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THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. V.

TORONTO, November 29, 1884.

No. 6.

Editorial Notes.

Yesterday was Professor Young's 66th birthday. We are sure that we voice the sentiments of all those who know the genial Professor of Mental Philosophy when we very cordially wish him many happy returns of the day.

In the Report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel we find the following reference, amongst others, to Trinity College: "The Institution has attained a widely-recognized position of honor and usefulness, and promises to be the great centre of religion and learning in Western Canada." If "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," what must be the feelings of those who are, and have been, waiting for the fulfilment of the prophecy contained in the sentence which we have italicized?

While Messrs. Proctor and Brandram performed their parts fairly well in connection with the scientific and literary course which has just been concluded, the same cannot be said of their manager. In advertising the course this gentleman, Mr. J. F. Thomson by name, for some reason did not allow his own name to appear, but gave great prominence to the facts that the course was to be held in "Convocation Hall, Toronto University, under the patronage of the president and members of the Literary Society." Events go to show, indeed, that the main use which this enterprising manager had for the Literary Society and the authorities of the College, was for advertising purposes. At any rate the professors and students of University College received but shabby treatment in the hall from the individual who had so judiciously advertised them as his patrons. It is probably safe to say that this somewhat noted impressario will scarcely be allowed in the future to further his own ends so effectually by trading on the reputation of the University and the Literary Society.

Mr. Proctor has, we feel assured, delivered his last lecture to a Toronto audience. He came here with a great flourish of trumpets, but never were expectations so wretchedly disappointed. The lecture on the "Solar System" was a dismal failure. It contained nothing new; nothing which could not have been learned from the most elementary text-book on astronomy, with the aid of a primary geography. It was delivered with an overweening air of superiority which is not, we are glad to say, characteristic of the foremost scientists of the day. The second lecture, on the "Pyramids," was a little better than the first; probably because the lecturer thought his audience might possibly know a little more of the subject than they did of astronomy, and therefore that he must exert himself slightly more. But both lectures were disappointing in the extreme, and we venture to predict that Mr. Proctor will not have the assurance to appear before a Toronto audience again until he can get up something which is worth 75c. and \$1.00 to hear. Mr. Brandram's readings are in progress as we go

to press. We hope they will be more successful than the Proctor fizzles.

Prof. Morrison, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.A.S., of the National University, Washington, will, it is said, be one of the examiners in Mathematics this year. Dr. Morrison has of late been frequently mentioned among honor men in Mathematics, both graduates and undergraduates, as a possible examiner, and we are sure that no appointment could be made more likely to restore confidence in the examinations in that department. Dr. Morrison has had a wide experience as a teacher, as an author, and as an examiner. In conjunction with Professor Newcombe he has prepared a series of Mathematical text-books for American colleges, and in the prefaces of the Analytic Geometry and the Trigonometry, a great portion of the work is credited to him. A work on the Differential and Integral Calculus, by the same authors, is soon to appear. The work on "The Development of the Perturbative Function of Planetary Motion, &c.," a copy of which is in the Library, is one of the most difficult mathematical works published, and it obtained for the Dr. the high distinction of election to a Fellowship in the Royal Astronomical Society. We hope that the Senate will confer the proposed appointment, and that Dr. Morrison will be willing to serve his Alma Mater in that capacity.

There are many anomalies connected with University College. Perhaps the most extraordinary is the retention of the Agricultural Department. This apocryphal institution is annually advertised in our College Calendar, and an elaborate syllabus of the course of instruction therein published. It may surprise some of our readers to learn that there is no such department in practical operation in University College. No student has offered himself for years and years. And yet we industriously circulate a prospectus for a course which has no existence, and give its professor—Emeritus, we suppose—a seat in the College Council, while there is not a single representative of the whole Modern Language Department in that body. Surely it is time that such a ridiculous state of affairs was altered, and justice done to one of the most important courses in University College. While we are discussing this point it may be well to look at the constitution of that august body, the College Council. There are three representatives of the different branches of science—Mineralogy and Geology, Natural History, and Chemistry. There are two representatives of the Mathematical Department—its professor and the Dean of Residence. There is one for Classics, one for History (the President), one for Agriculture (*sic*), and none for Modern Languages! Further comment is unnecessary, but we have felt it our duty to state these facts plainly once for all.

For several years a system of democratic government has been in force in several colleges of the United States, notably at Amherst and Bowdoin. All breaches of College rules are dealt with by a committee called a senate or jury, this committee being chosen from among the students themselves. In general the system has worked very well. Self-control has been developed in the students, and the faculties have been relieved from the

worry of maintaining discipline, which is more exhausting to most natures than teaching. Encouraged by the success which followed the adoption of this system, the authorities of the Iowa State University have made even a more radical change in the same direction. They have abolished the committee, and have substituted self-government by the individual student for self-government by the students as a body. Each student is to be a law unto himself. In the new order of things the trustees of the University do not announce any formal code to be submitted to by the students, but confine themselves to making a few "suggestions" and "specifications." The system was introduced by the following remarks: "Instructors are provided that their whole strength may be spent in instruction and friendly conference with the students. It is wrong to all students, to the trustees and faculty, when a few divert the time and care of instructors to matters of discipline. It is expected that every student of Iowa College will govern himself in conformity with the intent of its founders and guardians, and so secure the greatest good to himself and all concerned, and the highest honors to the College." According to the college paper the results are so far entirely satisfactory. The present success of the plan will depend very largely on the personal influence of the professors, and if serious difficulties are not encountered before the system receives the strong sanction of custom, there is every reason to believe that it will be permanently successful. Certainly the authorities of Iowa College deserve great credit for inaugurating a scheme so entirely in accord with the true principles of moral education, which require the development of an internal restraint, rather than coercion by external powers.

