

# THE VARSITY

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No. 14.

"MARIE."

SONNET.

*Translated from Alfred de Musset.*

As the woodland flower of spring  
First breath receives,  
Smiling mysterious  
As it opes its leaves.

As the chalice of the stalk  
Unfolds to sight  
Quivers to earth  
A new delight.

So Marie with blue eyes upraised,  
As thy lips part  
Singing thy heart,  
Amid the light and sound,  
Thy soul is given  
Trembling to heaven.

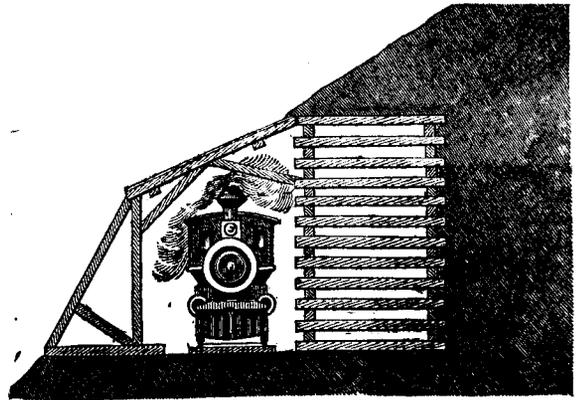
G. F. BURTON.

## SNOW SHEDS IN THE SELKIRKS.

Any traveller in Eastern Canada who is familiar with the light structure of the snow sheds on the Intercolonial Railway can form little or no idea of the snow sheds in the Selkirk range of mountains on the Canadian Pacific Railway, or understand the part they have to play in keeping the road open in the winter time. The snow sheds on the Intercolonial Railway are made of a framework, like that of a barn, covered with planks nailed on, with small spaces between, very much like the boards on a fence. The primary object of these sheds is to prevent snow drifts from accumulating on the road. On railways which pass through a mountainous country the snow sheds assume a much more durable and permanent character, as the service that is expected of them is much more important. It is, in fact, to keep the line open and clear from the accumulation of snow and ice brought down by avalanches, or, as they are more frequently called, "snow slides."

A writer in a recent number of *Chambers' Journal* divides avalanches into four kinds, viz., the powdery, the creeping, the glacier, and the true avalanche, or avalanche proper. The first he describes as being composed of finely divided snow and ice, which is broken up into the form of powder in the descent. This kind of avalanche is the most likely to disturb the air, and so produce a hurricane, the vast power of which it is impossible to estimate. The creeping avalanche, as its name implies, is produced when vast masses of snow and ice move slowly down a gradual slope. The glacier avalanche is brought about by the mass of ice at the lower extremity of a glacier becoming detached and sliding down into the moraine below. Lastly, the avalanche proper is the rapid descent of a mass of snow, which, beginning high up the mountain slope, and increasing in volume and speed as it descends, rushes headlong into the valley below. It is to resist the effects of snow slides of this kind that the snow sheds in the Selkirks have been constructed.

The sheds themselves are composed of a crib-work similar to that used in the construction of wharves. It is made of heavy cedar timbers, twelve inches square, with ends dovetailed into one another, and spiked. The crib is securely tied, and is thoroughly filled with boulders and loose masses of rock. It stands in a space cut out of the mountain slope beside the railway track, and between it and the mountain. On the outer side of the track a series of triangular frames, placed at short intervals, made of the same material and same sized timbers as the crib, are used to support the lower end of the roof, which extends downwards from the crib in a slanting direction. The crib is carried up much higher than the outer wall, so that the slope of the roof is, where practicable, as nearly in the same angle as the slope of the mountain as possible. The roof is strongly braced, and together with the outer wall and crib forms a structure sufficiently strong to bear the force of the descending snow, ice, boulders, and other *débris*, which is carried down in the snow slide. The roof and outer wall is planked, so that the interior of the shed is quite dark, but in summer time the outer wall plank immediately under the eave can be removed, in order to give light and better ventilation. The use of the crib-work on the inside is to prevent the whole shed from being carried away by the down-rush of the snow from above. The shed is of such a form that it offers very little resistance to the descending mass of snow, but allows the avalanche to pass over the roof and pile itself up in the valley below.



The track of a snow slide is very easily discernible even in summer time, from the fact that the uprooted trees, earth, boulders, and *débris* carried down, are piled up at the bottom of the valley, spreading out in a fan-shaped mass, and making a smoother and less acute slope than the rest of the mountain surface. The snow slide cuts a path for itself through trees, removing boulders, earth, roots, &c.; and the following summer only bushes and shrubs grow in the path made by the avalanche. The sides or margins of these slides show trees and rocks in a disturbed condition, though not carried away completely, as in the centre of the slide. Each year that a snow slide takes place in any particular locality, renders the probable recurrence of a slide in the same place more and more certain, as each year the slope becomes smoother and more free from obstructions of all kinds.

As the traveller proceeds west from Donald, or the first crossing of the Columbia River on the C.P.R., he finds himself passing down the canon of that river on the left bank,

After a few miles have been traversed, an abrupt turn to the left brings him into the narrow and rugged canon of the Beaver, a small stream which here empties into the Columbia. The ascent through this gorge is at first made on the right bank, but as the valley opens out, the stream is crossed, and the ascent of the eastern slope of the Selkirks is begun in earnest. As the summit of the grade is approached, several snow sheds are passed through. Rogers' Pass station, the summit of the Selkirks, near Mounts Carroll and Hermit, has an elevation of about 4,306 feet above the level of the Pacific Ocean. Leaving this station, the descent of the western slope is begun, down the valley and canon of the Illecillewaet River. One shed on the western slope is about three-quarters of a mile long, and is passed through shortly before the "Loop" is reached. The others vary in length according to their position.

