Indians, who move thither in the summer season. The country is not capable of supporting a large number of people, but gives great promise of becoming a great mining province if its resources are intelligently handled. The copper mine area will some day be as productive as the Michigan copper area. There are other metals also; principally iron, gold and silver. The country being easy of approach, open and level, offers no hindrances to development such as exist in some quarters.

President Loudon announced that next Saturday Mr. G. A. Reid, R. C. A., would lecture on "Mural Decoration" in the Chemical Building.

Yates, of the second year, is, we are sorry to record," confined to his room nursing a very bad knee. He was hurrying through the basement last week, and stumbled over an object which happened to be that large black dog that was seen around the school for a day or two. We hope that this injury will not be serious and that he will soon be with us again. We would advise the Faculty to place another patrolman at the basement door for one seems insufficient to look after it and keep out the canine species.



Of all the prettily decorated rooms in the University building on the night of the Conversat, that fixed up by the school men was by everyone thought the prettiest, and great credit is due to the committee and to all who assisted. The walls

were hung with the yellow, blue and white, and with many flags. From the four chandeliers hung diagonally four big streamers of our colors caught up and tied together in the middle. Numerous palms were arranged around the room, some bunches of them surrounded by a ring of chairs covered with tapestry. There were also plenty of lounges and easy chairs. The dark red incandescent lamps finished the pretty effect by shedding a dull soft light on all around.

The usual exhibit was made of drawings, both architectural and mechanical. On one side was a show-case filled with very fine specimens of the beautiful and precious stones and crystals found in Canada, and further on a table bearing casts of the largest nuggets of both gold and platinum ever found. Being an S.P.S. man it was a great pleasure to see so many of our fellows there, for if ever any function was well represented by us it was the Conversat last Friday night. All the professors were there, some staying on right to the end. Our ex-president Engineering Society, C. F. King, came down from Detroit to attend it.

A good many of the boys, and some of the professors too, fared badly on that cold and windy morning last week. The unfortunate ones stood around with heads bent down suffering pangs of pain as the men around them applied the snow to their ears and gradually thawed them out.

At a mass meeting held last week H. S. Carpenter, president Engineering Society, was elected to represent the S.P.S. at the McGill At Home given in Montreal last Friday evening. An invitation had also been received from the Literary Society for a representative from the S.P.S. to their conversazione, and W. E. H. Carter was elected.

Mr. Carpenter left here Thursday for Montreal returning Saturday morning. He says he had a fine time, and we may be sure he had for we know how well the McGill men always treat our worthy representatives who come from such a worthy institute.

If the first year civils were to sit down in the middle of a desert there is little doubt that they would immediately find their pockets full of water. No one need have a dry time while they are in the neighborhood.

The second year men are having a damp time. One, a small man with pale, sunset-colored hair, locked the cloak-room door in the face of the first year. They showed their resentment by washing his face under the tap.

Some of the members of the prospecting class have a thing or two to learn yet about the etiquette of the School of Practical Science, and the chief of these is that it is not customary to light pipes or cigarettes inside the School but to refrain from so doing until without the building.

An interesting test was made in the laboratory at five o'clock Wednesday evening last week and was witnessed by over half of the students. One of the beams used in the construction of the chemistry building was shortly afterwards condemned on account of having badly checked as well as having a crack in its bottom fibres. As a matter of scientific interest it was brought to the School and its strength actually found on the testing machine.

J. S. Dobie, B.A.Sc., and F. J. Robinson are in the city writing on the O.L.S. examinations.

The supposed dynamite cartridge has disappeared from the chemical laboratory and the gentlemen who worked in close proximity to it are breathing more freely. While it was there they saw danger on every side; some feared that it would explode owing to the vibrations of the floor; others had good reason to think that the ceiling might fall on it. In either case they saw before them a swift journey across the lawn. But as its most dangerous ingredient was sawdust they were not in great peril. It was cylindrical in shape and made of coarse brown paper, and was used as a lecture specimen, the nitro-glycerine having been dissolved out.

A number of years ago an attempt was made to blow up the old Parliament Buildings on Front street. They placed a number of these cartridges in a back cellar window and had a fuse running in the grass for quite a distance. But it was discovered.

The second year have finished their course of lectures in hydrostatics at the University. So now there will be no occasion to be always prepared for a scrimmage; no more opportunities for "raisin' the devil" around those interesting and attractive lecture rooms (attractive because of the presence of the ladies); no more chances of shooting an Arts or Victoria man like a rocket up through the heavenly atmosphere of the physical laboratory lecture room to the back row of seats where he is kindly received. And in the future we shall have to content ourselves with our own first year, teaching them the lessons that they should learn, one of which is the respect that is due to their seniors. I may say it is well for them that Prof. Galbraith has our solemn promise to conduct ourselves properly inside the School, or they, I am sure, would be a little the worse for wear by now.