We fear a very serious mistake was made by the Senate in voting down the motion brought before it by Mr. Houston for the abolition of scholarships in the faculties of Law and Medicine. This motion was in its nature supplementary to the scheme which was recently submitted to the Senate by Professor Loudon, and which was accepted by that body and is now about to come into operation. As is well known, this scheme involves, among other things, the abolition of scholarships and medals in the second, third, and fourth years of the Arts course. The views of Messrs. Loudon and Houston on this question are quite in accord with the most advanced ideas of our time. The tendency everywhere among all first-class institutions of liberal education is to eliminate as much as possible all personal conflict and unhealthy rivalry from among the students. A great change in this direction has been made at Oxford, and it was only a week ago that the old grading system in Princeton was abolished by the trustees. The action of the Senate in abolishing scholarships in Arts and retaining them in Law and Medicine appears to us to be exceedingly inconsistent. If scholarships are to be given in any course, most certainly it should be to those persons who are seeking a liberal rather than a professional education. It cannot be maintained to be the business of a state university to fit men for the professions or to hold out any special inducements to those entering them. But this is precisely what our University is doing. Practically speaking, bonuses are being given to the learned professions. Or, to look at the matter in another way, the University is paying money to induce men to enter certain professions, and the Law Society and the Medical Council are charging them excessively high fees to keep them out, and thus the University is impoverishing herself for the benefit of the latter corporations. Moreover, it is but reasonable that the saving which will be effected by the reduction of scholarships in the faculty of Arts should be expended in much needed improvements in that faculty, and should not be diverted to other faculties. The library and laboratories are sadly lacking in their equipment, and all the scholarship money would be much more advantageously employed if it were transferred to them. Thus for many reasons it is greatly to be regretted that the motion referred to did not receive a more favorable consideration from the Senate.

A Miss Stevens is Professor of Greek in Kansas University.

MODERN LANGUAGES AND THEIR NARROWNESS.

The course in Modern Languages has from the first been regarded by the majority of our educationists as the least important of the five honor departments of our University curriculum. It has been scarcely supposed that any student of good parts would devote his four years to this course specially, for the simple reason that it does not offer sufficient matter for such a prolonged period of study. The assumption has obviously been that very little intellectual profit is to be derived from the study of Modern Languages, as such. They form an excellent subsidiary course for the classical or the metaphysical specialist—a delightful kind of recreation after the severe mental strain incident to his own proper study; but the student who finds himself capable of taking Modern Languages only is not entitled to much respect, and it is quite absurd for him to ask for the removal of History as one of his sub-departments; for, as the course now stands, History is the one subject which affords room for intellectual play.

In view of these misconceptions, and of the persistence and frequency with which the objection of narrowness is urged against a course purely linguistic and literary, even by those who admit that there is much in Modern Languages to claim the attention of the earnest student, we find it necessary to consider the question somewhat in detail in this and subsequent issues.

A student has one or more than one of four objects in view in commencing the study of Modern Languages. He finds, as do many of our science students, that some other people than his own is taking the lead in that particular department of knowledge in which he is specially interested, and accordingly he studies the language of that particular people sufficiently to obtain access to results otherwise inaccessible. He is searching for facts—simple, unadorned facts.

The strange language he regards as an unavoidable obstacle merely, and he would, confessedly, prefer readable translations at all times. The books he worries are almost beyond the range of true literature. Of the real literature itself he knows and probably wishes to know nothing. He never dreams of reading a high-class literary production for pleasure. This species of language-study has undoubtedly been more or less necessary in the past, but in this book and periodical-producing generation no one needs wait many days for new results to appear in his own language wherever they may have been wrought out.

If knowledge of facts *simply* is the student's object he will probably soon discover that his time and energies might be more advantageously directed. In any case he cannot be called a student of *language*.

Let us then pass over this elementary stage of linguistic knowledge and consider the second object—the young ladies' object many call it—viz.: to gain a facility in the practical, everyday use of language. The attention is directed primarily to the conversational—the social phase of language, and through that to the literary. This is certainly more worthy of the name of linguistic study than our first object; and there are those who assert that this, be it ultimate object or not, is nevertheless the one thing needful—the essential in all language-study—with how much reason we shall have occasion to see in discussing the third object, with the consideration of which we shall first reach the core of our subject.

This third object seems perhaps to the majority of students to be the most plausible of all objects in studying a foreign language, and nineteen-twentieths of those having such an object in view would state it much as follows:—I wish to obtain a knowledge of German (*e.g.*) sufficient to enable me thoroughly to enjoy the literature of Germany. I have no desire to waste my time in the attempt to write and speak German, for I probably shall never have occasion to use it." "Then," he adds with a smile, "if at any time I should find myself boss of a gang of German navvies, or thrown into German society of any kind, it would be but a trifling matter to acquire the practical after having learned the theoretical and acquired an extensive vocabulary."

Let us examine this view, which, it will be noticed, differs

essentially from the first object. What is usually called the practical part—ability to speak and write, pronunciation, etc.—is made quite secondary. The object, a very modest one apparently, is to enjoy the literature merely.

Suppose you have a neighbour—call him Mr. German—who has in his house some of the most beautiful mosaics. You are interested in mosaics; and one day you decide to go and examine those of Mr. G. It is your first visit to German's, and on entering the house it is apparently quite dark. German's little boy, Grieb, who has been in your house very frequently, tells you that what you call darkness at his father's is a far clearer and mellowed light to him than yours, and meanwhile he leads you to one of the rare mosaics. With considerable difficulty you distinguish a surface, rather darker than the general surroundings, which Grieb proceeds to describe in detail. The first block is of such or such a shape—comparing it with some you have seen—but the particular tint he has never seen anywhere but in his father's house, and, notwithstanding his efforts to describe it, you fail to obtain the least impression of the true shade.