There are more snow sheds on the western slope of the mountains than on the eastern, on account of the snow-fall being heavier and the slides more frequent on that side than on the other. The effect of "weathering" on the Pacific side of all the ranges of mountains is very clearly marked. The ascent of nearly all the mountain slopes of British Columbia is, as a rule, easier when made from the eastern side. This probably arises from the fact that the warm waters of the great "Japan Current," striking the coast of America in the neighbourhood of Vancouver Island, and which renders the climate of Victoria so mild, causes a greater degree of severity farther inland. The warm water at the coast of necessity produces a great deal of moisture, which, as it moves inland, is successively caught by each of the mountain chains and is condensed and deposited in the form of snow or rain, according to the altitude, on the western slope of each range. This process, going on for ages upon ages, has produced a powerful modifying effect on the physical aspect of the country, and it is not improbable that it is to the influence of the Japan Current, analogous to the gulf stream in the Atlantic Ocean, that the skill of the engineer has been taxed to a somewhat greater extent in the Kicking Horse Pass and the valley of the Illecillewaet than in the valleys of either the Bow or the Beaver Rivers.

Yale, B.C.

A. O. BROOKSIDE.

#### A CANADIAN LITERATURE: ANOTHER VIEW OF THE SUBJECT.

The excellent article in last week's VARSITY on Canadian literature contains many observations with which all thoughtful persons must agree. The objection of the writer to much of the current criticism on recent Canadian literature is especially well taken. The praise bestowed upon these books has been too indefinite and indiscriminate in its nature. Too much stress has been laid on the fact that they are the work of Canadian authors and that they treat of Canadian subjects.

What we need most now is deep and philosophical criticism, thorough and sincere, but at the same time sympathetic and encouraging. Such criticism will be of course creative no less than destructive. While condemning the bad, it will point out the good specifically and encourage it. We have had enough and too much of the superficial comment, the promiscuous eulogy, and the trivial commonplaces which are made to do duty for criticism in even our best journals.

The growth of a national literature can be fostered, but it cannot be forced. The people of the United States tried the latter plan after their assertion of political independence, and the result was a ridiculous failure. Their authors flattered each other without stint on every occasion, and their critics found a Shakespeare or a Milton in every hamlet. But the waters of oblivion are flowing over the most famous names of that period, and the lights which were intended to illumine the world have gone out forever.

A national literature is the expression of a national spirit and life. We in Canada cannot of course have a national literature until we are a nation. This does not imply simply political independence of the mother country. There must be also the unification of the multifarious elements which enter into our political existence. At present we are not a unity but an aggregation—a heterogeneous collection of national types

from all the states of Europe, with a well-marked tinge here and there of the aboriginal race. Not until many generations shall have passed will this unification be completed, and then, if ever, we may look for what might reasonably be called a distinctive Canadian literature.

Yet it is doubtful if we will ever have a typical literature in Canada. As time goes on it is probable that the forms of thought and expression prevailing in Britain, the United States and Canada will become so thoroughly assimilated to one another, that any line drawn between them will be purely arbitrary and fictitious. The facilities for personal communication and for the interchange of thought between these kindred peoples have been so enormously increased of late years that any distinctions that yet exist will doubtless soon be obliterated.

But to return to the VARSITY article referred to: Some of the positions taken by Mr. Miller are, I think, untenable. He speaks rather slightly of the cultivation and expression of individual tastes and judgments in literature. I must join issue with him here. Literature is but the expression in language of life and experience. This expression to have power and weight must bear upon it the fervent impress of sincerity. Thus the author must draw his facts and ideas from the crucible of his own experience. It will not do to take them ready made from the workshop of another. If his work is to live he must breathe into it the breath of his own life; he must inform it with his own very soul.

Imitation is the death of art in literature as well as in everything else. Let us be ourselves. Within that limit we are greater than Shakespeare. I am not sure that the great writers of the past are altogether a blessing to us. Perhaps they are only so many Old Men of the Sea on our shoulders. It is an open question whether we should not be grateful to the Turk that burned the library at Alexandria. There are other libraries which might be burned with advantage to-day.

Canadian authors have no need to imitate. The true, the noble, and the beautiful are all about them if they will but look. There are as good men and women here as in England. They also are moved by fine enthusiasms, and great heroisms are wrought out here. Our sky is blue, our waters clear, birds sing here also,—our own birds, the grass is green and our wild flowers are fair.

Yet a young Canadian writer in his prize essay on "Morning" introduces the English lark, though he probably never saw one, and certain recent Canadian poems and works of fiction have the trail of old country prejudices over them all.

And what else at bottom does Mr. Miller mean by the universal in literature but the European English in general, or in particular, the Shakesperian or the Tennysonian or the Matthew Arnoldesque? For the universal exists only in the particular, and there is a fear that we confuse the two sometimes, and elevate to the rank of universal what is after all only a particular. But the possibilities of our literature are not concluded within England or in the works of even her best authors, past or present, and a servile service to them is by no means the highest literary virtue which a Canadian writer can possess.

A. STEVENSON.

#### A MODERN INSTANCE.

In July, 1885, I made one of four, camping on Preacher's Point, Muskoka. We were a happy party, congenial in tastes just so far as our common object went, which if the truth be known, consisted in the catching of innumerable black-bass and the total exclusion of all cares incident to town life.

In a state of self-satisfied laziness,—a state by the way, not particularly peculiar to the evening about which I write,—I reclined full length on a buffalo-robe and with head raised on one hand, complacently watched Sholto's progress in the interesting preparations for the evening meal. The ruffled waters of Lake Joseph, shimmering and glistening in the moon-light, rolled up on the rocky beach below me. Mingled sounds reached the ear. The humming of mosquitoes and the croaking of a hundred odd frogs filled in the short intervals between the screechings of a particularly non-consumptive owl, who, with mistaken zeal, made the air painfully resonant, from an opposite peninsula.