It is very disappointing to many of the school that we have no hockey team this year. We have any amount of good material for a team that would certainly show up well in the college league. We have Caur McArthur, one of the best cover-points in Canada, and who has been chosen as one of the team that will tour the States this month. Besides being able to play cover-point well, he can put up a good game as a forward. He was a tower of strength to the Varsity team in their three games. He can also receive more hard usage and checking, and at the same time give as much back as he receives, than any other player in the Ontario Hockey League. In fact, he is an all-round sport of the first-class style.

"Molars" is getting quite expert in putting titles on his drawings. He has even reached the stage where he can enjoy a pleasant dream while doing it. We do not know what he has to dream about unless it be some of those charming girls of his with whom he skates at the Victoria rink. But last week this habit of dreaming cost him dear for it resulted in his receiving the nick-name of "Molars." Some say he doesn't know the difference between eye-teeth and molars, but we can hardly believe that. At any rate he seems to be mixed up concerning cycloidal teeth and cycloidal molars.

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THE VARSITY.

OPEN MEETING OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

In past years those who have attended the open meeting of the Natural Science Association have always come away well satisfied with the enjoyment provided for the evening.

The programme provided for to-morrow evening, Friday, Feb. 11, will be equally as interesting and enjoyable as any of those in former years, as the following will indicate :

PART I.

1. March "Normandie" *Armstrong*
Varsity Banjo, Guitar and Mandolin Clubs.
2. Chairman's Address—
President Coleman.
3. Vocal Solo (with guitar accompaniment)
"The Owl" *Adams*
Miss M. A. E. Dickenson.
4. Address..... "Relation of Contagious Diseases
to Public Health"
Dr. Sheard.
5. Piano Solo..... "Tarantelle" *Heller*
Miss Bertha Rosenstadt.

PART II.

6. March..... "Royal Courier" *Weaver*
Varsity Banjo, Guitar and Mandolin Clubs.
7. Address... "Poison Glands in the Animal Kingdom"
Illustrated.
Dr. Bensley.
8. Vocal Solo (with guitar accompaniment)
"Go Sleep, My Honey" *Vanderpool*
Miss M. A. E. Dickenson.
9. Piano Solo.. { (a) March .. "Prince Albert" *Glover*
{ (b) "Reverie" *Wesley Forsythe*
Mr. A. B. Steer, '98.

The Biological Museum will be open for inspection at the close of the meeting.

A. P. COLEMAN, M.A., PH.D., C. M. FRASER, '98,
President. Secretary.

THE UNIVERSAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR STUDENTS.

At the Convention of the World's Student Christian Federation, held at Williamstown, in America, in July, 1897, it was decided unanimously by the delegates present from all parts of the world that there should be a universal day of prayer for students. The ten student movements belonging to the Federation were all represented—namely, the movements of Germany, Great Britain, Scandinavia, America, Australasia, South Africa, Japan, India and Ceylon, China, and of other mission lands. All the delegates of these movements agreed to unite on a day in the first half of February. This was the only time in the year on which they found it possible to unite. Therefore the General Committee of the World's Student Christian Federation recommends to all student Christian organizations, to all Christian students, and to the Church of Christ, that Sunday, February 13, 1898, be set apart to be observed as a universal day of prayer for students.

ODE TO A COLLEGE GIRL.

Oppressed with sorrow and with care,
And mental solitude,
My thoughts, O College Girl, I dare
On you this hour intrude;
For I would speak with you to-night,
And listen to your voice,
So that my heart, no longer light,
May once again rejoice.

Within those happy rooms you roam,—
Those rooms so dear to me,—
At times I wander from my home,
That near them I may be;
Through many panes the lights burn fair,
And shadows past them go,
And sounds of life float on the air,
And you're inside I know.

And there where windows brightly gleam,
And steps break on your ear,
I often wonder if you dream
That I am drawing near,
In search of joys which ne'er may be,
While we are kept apart,
But finding how much misery
It takes to break a heart.



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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

APRIL

- Applications for examination for Specialist certificates other than Commercial, to Department, due.
- Annual Meeting of the Ontario Educational Association at Toronto.
- Last day for receiving applications for examination of candidates not in attendance at the Ontario Normal College.
- Art School examinations begin.