However, you note with care the form of every block in the composition as outlined by Grieb, and piece out a mosaic after that pattern, but in light your own and with your own tints. It seems to have a certain beauty of form, and you conclude that perhaps after all you have all there is in German's mosaic. Another neighbor drops in and you tell him this mosaic is a copy of that famous one of German's; but he laughs and tells you he would never have recognized it. Not one of the tints, he says, is even an approximation to any of Mr. German's; the great merit of his mosaic consists in the wonderful arrangement of tints. He tells you, too, that those tints are due entirely to the peculiar light and atmosphere in German's house, and that, like you, he was a few years previously unable to detect any tint whatever in the composition, but he continued to live with Mr. G. for some years, and by daily observance of common objects around him and of their more striking colors, and by carefully noting the precise standpoints from which the whole German family invariably looked at the individual blocks of these mosaics, he at last found that his appreciation of them had grown to such an extent that he became almost as enthusiastic on the subject as German himself.

He had received considerable aid from little Grieb as regards pure form, but the boy was utterly useless on the question of tints. Appreciation of these implied a radical change in your own visual organs, or at least a refocusing of them. As the colors cannot be transferred to the light of your own house without their beauty vanishing, you must accustom yourself to the light and atmosphere of German's house. The figure we trust, is plain, and we shall proceed to the application in our next issue.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

We have often heard the object of private libraries discussed, and the motives of their collectors impugned, but, that a public library exists simply and solely for the benefit of the public is a principle we had thought too generally admitted to need re-assertion. And we conceive the same relation between the library of a public and provincial institution, such as the University of Toronto and its now large body of graduates and undergraduates. But an entirely different conception has grown up, and, what is worse, is bodied forth in the management and regulations of this important branch of the University's functions—the conception that a library exists in and for itself.

In discussing this question we view it more especially from the side of the undergraduates, believing it to be, out of all comparison the most important. The patronage of graduates outside of University College is infinitesimal, and naturally so. In a country at our stage of development, where young men, in nineteen cases out of twenty, pass the door of the Examination Hall only to knock for admission into an active business or professional life, which henceforth demands his whole attention, there will be little enough time for him to spend in reading works from the library of his Alma Mater. This renders it doubly urgent that every facility be given to the undergraduate

to make the best possible use of a privilege, the enjoyment of which is so limited.

We believe that so far from this facility being afforded, the regulations by which the library is conducted make whatever advantage students may derive therefrom rather an accidental appendage than otherwise. Surely the object of a University Library is something more than merely to save the cost of purchasing a certain small number of text-books! Though desirable and appreciated by all, this is neither the single nor even the most important end; yet, it must be admitted that it is the only one attainable under the present system of management. We refer more particularly to the regulation which requires all books to be presented at the wicket at 10 a.m., and permits none to be taken away till a late hour in the afternoon. This restriction is perhaps justifiable in the case of text-books in constant demand; its application to all classes of books is wholly unjustifiable. Now, it seems to us that what the great mass of undergraduates desire, and what the Library should supply, is the opportunity for wide reading. They desire to lay a solid foundation by close study of the texts, but they feel that this alone is not enough without a fitting superstructure; and the materials for this they would gather from the vast stores resting upon the shelves of the University Library were these but made accessible. That they are not, a few words will show.

A student must regulate his work with a view solely to his texts and his lectures. The examination system renders this absolute. His side reading can therefore be done only when opportunity arises, and must necessarily be unsystematic. But the regulations of the library require a methodical arrangement calculated according to hours and even minutes. They thus simply prohibit all reading outside of the regular work of the curriculum. To require a hard-working man in 4th Year Classics to walk a mile in order to present at 10 a.m. sharp, a work of American biography which he obtained only at dusk of preceding evening, is as senseless as it is unjust.

This rule has not the excuse of doing a little harm for the sake of a great good, inasmuch as it does very little good at the cost of great harm, and that, too, under circumstances which permit both the removal of the one and the retention of the other. For we can see no obstacle to drawing a distinction between the few books bearing directly on examination work and therefore in constant use, and the thousands of instructive and interesting volumes entirely outside of the curriculum. The preparation of a list of the former is a matter presenting very little difficulty, and it would render practicable a rule by which the latter class of books could be taken out and retained for a week or such period as the committee might see fit. The result would be no less a reform than the throwing open to four hundred patrons a library of some twenty thousand volumes which is now practically locked against them.

Another complaint, which we mention because we know it to be general among undergraduates, is that, while compliance with the most petty details and fines for slightest omissions are exacted from them with a spirit that would commend itself to a Russian autocrat or a pecunious Jew, this same authority breaks utterly down in the presence of the few other frequenters of the library. It is patent to all that books are taken out and retained *ad libitum* by certain individuals. On one occasion while students were daily enquiring for Gervinus's on Shakespeare, that book was in circulation among the members of the matriculation class of Upper Canada College. Other cases are equally well known. In fact the patronage of the library appears to be passing out of the hands of the librarian into that of certain professors and others; for students go to them and secure books to better advantage than they possibly can by presenting themselves at the wicket. This is not as it should be.

We have recently had an extensive library opened in the city, and it is succeeding beyond all expectation. The great cause of that success is the ceaseless endeavour made by its managers to facilitate public access thereto. Many of the rules and methods adopted by them could be applied to our institution with beneficial results. Already undergraduates are using the Public Library in preference to that of the University. It is evident something must be done to increase the usefulness and

popularity of the latter. It ought to be the common rallying field of our University, the bosom of our Alma Mater. We have pointed out some changes we think most calculated to attain this end. We have opened, but far from exhausted, the subject. Let the undergraduates take it up, and we shall hope for the best results.

SCIENTIFIC 'SNAKE STORIES.'

People have often wondered at the number, audacity, and recklessness of ordinary newspaper snake stories. This has been, doubtless, the result of the general disregard for accurate and reliable information which distinguishes the usual semi-annual sea-serpent anecdote from other stories. The yarns which Mr. William Nye, the talented but eccentric fabricator of the Laramie *Boomerang*, tells, are described by most people by a little word of three letters which rhymes with Mr. Nye's name. American humorists—especially those residing in the free-and-easy west—are usually considered to be first-class liars. At least this is an inference which might be drawn from the character of their writings, which partake, also, of the free-and-easiness of the aforementioned west. But this may not be a logical deduction; probably is not. The old proverb says: Truth is stranger than fiction. This trite remark has been verified over and over again. It is our purpose to again put it to the test.