In one of the few periods of momentary quiet, the regular repetition of an unusual sound, the splash of a paddle, claimed

my attention. A moment after, a dark shadow out on the lake, was seen, gradually resolving itself into a bark canoe, in which were seated a man and a dog.

It required Sholto's reply to some interrogation, to thoroughly waken me to the fact of my having a host's duties to perform. "Yes, you're right, a nice night it is. You can land easier over yonder." I jumped up then and hastened to greet our unexpected visitor. He was a good-enough-looking man, dressed in durable corduroy of a pronounced English make. A big straw hat and top-boots, strong, though not very well-fitting, covered his extremities and completed his protection against the weather. He shook hands cordially all round, seemingly assured of a hearty welcome. He got it too, you may be sure, for after permitting him to see to his dog's comfort, we made him join us at the table, and tell his story, over Sholto's glorious meal of pork and beans, to be presently finished with rice and syrup.

"I saw your light four or five miles away," he said. "I got confused among the islands directly after leaving the last portage, and coming in sight of your light, decided to run in for directions, and here I am, though dear knows, I've been paddling like a galley slave, nearly an hour. Light is always deceptive," he added, "I've noticed it often on my farm up on the Bay. The steamer's light shows so plainly on a clear night, I could take it to be a hundred yards off shore, did I not know the route from Owen Sound was a good six miles out in the open water," and so he ran on in his intelligent, interesting way.

We learned his had been an unhappy life. A young Englishman, strong and willing to work, had left his father's home in sunny Devon, and arriving in Canada, had taken up a farm on the Georgian Bay about fifty miles south of the French river. The first difficulties overcome, a rich harvest had been his reward, and while on a trip south to purchase implements necessary to his calling, he had taken back, to cheer his solitude, a young Ontario maiden.

Soon after, the married couple experienced their first reverse. In the dead of night, a forest fire, with one fierce breath, swept away the whole year's accumulation, barns and grain and home. Undaunted by first failure he had sent back his wife, till such a time as he had once more a home to offer her. Success again, had well nigh crowned his efforts when one day, he received the tidings, sad, oh so sad, of his young wife's death! Broken in spirit, he was now on his way south to gaze on the grave of her whose untimely end had cast so deep a shadow on his life.

Our meal was over, when he had finished. Tobacco was then produced from the tent, and the tones in which we conversed that evening were a trifle more subdued than before had been noticeable in camp. At the same time we did all we could to divert our guest, by little accounts of our camp experience, and it was pleasant to note the varying success of our efforts to wean his thoughts from himself.

Our visitor accepted the invitation extended to him to stay the night with us, but gratefully declined to put us to the inconvenience of sharing the cover of our tent, which was indeed, as he said, quite small enough for our own comfort. So bidding him good-night, we bent our steps, in Indian file, to the tent above.

My thoughts on retiring, were, I confess, full of pity for the unfortunate man outside, and once after lying down, I even put my head out of the tent entrance to try my persuasive powers once again. He had drawn his canoe in front of the cheery fire and was already fast asleep inside it with the faithful dog at his feet, so that even I, after a time, was "hushed with buzzing night-flies" to my slumber.

When I awoke, a few bright golden rays, shining through the trees, made a dancing shadow on the thin canvas roof and announced the arrival of another day. We were all of us enough susceptible to the beauties of an early ramble, in the fragrant wood, with its dew-laden foliage and lusty-throated warblers, to be early risers, and this morning, of course, our first glances were towards the scene of the previous evening's entertainment.

The man was already gone, and it moreover required a whole morning's search to sum up what he had not taken with him. The inventory of missing articles being completed, Sholto calculated with probable accuracy, that they would exactly fill a birch-bark canoe, leaving room only for a middling-sized curly dog in the bow, and a man with a big straw-hat in the stern.

My friend the owl, that same evening, was in excellent voice, and in offering his remarks to the tented inhabitants of Preacher's Point, ended each blast, it seemed to me, with a guttural sound, indicative of risible feelings in his inwards finding outward vent.

C. M. C.

#### THE NOTTAWASAGA RIVER.

Nottawasaga, thy waves ever murmur,  
Rippling along to the cold Georgian Bay,  
Sadly thou'rt leaving fair Edenvale's meadows,  
Wooping thy lingering waters to stay.

Over thy green banks the willows are bending,  
Kissing the stream ere it hurries away,  
Cedars and birches in sorrow are asking:  
"Why dost thou haste to the cold Georgian Bay?"

Stood a tall maple more earnestly pleading,  
The breeze stirred its branches and breathed a low sigh,  
He seemed by his swaying to beckon and whisper  
These words to the river, that still hurried by.

"Madly I love thee, and fain would I reach thee!  
But cruelly smiling thou glidest away;  
My love is despised, and thine actions all teach me  
Thou lovest my rival, the wild Georgian Bay.

"Farewell, fleeting river, if then we must sever,  
Go seek for repose in the deep Georgian Bay;  
There sorrows will cross thee, there tempests will toss thee,  
Fierce winds on the rocks will dash thee in spray!

"Thy cold fickle lover will tire of thy presence,  
And careless will cast thee away in his pride;  
May the great Sun, compassionate, summon his rain-cloud  
To bear thee away from the pitiless tide.

"Ah! then when thou learnest the world's base deception,  
In thy sadness remember the staunch maple tree;  
Cease then to fly with the turbulent rain-cloud,  
Though with tear-drops fast falling, oh! come back to me!

"From thee there first beamed on me Love's world of meaning,  
As darkness and mist from the sun's radiance flies,  
Though midnight soon followed that one glimpse of heaven,  
'Twill be starlit, remembering one glance from thine eyes."

Does the beautiful river seem wilful and heartless?  
She heeds those entreaties and fain would delay,  
But cruelly snatched from those eager embraces,  
Unwilling is swept to the cold Georgian Bay.