MAY

- Examinations for Specialists' certificates (except Commercial) at the University of Toronto, begin.
 Notice by candidates for the High School Entrance and Public School Leaving Examinations, to Inspectors, due.
- Arbor Day.
- Notice by candidates for the High School, forms I., II., III. and IV., University Matriculation and Commercial Specialist Examinations, to Inspectors, due.
 Application for Kindergarten Examinations to Inspectors, due.
- Examination at Ontario Normal College, Hamilton, begins.
- Inspectors to report number of candidates for the High School forms, University Matriculation and Commercial Specialist Examinations to Department.
- Close of session of Ontario Normal College.

JUNE

- Kindergarten Examinations at Hamilton, London, Ottawa and Toronto, begin.
- High School Entrance Examinations begin.
 Public School Leaving Examinations begin.

JULY

- High School Examinations, Form I., begin.
- High School Form II. and Commercial Specialist Examinations begin.
- High School Forms III. and IV. Examinations begin.

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CORRIDOR CULLINGS.

Professor Caldwell, of Chicago University, is the guest of Prof. Mavor this week.

J. W. Hobbs, '98, took a short trip home Sunday afternoon, returning Tuesday.

The Women's Literary Society hold their annual At Home in the East Hall next Saturday, 4.30 to 7.

The picture of the Victorian Era Ball group is on exhibition in Park Bros. window, and is excellent.

Do not fail to see H. N. Shaw's production of Romeo and Juliet and Richelieu, at the Grand, February 14th and 15th.

T. L. Church, a graduate of Varsity, and well known to Varsity men, was elected recently a High School Trustee for Toronto.

Mr. E. C. Jeffrey was prevented from lecturing last week, on account of a severe cold. He is back to work again this week.

The VARSITY cannot undertake to publish any contribution unless the author is willing to give us his name as a guarantee of good faith.

R. M. Stewart, '01, of the VARSITY Editorial Board is ill at his home in Ottawa. We hope he may soon be around again in his old form.

J. H. F. etc. McCortney, has accepted inducements to enter a bank at Guelph, and left last week.

Note: Please don't tell the O.H.A.

The Nominating Committee for VARSITY'S Editorial and Business Boards for 1898-99 will be elected at the Literary Society on Friday, February 18th.

F. H. Lloyd, better known as "Pelagoo," the hockey and football player—and general "sport"—has been compelled to leave college for home with a very bad cold.

The Varsity Glee and Banjo Clubs are arranging to give another grand concert early in March in the Massey Hall. Emma Juch and the great baritone Davies will take part.

Mr. Fred A. Saunders, '95, a graduate in the Department of Mathematics and Physics, has taken his third year Scholarship in Physics in Post-graduate work in Johns Hopkins University.

One afternoon last week a senior was seated in the library studying his classics. A light-haired freshman sauntered in and seated himself beside the solemn senior, and then leaning confidentially over, he asked, "Have you any Homer on this year?" "Yes, some five or six books," returned the senior. "Well," very friendly continued our freshman, "I have the

elegantest interlinear translation of the old gent. Call round and see it."

Chemical Building.—The latest method for producing Hydrogen Sulphide gas is that which was tried on a recent supplemental exam., and is as follows: In the inner chamber of a Kipp apparatus place 500 c.g. of zinc turnings, and in the outer chamber about 500 c.c. of dilute Sulphuric Acid. The flow of gas is ideal. O.K.! —Next!

The Alpha Delta Phi fraternity is holding its sixty-sixth annual convention to-night in Association Hall, and invites the undergraduates to the public exercises. These will consist in a number of speeches by prominent members of the fraternity, many of whom are present as delegates from the chapters of the society, situated at the various Universities of the United States. It is expected that President Raymond of Union College, Mr. Hamilton Wright Mabie and Geo. Smollett, war correspondent of the United States, will speak to-night.

The new photograph of the heavens, which is being prepared by London, Berlin and Parisian astronomers, shows 68,000,000 stars.

The entire collection of the Cyrus W. Field papers relating to the first Atlantic cable, have become the property of the National Museum at Washington.

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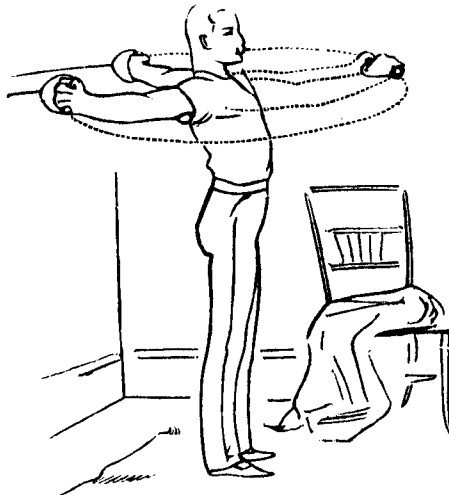


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