Let those of our readers who are inclined to share the general belief that American humorists—especially those who dwell west of the Mississippi—are incomparable and inimitable prevaricators, listen to those fairy-like inventions of modern science, which its exponents endeavour to palm off on a confiding and unsuspecting public as real and actual facts. Now, an ordinary person can have some sort of control and supervision over a confirmed yarn-teller of the Western-American species; but the same ordinary person fails utterly when he undertakes to throttle the scientist and prove him a romancer. For, immediately he sticks his dissecting knife into the body of a scientific bogey, the scientist showers down upon the enquirer after truth such a jargon of scientific terminology, and such an array of experimental testimony, that the luckless searcher after verity is fain to quit the field, and cry: Hold, hold; enough.

Let the aforesaid disbeliever in the probity of American humorists hereinbefore mentioned listen to the latest true story from the literature of science. Mr. Romanes, in his interesting article on "The Darwinian Theory of Instinct" in the *Nineteenth Century*, is its perpetrator:—

"There is a species of wasp-like insect called the SpheX. The insect lays its eggs in a hole excavated in the ground. It then flies away and finds a spider, which it stings in the main nerve centre of the animal. This has the effect of paralysing the spider without killing it. The SpheX then carries the now motionless spider to its nursery, and buries it with the eggs. When the eggs hatch out the grubs feed on the paralysed prey, which is then alive, and therefore quite fresh, although it has never been able to move since the time when it was buried!"

And yet the *Westminster Review*, in commenting on Mr. Romanes' book—of which his article was an abstract—has the audacity to say:—"The work will repay careful reading, though the treatment is less original than might have been expected, and the cases discussed, though all striking, are perhaps less varied than might have been desired"! But then, there is no pleasing some people.

Another genuine "fish" story is the following:—"One of the most interesting phosphorescent fishes is the Chiasmodus, a fish that attains the length of only 13 inches. The top of its head is the principal light-giving organ, and its fins gleam with phosphorescent light. It is not alone remarkable as a light-giver. It has a jaw so arranged that it can seize fish twice its own size and easily swallow them. Its stomach has the elastic quality of India rubber. It stretches to enormous proportions, and appears like a great transparent balloon hanging under the fish and containing its prey."

Now, after reading the above stories, will any unprejudiced reader remain long of the opinion that science is behind western journalism? It is a toss up which is the more veracious and trustworthy. We shall have to wait, however, till the Christmas crop of snake, sea-serpent, and fish stories are gathered from the American press before we can pass a final judgment.

ERIC.

LE PAUVRE HOMME!

Scene:—Chateau Blue-Beard.

Time:—Shortly before the entrance of the Two Brothers.

Mr. le Comte de Barbe-bleue *loquitur*.—When is a man going to have peace and quietness! I am getting to detest these family scenes. Women never are calm in emergencies. There's Zuleika crying like mad in the next room and of course Ann is boo-hooing to keep her company. They ought to know if there's one thing I simply cannot bear it's a woman crying. It just shatters my nerves. But they never *did* consider my feelings. It's most annoying to have them go on like that. I do so like quiet, and I had begun to think that Zulie was going to behave like a sensible girl, and be resigned and all that. . . .

And there she is talking to Ann in such an excited way. . . . Poor Ann! I am so sorry for her. It will be such a loss! She will be sure to miss her dear sister very much! They always *did* seem so fond of one another. But it's all her fault. I told her in time, but she wouldn't take advice. If she only had moderated her feelings and pursued the proper path all would have been different. How much longer I wonder am I to be tormented by the idle curiosity of woman. . . .

And they're all alike! There was little Selima. How fond she was of me to be sure! What pretty white hands she had! I hoped I had found happiness at last till that evening I came home and found her at the wash-stand with her hand all nasty and red. How she trembled to be sure, and I *was* so tired! It was such an exertion to . . . remove her. . . . And there was Zorah with her black eyes, and—

But I wonder why Zulie has stopped crying and who Ann is calling to, out of the window. What an unladylike action!

What a thundering knock at the front door! Heavens! what a crash!! The door is down! That wretch Ann must have sent word to her precious brothers. But I shall permit of no family interference in my domestic arrangements. Where's my best scimitar!! I'll just step in and . . . see Zuleika and then I'll be ready to receive her gentlemanly brothers. The idea of coming into my house like this! It's the most excessive piece of impertinence. . . . I really beg your pardon gentlemen, but to what may I ascribe the honor of this visit?

BOHEMIEN.

University News.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

Owing to Mr. Brandram's readings on Friday evening, the Society met on Tuesday afternoon last in Moss Hall at 5 p.m. Mr. D. McKay, 1st Vice-President, occupied the chair. There was a large attendance. The principal business before the meeting was the selection of the Reader, Essayist, and Speakers for the next Public.

The following gentlemen were elected to represent the Society on the 12th of December next:—Reader, Mr. C. C. Owen; Essayist, Mr. W. W. Vickers; Speakers, Messrs. Weir, Collins, Roche, and Hunter.

Mr. J. G. Holmes moved that Mr. Colin Fraser, a member of the general committee, having been absent from all meetings of the committee, his seat be declared vacant.

Mr. L. P. Duff rose to a point of order regarding the irregularity of the whole proceedings.

The chairman, on the motion being made, refused to read it from the chair or to put it. Mr. Holmes then put his own motion, which was carried. The constitutionality of the proceedings has since been the subject of much discussion, and will likely be brought up again at the next meeting.

Y. M. C. A.

On Thursday evening, Moss Hall was comfortably filled. After the usual opening exercises, Mr. John Crawford addressed the meeting, taking for his subject, the parable of the talents as found in Matt. xxv. The speaker spoke first of the basis of division, which was the ability of the servants. The master having ascertained the business capacity of each, bestowed gifts in accordance with that capacity. The second thought was the reason for an unequal distribution of the talents. Any association in order to do effective work must contain varied talent. A railway company would not be a success if all were directors. This varied talent is just as essential in the Kingdom of God. Lastly as to the use made of the talents, all that is required of any one is a right use of what is given. The sin of the man who had only one talent lays not in his having squandered it, but simply in the fact that he neglected to use it.