Fate-driven river, so ceaselessly changing,  
Sad is thy fate as thy friends fade from view;  
Lost to thy vision they vanish forever,  
Waving their sorrowful long last adieu.

For though many a rain-cloud may float o'er the maple,  
And weep with great teardrops his grief to allay,  
Nevermore will return to that fond, waiting lover,  
His fair one who fled to the false Georgian Bay.

If loved ones who sever should thus part forever,  
Caught in a wild current's merciless flow,  
Life sad and weary, despairing and dreary,  
Would be overwhelming—a billow of woe.

Life, though a river unceasingly flowing,  
Hath deep-mirrored memories that never depart;  
Hope heals each parting grief, whispers "reunion,"  
Points to the future and comforts the heart.

J. G. HUME.

## THE VARSITY.

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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITORS, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.

Contributions when not accepted will be returned if accompanied with a stamp for that purpose.

The deputation from Kingston, headed by the Principal of Queen's, has given expression to its views regarding the establishment of a School of Science in the East. It has received the usual official reply that its representations will receive the "most serious consideration of the Government." While the Provincial Executive is pondering on this subject, during the lulls in the election contest, we have a few remarks to offer upon the question. And first of all, we were most amused at the sudden expansion of the civic limits of the Limestone city. If the gentlemen who appeared on the deputation are all taken to represent the city of Kingston, then that staid old town must extend as far east as Ottawa, and as far west as London. And in the next place, the representatives were one and all strong supporters of Queen's. In fact, there does not appear to be any concealment of the real intention of the deputation, which was, in plain English, to secure for Queen's a Science School and Faculty at the expense of the Province. This is, no doubt, a very nice plan, and one which would relieve the pressure on the finances of Queen's considerably, and the arguments presented in support of the scheme were very plausible and taking. Queen's is bound to obtain State aid in some form or another, but is prepared to yield nothing. She has refused to join in confederation, and yet expects the Government, already heavily pledged in this respect, to give her financial assistance. That the real object of the movement is to benefit Queen's is openly declared by the *Queen's College Journal*, which in its last issue says: "Such a School would considerably benefit Queen's; and though our views as to the simple justice of the claim may be greatly influenced by this fact, yet we believe a clear case can and will be made out for the guidance of the Legislature." We have taken occasion in a previous number to bring the claims of our own School of Science under the notice of the Government. We most assuredly think that, whatever may be the claims of other institutions, the first duty of the Government is to the school of its own creation. As we stated before, the School of Practical Science here was established upon a most narrow basis, and since its foundation absolutely nothing has been done to improve it. It should surely rank as a preferred creditor of the Government. Its present income should be doubled; even Principal Grant admits this. Until this, at least, is done the claim of Queen's for a School of Science cannot reasonably be entertained. For if one School, poorly endowed and equipped, cannot reach properly upon its work, it certainly would be folly to establish another upon a similarly small scale. And again, the cities of Toronto and Kingston are not far enough apart to warrant the maintenance of a separate School of Science in each. If the present School were properly endowed and supported it could easily supply the demands of the Province for years to come. There can be no reasonable doubt of this fact. In the claims which the friends of the system of denominational education are continually making upon the Government, this fact seems to be entirely disregarded: That University College is the Provincial institution, and as such has, and must always have, prior and more substantial claims for Government support than any other college in the Province. This fact is consistently and continually ignored by the opponents of University College, and is apparently lost sight of by the Government itself. Whatever may happen in the near future,

we intend that this fact shall not be overlooked. We do not desire, in this or any other case which may arise, to assert this in any selfish or partizan spirit; but the Provincial University has too long suffered from the opposition of its enemies, the indifference of its friends, and the neglect of the Government, for us to remain silent any longer with regard to its undoubted rights and privileges as a Provincial Institution.

In an otherwise excellent issue, the Carnival number of the *Montreal Star* contains an article that cannot be too severely condemned. In April, 1849, Lord Elgin gave his assent to the Rebellion Losses Bill. The "Loyalists" were furious and sacked the House of Parliament, some members narrowly escaping with their lives, and treated the Governor-General with the utmost indignity. It was only after the militia were called out that Montreal was delivered from mob rule. This outbreak has usually been described as a sudden frenzy, of which even the actors were afterwards heartily ashamed. In the article in which we notice "A Reminiscence of '49," a Mr. Alfred Perry, whose fame has not reached us as yet, recalls with satisfaction his share in the proceedings of that night. Evidently regarding himself as the demiurge of the spirits of anarchy, the account reads like the self-glorification of a vandal. A minute detail of the actions of the mob, the motives that inspired it, would be both valuable and interesting. But the vain glory of Mr. Perry is so manifest that we must believe that he has overcolored the history of his valiant exploits.

That the above is fully deserved, a few quotations will suffice to show. "I said that—'the time for petition had passed, but that if the men present were in earnest, let them follow me to the Parliament House.'" So the maddened crowd surged round the Parliament House; the door was closed, but burst in with the ladder of a fire-company used as a battering ram, 'with John H. Isaacson, notary, on one side and myself on the other.' They reached the door of the Assembly. "Here one O'Connor, a messenger, disputed my right to enter the House. It was no time for showing tickets, and a clip from my axe-handle settled the matter." Mr. Perry's axe-handle seems to have been as useful as that 'nate tool, a flail' in the hands of Mr. Michael Free, Sr. The same axe-handle re-appears a little later—'Sandfield Macdonald resented our intrusion by striking Howard a well-directed blow on the head and the blood flowed freely from his Orange brow. Then my axe-handle came into play again and Sandfield was floored.' Again the axe-handle twinkles when Mr. Perry, as the modern Cromwell, approached the mace. 'The Sergeant-at-arms interfered and drew his sword, when a blow from my axe-handle again settled the matter.' The narrator here saw a large circular clock. 'Like a flash I determined to smash that clock . . . I picked a brickbat—where, oh! where was the axe-handle?—from the floor and let fly at the clock.' One more extract before we suffer Mr. Perry to relapse into that obscurity from which he emerged to enlighten the readers of the *Star*.

Lord Elgin, with an escort, was on his way to the Government House. 'Unfortunately for the peace of the city, I kicked a brickbat at my feet. The action of the trooper, the close proximity of Lord Elgin and the brickbat became mingled in my mind, and, quick as a flash, I stooped and hurled the brickbat through the windows of Lord Elgin's carriage, who, however, escaped with a 'battered hat.' Mr. Perry, even on his own showing, is a very pitiful hero.

There is one thing which the incessant conflict of political parties has brought into prominence. It is the severe strain to which the English language has been subjected by the press. That the mother tongue is a most flexible one is a fact to which Anglo-Saxons refer with satisfaction. But that there is a point beyond which even the most accommodating language can be strained, is a circumstance that seems to be overlooked by those who are supposed to mould public opinion. In the hands of these literary gymnasts, however, language becomes as flexible as the consciences of the writers. The habit of exaggeration has become a chronic disease, and everything is sacrificed to feed the insatiable "worm that dieth not" in the literary digestive apparatus of the party hack writers.

The result of a prolonged course of diet of such literature—if it can be dignified by that name—must surely result in mental dyspepsia. And not only are all the canons of literary taste set aside, but even reputation, character and the private life of public men and women are not sacred from the scalpel of these literary hyenas. And this is the most deplorable part of the business. For while one might pardon literary Philistinism, as a sort of temporary insanity, or midsummer madness, one cannot forgive attacks upon character and reputation. Even the questionable excuse that the exigencies of political warfare render it necessary to fight "the enemy" with fire, or with its own weapons, cannot be accepted as an *amende* for the publication of so-called political scandals which the party journals blazon forth with all the accessories of display type and double leads. The leader-writers of the party press have become so reckless and extravagant that ordinary language and calm argument are no longer serviceable, and the use of such weapons is, in fact, considered an admission of weakness, and stamps the writer as an "independent," or a "fence straddler." Another vicious result of the present tendency of these party writers is seen in the coinage of words and phrases which gain currency at a time of political excitement, and which remain in use long after they have served whatever purpose may have called them into circulation. Flippancy, slang, and an unlimited use of abusive adjectives are the stock-in-trade of the average party editor. Public and national questions are discussed by these writers with an appearance of authority which even the ease and fluency of the literary style in which they are discussed cannot carry off successfully. Character the result of a life-long endeavour, and the most precious heritage of public, as well as of public citizens, is assailed and blackened in a paragraph, perhaps the work of a reporter, whose responsibility in the case is assumed with an indifference to results comparable only with his colossal ignorance and impertinence. Surely this state of affairs is rendering existence intolerable, and threatens to debase not only our national life, but must inevitably seriously affect literature and the profession of journalism. The time has come when a halt must be called, or else we shall drift into a provincialism and *sans-culottism*, the results of which we do not care to predict

## COMMUNICATIONS.

The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.  
No notice will be taken of unsigned contributions.

### "THE DR. WILSON MEDAL."

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS:—In your issue of the 2nd inst. appeared a letter on the "Dr. Wilson Medal," which is characterized mainly by strong language, sweeping assertions and unfairness.

Injustice is a harsh-sounding word. The reason for its use is that the work prescribed for the medal does not include Italian Ethnology, Old French and Old German. The writer might as reasonably have added Spanish, which, though not recognized as a college subject, is nevertheless taught by a college lecturer.

How far is the omission of these an injustice? An option is allowed between Spanish and Italian. Suppose a student wishes to take Spanish only, would it be fair to debar him from competing for the medal by requiring a test in Italian, or compel him to take Italian against his will? Such a requirement would be unjust, as would be one necessitating a student taking Italian, but not Spanish, to give evidence of proficiency in Spanish prose.

As for Ethnology, Mr. Logie should have remembered that he with other Modern Language men petitioned the Senate for an option between Ethnology on the one hand, and Italian on the other. Now, he finds fault with the college authorities for excluding the former from the programme of studies for the medal. Is not this inconsistent? And is not inconsistency absurd? With regard to texts, I am glad that no mention is made of them. They were put on the curriculum for the purpose of forming an introduction to the study of philology after graduation. If philology, or phonetics, a mere part of it, is to be made the principal feature of Modern Language study in University College, as in several colleges in the States, the sooner the tendency is corrected the better. This the medal programme will help to do, inasmuch as it looks only towards the literary side.

In the communication referred to we have a method of study

mapped out which if followed might, or might not, gain the medal. But let us suppose that it did; I cannot see that the man who should win the medal would be less deserving or more dishonest than many a medallist or scholarship man of former years. Is it not already a very common thing for men to read translations, commentaries and the like? It is a practice strongly to be condemned, but it prevails nevertheless. If this method of reading helped to win the medal it would be as likely to place a candidate in first-class honours. A man would not do any worse in French or German prose at the university examination because of his practice for the medal.

It seems to have escaped Mr. Logie's notice that the work for the medal lies along the line of the curriculum and goes beyond it. Candidates for the medal and for examination have alike to be acquainted with the historical writings of Hugo and Goethe, and one historical play of Shakespeare. Besides these, the medal work includes Schiller and all of Shakespeare's historical plays. The real ground for complaint, though not clearly stated, seems to be that the medal is not to be given upon the results of the May or other examinations. All that needs to be said is that the gentlemen who choose the subject are all medallists, and know how far examinations are a test of a candidate's knowledge and ability. Indisposition, lack of time to cram, miscalculation of time in answering a paper, or difference of opinion between candidate and examiner, may prevent a man who is really the best in his class from gaining the highest place in the lists. A man, on the other hand, who reads in the way described by Mr. Logie, and who has plenty of time to cram up facts which have no value at all, as far as liberal education is concerned, may impose just as much on the public with his first-class honors as any ignorant, illiberal, dishonest and dishonorable medallist.