Mr. McLeod drew attention to the man of one talent. Had he been faithful to his trust he would undoubtedly have received a like commendation with the others.

Mr. H. J. Hamilton gave utterance to the practical thought, that, if we use what opportunities we have of bringing souls to Christ, other opportunities will soon be afforded us.

Messrs. Owen, Garside, Doherty, Talbot and Graham followed with brief practical addresses.

At the close of the meeting next Thursday a business meeting will be held, when the nomination of officers for the Easter term will be received.

"Does not Wisdom cry?" What does this wisdom teach? Listen to His voice and hear Him say in tones of authority: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." You possess natural life. Seek spiritual life. You have been born into this natural world. Seek the new birth into the spiritual world.

Hear Him again! "Build your house upon a rock!" Let your bright hopes have a solid foundation! Hopes founded on the world's flattery rest on sand. Against one Rock the storms of centuries have dashed in vain. Let your hopes rest on Him!

Once more He speaks! "Keep your treasures safe from moth and rust and thieves!" Fame, wealth, earthly happiness shall quickly pass away. The very "heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll." Labor, then, for the eternal, the satisfying!

A friendly greeting has come over to us, and to all American colleges, from far-distant Ceylon. Some time ago Jaffna college organized an Association similar to our own, and its increasing efficiency can not for a moment be questioned. While conventions draw American colleges near to one another, we fancy this friendly salutation from "Ceylon's isle" is the preliminary of a more intimate acquaintance between the students of the Eastern and Western World. The cor.-sec. says he would highly appreciate a letter from any of our Colleges. His name is Tampoo Hemphill.

Apropos to foreign communications, we have written to Central India to a University graduate, who is devoting his life to Christian work among the heathen, asking for the contribution of a paper on the missionary outlook there. If our request is acceded to, the letter will be read at one of our first missionary meetings next term.

Let us earnestly hope that no odium will ever attach itself to our Association through the inconsistency or selfishness of any member. We call it inconsistency for any student to engage in both prayer and profanity; we call it selfishness for him to be indifferent to the reputation of Toronto University in any of its Society meetings or athletic sports.

A lively interest is manifested from all quarters in our proposed building. The subscription list has been opened this week, and over \$800 has already been subscribed. Graduates, prepare!

THE FORUM.

The usual fortnightly sitting was held last Saturday night in Temperance Hall. The attendance was nearly double that of the first meeting, about 75 being present.

The Premier, Mr. John A. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. T. B. P. Stewart, leader of the Opposition, moved the appointment of Mr. F. B. Hodgins to the position of Speaker. The motion was carried unanimously, and Mr. Hodgins accepted the position, briefly thanking the members for the honour conferred upon him.

Mr. J. E. Jones, Secretary of State, read his Chinese Bill a second time, and in a speech supporting it dealt chiefly with the history of the agitation in the countries affected by the immigration.

Mr. W. J. Fenton, Minister of Public Works, in seconding the Bill, spoke about the character of the Chinese and the importance of the issue to British Columbia.

Mr. T. A. Gibson, Minister of Militia, opposed the Bill and defended the reputation of the Chinese, especially as regards their military, and showed the advantages of their principles of government.

Mr. J. W. Garvin, member for Yale, B.C., dealt with the question as viewed by the people of his far-off Province.

Messrs. McNamara and Boulbee made clever speeches in favour of the maligned race.

Messrs. Stratton, Burritt, and Harrison supported the Bill.

The second reading of the Bill was defeated by a large majority.

The Premier will, at the next sitting, introduce a resolution in favour of Imperial Federation. Notice has also been given of a Bill establishing prohibition.

The next meeting will be held in McMillan's Hall, corner Yonge and Gerrard streets, on Saturday evening, the 6th of December.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The semi-monthly meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society, which was to be held on November 25, was postponed till December 9, in consequence of Professor Proctor's lecture.

Mr. J. Reid, B.A., is to read a paper on the "Application of the roots of unity to some problems."

There will also be some physical experiments.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

A German meeting of the Club was held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 25th, the Vice-President, Mr. Rowan, in the chair.

In pursuance of his notice, Mr. H. J. Hamilton moved, seconded by Mr. Shearer, that in future the Club hold its meetings at 4:15 p.m. on a day to be selected by the committee. Carried.

The chair was then taken by Mr. Squair, B.A., who acted as critic during the literary part of the programme. Mr. Macpherson read an essay entitled "Footsteps of Genius." Then followed readings by Messrs. Shearer and Chamberlain, the former reading a selection entitled *Schillerweihe*, which was well received. A short time was then taken up by five-minute speeches on favourite German authors, after which the proceedings were brought to a close.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting of the Society was held in the School of Practical Science, on Wednesday, 26th instant, Mr. McCallum, B.A., Vice-President, in the chair.

Mr. Geo. Acheson, M.A., read a paper on the "Skeleton of the Pectoral Limb." Having explained the structure and the position of the various bones in a typical limb, as found in the Chelonia, he went on to point out the various changes it had undergone in the various forms of the vertebrata, and described at some length the primitive structure of the fore limb as seen in the Dipnoi.

He then showed that these modifications—which he traced to the highest forms—were the result of different functions that this limb had to perform, and said that these changes were to be regarded from a physiological point of view. He concluded by pointing out the characteristics of the limb in animals whose locomotion was aquatic, terrestrial and aerial.

Mr. T. H. Lennox read a sequel to his paper of last week on the "Tortion of the Humerus." He, in a very able manner, explained Gegenbaur's and Schmidt's (Stuttgart) theories regarding the rotation and musculature of the limbs.

A short discussion ensued, in which several members took part.

Mr. W. L. Miller was appointed 2nd year representative on the general committee.

It was suggested by a member of the committee that it was desirable to introduce a new feature into the programme of the Society's meetings, viz: debates on scientific subjects. A discussion on this suggestion then took place, in which several members warmly advocated the scheme.