There is, however, one objection that has some force, and only one. It is that the announcement was made too late in the term. November may not seem late, but by that time a man has his plans so arranged that it is almost impossible to change them.

I shall close with a suggestion that the time for receiving theses be extended till September. If it is not, I fear that no essays will be forthcoming. This will be due not to lack of appreciation of the medal on the part of those interested, but to lack of time.

A. H. YOUNG.

## THE DEBATE AT KINGSTON.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—Permit me to say a few words on the Intercollegiate Debate, of which I was one of the judges. The decision was of course not on the merits of the subject, but on its treatment by the debaters, and this decision, as against Toronto, was promptly unanimous.

A presumably inadvertent admission by their leader made the position of the negative from the first logically indefensible; and against this unfortunate blunder they struggled handsomely but vainly throughout the evening. When it was allowed by the leader of the negative that while hostile to any form of Federation, he was yet opposed to disintegration of the empire and loyal to present British connection, he was taking needlessly difficult ground; and even this ground he and his colleague then rapidly demolished by arguing the temporary character of present connection, and the certainty and desirability of speedy disintegration. An excellent argument had evidently been prepared for Independence or Annexation, when through some magic contagion of this loyal city, the above unpremeditated admission was made.

Very truly,

R. BALMER.

## AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS:—Kindly allow me space in your columns to correct an error which occurs in your account of the Literary Society's meeting of the 4th inst. You said that, in an essay which I read on that occasion, "Mr. Blake was styled the 'leading Prohibitionist' of Canada." Such an appellation as applied to Mr. Blake is manifestly absurd. The only two places in which he was referred to read as follows: "It was only a few weeks ago that the leader of the Reform Party declared himself a Prohibitionist, not an advanced one, but still a Prohibitionist." And the second passage: "In that I will endeavour to deal with what has been the greatest stumbling-block to temperance legislation in Canada, namely, the plea that the country is not ripe for it. This is becoming rather hackneyed. Many people say it because they have heard others say it. But let us take it as coming from its ablest advocate, the Hon. Edward Blake, and examine how true it is." You will thus see that it is as the leading exponent of the views of only the unripe branch of the Prohibition party that Mr. Blake is referred to.

T. C. DESBARRÉS.

## ROUND THE TABLE.

The first instalment of Howells' new novel, "April Hopes," is mainly a description of Class Day at Harvard, very minute attention being devoted to the large setting of what little character study is as yet presented. Some time ago our bright exchange, the Harvard *Crimson*, remarked that from certain touches in these opening chapters, a Harvard man would be inclined to think that Mr. Howells had not been present at a Class Day for seven or eight years. This piece of criticism on the part of the *Crimson* has been rather widely noted and commented upon. *Life* ventures the assertion that the great realist is relying too much on his imagination.

\* \* \*

May not this attitude of criticism towards the realists be accounted significant, as an indication—to a certain degree, of course, and from only one side—of their limitations? It must be somewhat humiliating to Mr. Howells' artistic sense to be thus reminded that so large a portion of his work is regarded, sincerely and in good faith, as being distinctively journalistic,—not to say "reportorial."

\* \* \*

The history of criticism would afford many curious incidents. The Sultan, Mohammed II., is credited with a very realist criticism in art that may yield an idea of what criticism should not be. Being impressed by Venetian excellence in painting, that monarch requested the loan of one of their painters. The Council of Ten selected Gentile Bellini for the delicate mission. Bellini repaired to Constantinople to wait on his dangerous patron, and found favor in his sight. As a mark of respect, the Venetian presented the Sultan with a painting of the head of John the Baptist on a charger. It was much admired, but the Sultan, a natural realist in art, pointed out that the raw surface of the neck, with its shrunk nerves, was not true to life, or rather to death. Gentile failed to grasp the distinction, and the Sultan, waxing impatient, gave a practical demonstration by beheading, on the spot, a kneeling slave. Bellini as soon as possible revisited his family in Venice.

\* \* \*

At a certain stage in the development of art and art ideals, there seems to the public nothing incongruous in the queerest anachronisms. Disraeli, in his labourious 'Curiosities of Literature,' describes a painting that, in a Holland Church, pictured to the devout the story of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham is about to complete the sacrifice of the bound Isaac with the aid of a huge bell-mouthed blunderbuss. The consummation is prevented by an angel adopting an original method of flooding the pan of the clumsy weapon. To a modern eye the picture must have an irresistibly comic effect.

\* \* \*

The *Table* gave a slight notice of an interesting contribution to Shakespeariana, that was reviewed in the *Mail* and other papers. The *Table* rather values itself on its acumen, in reproving the literary great guns for taking Mr. Head's brochure on "Shakespeare's Insomnia" seriously. A valued exchange, "The Hamilton Literary Monthly," explains that Mr. Head's work was never intended to mislead anyone. It says:

"It will be remembered that the original was read before the Literary Club of Chicago, and made such a hit that the Maxwells issued a private edition, at the request of the club, for the use of its members. . . . Mr. Head first assumes from internal evidence in the plays that Shakespeare was troubled with insomnia, and then seeks to establish the causes. This he does in a series of letters purporting to have been written to the poet by his contemporaries, and contained in 'the recently discovered Southampton collection,' copies of which Mr. Head sets forth he secured from Mr. John Barnacle, tenth assistant sub-secretary of the British Museum. . . . Even so excellent a periodical as the *Literary World*, the recognized organ of culture and polite learning at the 'Hub,' hailed the discovery of these letters with acclamation, and was glad that they shed new light upon the plays, and added so largely to our scanty stock of information concerning Shakespeare. . . . The

new edition contains an additional letter, purporting to have been written by Lord Baron to Shakespeare, which will be certain to arrest the attention, if not to invite the wrath, of Ignatius Donnelly, as a scandal upon his cypher."

\* \* \*

The following from the matter-of-fact correspondence in a late number of the *American Druggist* is not intentionally funny:

The introduction of soap is doing much to civilize the inhabitants of the Holy land. A large soap factory has been established on the site of ancient Schechem, and the people are beginning to use it on their persons instead of trying to eat it as they did at first. Along with the introduction of soap other reforms are going on. Bethlehem has been rebuilt and its streets are now lighted with gas. Cesaræa is having a building boom. Nazareth is becoming the headquarters of big olive oil speculators. Corner lots in Joppa are going up with a rush, and real estate in Mount Carmel is largely held by speculators for an advance. All around Shechem there is a lively demand for good soap fat, and the sleepy inhabitants of Ramoth Gilead think of building a glue factory. Jerusalem is waking up also. It has a street cleaning bureau, big clocks on its public buildings, and its suburbs are being built up rapidly. Even in the Vale of Gehenna the price of land has gone up. The ladies of Jerusalem take all the Parisian fashion journals, and know all about the latest style of hair-dressing.

\* \* \*

Our valued exchange, the *Virginia University Magazine*, prints some reminiscences of Edgar Allan Poe, found among the papers of a former librarian of the University, who died five years ago. He had been a member of some of Poe's classes; and of his reminiscences of that strange being, "three-fifths genius and two-fifths sheer fudge," as Lowell characterized him, one or two paragraphs are interesting:

"After spending an evening together at a private house, he invited me, on our return, into his room. It was a cold night in December, and his fire having gone pretty nearly out, by the aid of some tallow candles and the fragments of a small table which he broke up for the purpose, he soon rekindled it, and by its comfortable blaze I spent a very pleasant hour with him. On this occasion he spoke with regret of the large amount of money he had wasted, and of the debts he had contracted during the session.

If my memory is not at fault, he estimated his indebtedness at \$2,000, and though they were gaming debts, he was earnest and emphatic in the declaration that he was bound by honor to pay, at the earliest opportunity, every cent of them.

"He certainly was not habitually intemperate, but he may occasionally have entered into a frolic. I often saw him in the lecture room and in the library, but never in the slightest degree under the influence of intoxicating liquors. Among the Professors he had the reputation of being a sober, quiet and orderly young man, and to them and the officers his deportment was uniformly that of an intelligent and polished gentleman. Although his practice of gaming did escape detection, the hardihood, intemperance and reckless wildness imputed to him by his biographers, had he been guilty of them, must inevitably have come to the knowledge of the faculty and met with merited punishment. The records of which I was then, and am still, the custodian, attest that at no time during the session did he fall under the censure of the faculty.

"At no period during the past history of the University has the faculty been more violent in ferreting out offenders and more severe in punishing them than during the session of 1826."

Poe attended lectures "during the session which commenced February 1st, 1826." The University was founded in 1825.

"Mr. Poe's connection with the University was dissolved by the termination of the session on the 15th of December, 1826. He then wanted little over a month of having attained the age of eighteen—the date of his birth was plainly entered, in his own handwriting, on the matriculation book. Were he now living, his age on the 19th of this month (January, 1869,) would be sixty. He never returned to the University, and I think it probable that the night I visited him was the last he spent here. I draw this inference not from memory, but from the fact that having no further use for his candles and table he made fuel of them."

\* \* \*

Now that the University and the *Week* have seen to it that the memory of the Jubilee shall not utterly perish, it is denied that the Queen feels the necessity of ordering the Laureate to write a triolet on the approaching celebration.

HH.

## UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

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

The general Conversazione Committee met on Wednesday afternoon to transact routine business.

WANTED.—Copies of No. 2 of the year 1886-7 wanted at this office; will be paid for at the usual rate.

Extra rehearsals are held by the Glee Club on Tuesday of each week, Prof. W. E. Haslam in attendance. In view of the approaching Conversazione every member of the club should make it his business to be on hand at each practise—Tuesdays and Fridays.

"K" Co. parades in drill order every Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The men should attend these parades, for it, as it now seems probable, the regiment does not go to England, it is almost certain that there will be a great Canadian review either in Toronto or Ottawa.

The Mathematical and Physical Society has appointed the following sub-committee to assist at the Conversazione:—Messrs. J. Mulvey, B. A., J. C. Stuart, T. R. Roseburgh, W. F. Robinson, J. A. Duff, W. Prendergast, J. Stafford, J. A. Sparling, J. D. Dickson, J. McGowan and J. G. Witton.

In an oratorical contest, Thursday, at Buchtel College, Akron, O., to select a representative to the state intercollegiate contest, there were among the contestants a young lady, named Miss Mary Sibley, and H. C. Morris, a son of a Chicago millionaire. The judges decided in favour of the young lady, and upon this the father of the young man sprang up and charged the judges with being prejudiced. The son has challenged the young lady for a second contest for \$1,000 a side, the stakes to go for the founding of a hospital in Akron, to be named after the successful candidate.—*Princetonian*.

A book of poems by Mr. T. B. P. Stewart, is expected from the press at an early date. Mr. Stewart is an under-graduate of our college, well-known to all the students, both as a student and as a poet. He is at present travelling in Europe—in France, "the home of liberty, the garden of romance," and in Italy, "the land of poets." Judging from our knowledge of our poet personally, and from his inspiring surroundings, something good may be looked for from his pen. This little book should be hailed as an addition to Canadian literature, and as an acquisition to the literature of University College.