It was subsequently moved, and carried, that at the next meeting the Theory of Descent be the subject for debate.

Mr. T. McKenzie, B.A., and Mr. T. P. Hall, B.A., were appointed leaders in the debate.

Mr. McCallum explained some experiments recently made on the act of respiration in fishes, and described the function of a certain appendage found on the operculum of the dog fish.

The roll being called, the meeting adjourned.

ROTTEN ROW.

The Fourth Year Debating Society held its first meeting Wednesday. Professor Proctor's lecture on "The Great Pyramid" was supplied.

mented in residence. The illustrations in the second house were particularly fine.

Initiati Tirones! The unusually large number of fourteen Freshmen paid their respects to the Grand Mufti on Friday night. To keep up their spirits under the ordeal the seniors supplied music—a hand organ.

The annual supper of the K. K. K. was held Saturday night, the Mufti in the chair. Among the toasts were "The Grads," "The officers of the K. K. K.," "The Dean," etc. The Freshmen showed their joy at passing initiation with the loss of neither life nor limb by having a spread in their President's room on Monday.

College News

KNOX COLLEGE.

Knox College yields the palm to McMaster Hall in the matter of musical instruments, especially the smaller varieties.

Through the kindness of the Faculty the theological students have been granted exemptions from lectures on Tuesday next, in order that they may have the privilege of attending Mr. Moody's meetings.

Last week a few football practises were held in a field adjoining the College. It was rather small and the energies of the players accordingly somewhat cramped. Notwithstanding this fact poetical enthusiasm ran very high, one ardent Freshman going so far as to burst into quotations from Shakespeare.

THE 'VARSITY is a very popular journal among the students.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE.

The regular fortnightly meeting of the Literary Society was held last Friday evening. After some slight changes in the constitution as to membership fees and power of voting, the programme of the evening was proceeded with. After a reading by Mr. Lawlor, a debate was held on the following resolution: "That Separate Schools would be beneficial for the Church of England." Messrs. Daniel and O'Meara supported the affirmative and Messrs. Robinson and Murphy the negative. The vote having been taken, it was found to be in favour of the negative.

The success and work of the Students' Mission Society in connection with the College is steadily increasing. At a largely attended committee meeting, held last Monday, it was determined to add two places to the list of missions now served by the members of the Society.

Rev. J. S. Stone, of St. Martin's Church, Montreal, is expected to deliver a special course of lectures in Ecclesiastical History and Polity during the last week of this term.

Scene—Elocution Lecture.—Prof.—"Mr. A., criticize Mr. B.'s reading, if you please."

Mr. A.—"Not enough 'vitalized significance.'"

(Consternation at Mr. A.'s erudition.)

Prof.—"I see some gentleman has been slandering 'vitalized significance' in THE 'VARSITY.'"

Discomfiture of Mr. A.

Prof.—"Thou art the man."

Tremendous applause.

(But he wasn't.)

MEETING OF THE 'OI.—The 'oi' 'ολι'στων held a Shakespeare meeting on Saturday evening, at which several of the members were present. The play chosen was the "Merchant of Venice." It is unnecessary to say that a fine rendering of this well-known play was given, the parts of Shylock and Portia being exceedingly well done. The costumes were appropriate and quite in keeping with the other surroundings. We do not remember, however, to have seen a ghost in this play before and think it was rather a damper on the latter part of the performance.

Opinions Current and Otherwise.

The Canadian is said to be slow, suspicious, and hard to do business with; but in his treatment of the great questions of today he is making a record that places him in the foremost rank as a reformer of abuses.—*N. Y. Independent.*

The men who achieve great things, either in politics or commerce, in a metropolis, are rarely men born in that metropolis.

It is the province—the fresh, free air of mountain and sea—which send their vigorous young blood to do and dare in the capital.—*Academy.*

Oracles were among the earliest organs of public opinion. In truth, the Delphic oracle bore a strong resemblance to a serious newspaper managed by a cautious editorial committee with no principles in particular. In editing an oracle it was then, as it still is, of primary importance not to make bad mistakes.—*Professor Jebb.*

"When the tailor-poet in Kingsley's well-known story (Alton Locke) begins to exercise his gift of poetry, a practical-minded friend tells him that if he must write he will be wise to write about something that he knows. Some of our young poets would be seriously hampered by such advice and totally silenced by such a necessity as it implies."—*The Academy.*

The Spencerian system is nothing but a philosophy of epithets and phrases, introduced and carried on with an unrivalled solemnity and affectation of precision of style, concealing the loosest reasoning and the haziest indefiniteness on every point except the bare dogmatic negation of any knowable or knowing author of the universe.—*The Edinburgh Review.*

Annexation is no longer considered as a probable event of the future by our most flighty orators. There would inevitably be a strong opposition to the acquisition of Canada were the Dominion to solicit admission; and the least symptom of unwillingness to join us would reduce the number of those who would favor the acquisition to the merest handful. No wise statesman could support the measure.—*The Atlantic.*

Judge Tourgee's *Appeal to Caesar* is an appeal to the American people to give to the illiterate South, through Congressional legislation and an Executive administration, the means of securing a common school education. Next to the last Census (upon which the *Appeal* is based), the book is the most weighty, stirring and important contribution to the discussion of the national future that has been made since the Civil War.—*The Boston Literary World.*

'Wilhelm Meister' is not the most attractive nor the most perfect, but it is perhaps the most characteristic of Goethe's works, and is, as it were, the text book of the Goethian philosophy . . . Few books have had a deeper influence upon modern literature than this famous novel. It is the first important instance of a novel which deals principally and on a large scale with opinions or views of life. It has been the model upon which the novel of the present day is formed.—*PROFESSOR SEELEY in The Contemporary.*

Balzac's methods were not those of M. Alphonso Daudet and the present realistic school of Parisian fiction writers; yet notwithstanding his prolixity, his coarse sensuality and his singular liking for hideously abandoned people, one cannot help regretting that some of his masterly strength and virility has not descended to the novelists of to-day. I have often thought that a careful study of Balzac, not to imitate him, but to profit by his courage, his faithfulness, and his respect for details, would turn our younger novelists into a more desirable field with a wider horizon before them.—*The Atlantic.*

Commenting on the fact that in Cardinal Newman's college days, all Oxford undergraduates, whatever their character, were compelled by the college rules to take the sacrament regularly, the *New York Nation* says:—"There is, however, really no more impropriety in compelling an irreverent young man to take the communion, no matter what he thinks or feels about it, than to attend daily public prayers. The former is undoubtedly more shocking in its external aspect, but both are acts of worship, and to anybody who remembers what religious people consider worship to be, there can be no difference worth mention between compulsory performance in one case and in the other." The 'VARSITY commends these sensible remarks to the consideration of those individuals who cry out so pertinaciously for "official" religion in our colleges.

In an editorial notice of a recent article in our columns the *Chicago Current*, that brightest of weekly journals, says:—"Wil-

liam Houston in THE 'VARSITY published at the University of Toronto, joins in the discussion as to the proper aim of college journalism. 'Why should not,' he asks, 'the opinion of Dr. Eliot as to what constitutes a truly liberal university course have been first given to the world in a representative college journal instead of in an address at a rival university, afterwards reprinted as a magazine article?' Mr. Houston, who is evidently a man of ideas, then proceeds to enumerate a dozen or more questions of vital interest to the students and the general public which should be treated by competent writers in the college journals. He holds the college journal to be just the place for their discussion, and he believes that by ignoring them it fails to fulfil one of its most important functions. Mr. Houston hits the mark exactly. The consideration by professors and students of those propositions and reforms of such vital importance to the progress of education would most certainly tend to give the college journal a dignity and value it does not now, except in some instances, possess. And it may be again repeated by *The Current* that, in attending to these matters the college journal need not forego the publication of college gossip, news and humor."

Correspondence.

THE NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE.

To the Editor of the 'VARSITY.

DEAR SIR,—A graduate of a renowned American University visited Toronto last summer, and, of course, came up to see University College and to learn something of its past history and present working. It was my privilege to aid him in the latter—with all the requisite details.

He expressed much surprise on hearing of the very small number of the students seeking honors in Natural Sciences compared with the horde in Metaphysics and Classics, and mentioned the striking contrast which our statistics in this respect would show when compared with those of many leading colleges in the United States. To him, he said, it seemed that there must be a radical mistake somewhere; in fact, either the plan of the course or the work of instruction must be totally defective.

Now, these remarks appeared to me *then*, as they do *now*, to be very just; let us, therefore, examine his conclusions.

Of all methods of intellectual training the study of the Natural Sciences is now generally conceded to be the most fascinating, if not the best. Why it is, therefore, that in this the "First University of Canada," so small a percentage (about 10 per cent.) of the students are found to make up the Honor Science class, may well claim a careful investigation. It cannot be that the work of instruction is deficient, for we have excellent laboratories, unrivalled apparatus and, above all, our professors are gentlemen of continental reputation, particularly our Professor of Mineralogy and Geology, whose fame is certainly world-wide; we must, consequently, look to the *plan of the course* for the explanation elsewhere sought in vain.

And here the lover of nature, the lackadaisical connoisseur in mental trades and the scholarship grinder, alike stand aghast at the prospect.

The Natural Science course, as laid down in the University curriculum, is one of those unique fabrications of senatorial mysticism so admirably calculated to astonish and overawe the "profanum vulgus." For an attentive review of the work reveals the fact that our sapient fathers require us to become accomplished theoretical and practical chemists, biological (botanical, zoological, physiological, palæontological) investigators, scientific geologists, metallurgic analysts, mathematical crystallographers, and expert mineralogists, or—or—never, never to don the ermine-bordered hood!

"It's enough to drive a fellow into metaphysics" was the comment of a defeated aspirant to scientific honors.

There are few, if any, students in the course who like more than two out of three (or really four) departments of the work. Thus, for my part, I find Chemistry and Mineralogy very agreeable, and Geology rather interesting, but I thoroughly dislike Biology; it is, in fact, as a mill-stone tied to my neck,

and threatens from year to year to engulf me in the perdition of the plucked.

The division of the fourth year into Mathematics and Physics was a move in the right direction. It has been said against the Mathematical course that as a mental discipline it is very narrow and imperfect; no such charge has been laid at the door of the Natural Sciences.

Yet the very men who, on the recommendation of one of their number, did not hesitate to specialize still further the former course, now, even when three professors, as many Fellows, and all the students unanimously demand it, positively refuse to budge from the old routine or to entertain any rational scheme of reform in the Natural Science course. True, elementary science has been made optional at junior matriculation, but surely the interests of students now in the University have as much claim on the notice of the Senate as have those of students about to come in the future.

Whilst, as Prof. Ramsay Wright pointed out in his inaugural address to the Literary Society last year, the University of Cambridge permits a student to graduate in any one of five sub-departments of Biology, the University of Toronto doesn't think the whole science is sufficient.

The appointment of three new members of the Senate this year has been looked upon as propitious to the carrying out of much-needed reform. What they will do still remains to be seen. Graduates and undergraduates are watching their course of action with deep interest. Members of the Senate whose scientific attainments may consist in (1) a faint recollection of the outline of Roescoe's primer, and (2) a dim memory of having heard a popular lecture on evolution at some former time, in some forgotten place, and under ill-remembered circumstances, and (3) in the ability to distinguish between native gold and sawdust, these gentlemen are the ones who choose to ignore the opinions and wishes of the professors of science themselves, whose life-study it is, in regard to the work of the course. One of the most distinguished professors in the college, being asked by an anxious student when he thought the fourth year sciences might be divided up into three graduating departments, testily replied, "Not much before the present Senate are all dead, I should say!" *Requiescant in pace.*

FRANCIS JAMES ROCHE.

U. C. T., Nov. 24th, 1884.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—"The Society is dead," "Party has killed it." "Let us organize a new Society that will be literary in spirit as well as in name."

Such remarks have been general about College since the special meeting held on Tuesday afternoon, and, what is worse, every member must recognize that there is only too solid a foundation for them.

Go back over the past four weeks. What has been done?

In the interest of the Society this,—one essay, three readings, and three debates, without more than perhaps one speech which showed any preparation.

In the interests of Party this—First week, election of Secretary of Committees, big push, Outside Party wins. Second week, election of Councillor for first year, great excitement, Inside Party wins. Third week, amendments to the Constitution, (as viewed through party spectacles), two hundred present, perfect furore; Outside carries the day, loud and prolonged cheering. Fourth week, special meeting to elect essayist, reader and speakers for public debate; Inside steals a march, elects four out of six, and proceeds to fresh conquests. The Vice-President leaves the chair; loud talk, violent gesticulation, hard words,—meeting ends.

Such has been the opening work of the year in the Society, a Society, by the way, in which the tender care of the College Council forbids the discussion of political questions, for fear of arousing party spirit. They perhaps do not know that this miserable spirit has already obliterated every manly sentiment. It turns honest discussion into petty squabbles, it nightly tramples under foot even ordinary courtesy to our President. Loyalty to the Society is forgotten, and almost individual self-respect.

Not one member of the General Committee, except our President, dare say that he occupies his position by the honorable

suffrage of the Society, and not one, I believe, will say that he considers it any honor; and lastly, we disregard our duty to the public by selecting its entertainers upon purely party lines.

But it is no use, nor is it now a time to expatiate on the development of the wretched spirit that like a cancer has eaten into the vitals of the Society. Enough to know that its hideous form is even now bending over the body it has stricken, ready to crush out the last spark of life.

Yet I believe there is time for a rescue if it be done quickly. Let our President exert his influence and his authority strenuously and sternly, if necessary. Let him once and for all forbid every reference to party in the meetings of the Society, and insist unflinchingly upon uniform observance of the rule.

Let him use every endeavor, and invite his Committee to cooperate in once more arousing interest in the literary work of the Society.

In all he will have the support, I believe, of a great majority. The old-time loyalty is not dead. It has been thrust aside by a spirit which has proved as unworthy the members as it is disgraceful to the Society.

Now is the crisis which discovers the real motives of men's minds. I look to the issue with confidence that there will be found on every hand men, actuated by the highest principles, true, loyal men, who, if necessary, can forget party and personal feelings, and lend a strong arm to the work.

Let the President but call to man the life-boat, the whole Society will respond.

ONLOOKER.

THE PATRONAGE OF THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE 'VARSITY:—

SIR,—One of your correspondents last week regretted that the scientific and literary course to be given in Convocation Hall was not under the direct management of the Literary Society. I agree with him fully, and as a member of that body I protest against handing over the reputation of our Society in future to be speculated upon by clever adventurers. In this case the course was so skillfully advertised as to give many the impression that the Literary Society was conducting it. The professors of the various city colleges were invited specially, only to meet with indignity when they entered the hall. I ask the general committee if they consider that this is the way our professors should be treated in their own College in an entertainment "given under the auspices of the Society." I know of nothing more fitted to damage the good name of our Society than such a proceeding as this. It is to be hoped that more care will be exercised by the committee in such matters in the future.

Yours, D.

Di-Varities.

"The ass, it must be remembered, is in the East a very fleet, spirited, and beautiful creature, and is held there in high and just esteem."—Lord Beaconsfield. *Levant, then, Freshie!*

The feelings of a third year man can be better imagined than described, who, with the idea of escape from Christmas examinations before his mind, saluted with a graceful yet very humble "Circle of the Christy" a fatherly looking freshman, mistaking him for a certain college lecturer.

OUR BOOK REVIEW (continued).

"Hallam's Constitutional," (from Hide Park to the Public Library and back,) by a Bane-ful Day-visitor.

"Harker's Report on the affairs of the Federal Bank, with Strathspey accompaniment."

"Wine, Women and Song," by Charles Malleum Muldooney, M.D. Toronto: Williamson & Co.

Some fifty students were returning from the Forum last Saturday evening, and were, of course, singing. One of 'the finest' followed them at a respectful distance till the number had dwindled down to four. Then the valiant peeler plucked up heart and defiantly told them to stop, or he would 'run them in.' One gentleman who smiled at the audacity of the 'cop' was told to stop grinning or he would be arrested! Students' rights are being curtailed in the most arbitrary manner, if one cannot smile without incurring the danger of being 'run in.' Probably the police force think a student may 'smile and smile, and be a villain.'

Poet's Corner.

IN MEMORIAM.

RIGHT HON. HENRY FAWCETT. OB. MDCCCLXXXIV.

"After the weary darkness cometh light,
How bright the light and welcome, who can know,
Save thou, whose eyes, long sealed, long for the light,
Surpassing earthly brilliance, that alone
Can break the seals that lock the darkness in!
Full well he carved his way, and patiently,
Though with the burden of his cecity,
A weaker might have stumbled, and have cried:
"The way grows darker, as I onward move
Through labyrinthine paths, it seems to me;
O better far to rest upon the way,
And cease to struggle vainly; better far
To sleep the long, last sleep, than on the way
To stumble, sinking sadly in a task
Too great for me thus feeble!" But not thus
He spoke, whose finely-tempered mind and keen
Sought issues higher than are found in sense;
With patient strength, heroic, he built
His life-work on a structure passing fair
Of kindness and sweet unselfishness,
And England on her noble honor-roll
Delights to place him with her glorious ones
Whose names are deep enshrined in English hearts.

Oshawa.

—M. E. H.

LÈSE-MAJESTÉ.

Treason! Treason! I've committed
Treason black 'gainst royalty;
For one moment I ceased thinking,
Sweet my Queen, this noon, of thee.

Black my crime is, but I'm punished.
Nothing worse can art devise,
Ah! I'm banished from her presence,
And the sunshine of her eyes.

—BOHEMIEN.

THE 'VARSITY.

1884—STAFF—1885.

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