The Knox College Literary and Metaphysical Society have decided that in view of the near approach of the examinations, they can not take part in the proposed intercollegiate debate with our Literary and Scientific Society this year. A meeting of representatives from the Literary Societies of Osgoode Hall, Trinity, Wycliffe, McMaster University and Knox College has been called for March 2nd, in the Y. M. C. A. parlour, to discuss and, if possible, arrange for a series of debates for next year. It is proposed that these debates should be conducted on the tie system. This scheme reflects great credit on its originators, the President and members of the Knox College Literary and Metaphysical Society.

On Wednesday morning of this week the attendance at some of the lectures was noticeably small; the delinquents were reported as having gone to a political meeting in Yorkville, at which Sir John A. Macdonald was expected to speak. The *World* of Thursday morning says the gallery of the hall was filled with ladies, and a large body of university students were present. Sir John, however, was delayed in starting from Ottawa, and he passed on to Hamilton to meet another appointment. On arriving there he was greeted with a grand display of fireworks, etc. Although our patriotic students were disappointed, no doubt Sir John was not; he would probably appreciate the display got up by enfranchised supporters more than he would an audience of students, few of whom have votes.

In response to a request in a late issue of THE VARSITY to suggest the names of songs suitable for the forthcoming College Song-Book, the following, among others, have been suggested:—Litoria, Old Grimes, Le Brigadier, Alouette, A 'Roving, En Roulant, Landlord, Fill the Flowing Bowl, My Bonnie, O Tempora, O Mores, Peanuts, Mermaid, Spanish Guitar, Tavern in the Town, La Marsellaise, A Soldier's Farewell, Bells of Shandon, Old Kentucky House, Drink Puppy Drink, H2 S O4, Michael Roy, Mush Mush, Meerschaum Pipe, Bull Dog, Bug a

Boo, Low-backed Car, Keemo Kimo, Algoma Maid, Jingle Bells, Upidee, Intiger Vitae, Old Rogerum, Vive la Canadien, Baseball, Forsaken, Vive la Campagnie, Funicula, Polly Wolly Doodle, A la Claire, Fontaine, Bridget Donohue, Bingo Farm, So So, Marching through Georgia, Saw My Leg Off, Gambolier, Clementine, Sweet and Low, Aileen Aroon, Tarpaulin Jacket, I am a Soldier.

The Literary and Scientific Society met as usual last Friday evening. The attendance was not so large as usual, but the meeting proved more interesting than might have been anticipated from the number present. Mr. Colin Fraser was elected chairman. Messrs. R. E. Jamieson and T. Smith were nominated for membership. The literary programme was opened by Mr. A. A. Macdonald, who gave a reading in style, and equal to any which the Society has listened to this session. Mr. J. W. Garvin followed with a vocal solo of a humorous nature. Mr. J. J. Hughes read an essay on Herring Fisheries, in which he gave a short account of the industry, the habits of the herring, and his own experience in a fishing smack on the Irish Sea. The subject of debate was Imperial Federation. Mr. J. W. Garvin opened with a motion which was seconded by Mr. G. A. H. Fraser. Messrs. Macdonald and Kerr opposed the motion, when Mr. King moved an amendment, which, however, was not seconded. Mr. Waldron rose to a point of order, and made a speech against the motion. Messrs. Buckingham, Scully and A. T. Hunter also took part in the debate, Mr. Hunter opposing the motion on the ground of the expense involved in moving the parliament buildings from London to Toronto. Mr. Garvin was allowed to close the debate. The motion, on being put to the meeting, was declared lost. The committee appointed to arrange with Knox College for an inter-collegiate debate, reported that the Knox men had not yet appointed a committee to meet them.

One of the pleasant features of college life at McMaster Hall is the whole-hearted hospitality shewn the students by their city friends. Not infrequently the bulletin board displays a notice reading as follows:—"The Dorcas Society of the — Street Baptist Church, extend to the students a cordial invitation to tea at 6.30 p.m., in the church parlour." On Thursday evening a large number of the fellows attended a reception given by the Rev. Elmore and Mrs. Harris, in the Bloor Street Baptist church, to the members of the congregation. Friday evening the Hon. Wm. and Mrs. McMaster will hold their annual reception to the students. Such social kindness extended to the students in a body very pleasantly relieve the monotony of a college life made monotonous by the absence of that element which makes home what it is, mother, sisters, and—in short, woman.—The Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Buffalo, who on Sabbath preached at the opening of the new Baptist church on Beverley St., favored the College with a talk on School work, last Tuesday morning. He advised the young ministers to get into Sunday School work. It keeps the heart young and imparts vitality to the life and enthusiasm to the work. Work amongst the young necessitates a simple vocabulary and interesting address. The Sunday School idea is the opening of the Bible to the young. The method of teaching is the expository,—the true method for both school and pulpit. The address was full of practical and helpful suggestions.—By careful calculation it has been discovered that the water consumed in the Hall each day amounts to about two barrels per capita.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly meeting of this Association was held in McMillan's Hall on Wednesday afternoon, the president, Mr. Houston, in the chair. Messrs. Hume and Sparling were chosen to represent the Society in a debate with the Modern Language Club, on Wednesday, 9th of March, and Mr. Higgins was appointed essayist. Mr. A. W. Stratton read an able paper tracing the growth of federalism in ancient Greece. He showed the strong patriotic feeling which stirred the hearts of this ancient people, causing them to unite on many occasions against the invasion of a common foe. Tracing up the history of such movements, he gave a short account of the different forms of government that successively arose out of them, many of which showed strong tendencies towards federalism. He then gave a full description of the Achean and Ætolian leagues, comparing them one with another, and with the form of federalism in the United States, to which they bear many points of resemblance. Mr. Houston then followed with an account of the modern federal unions, describing fully the form of constitution both of Canada and the United States, the latter he said had been the model for nearly all similar constitutions of modern times, itself being modelled very much after the ancient form of federalism. Among the important European systems he mentioned Switzerland, Austro-Hungary and Germany. Federalism, he said, was a matter of necessity, and occasions would frequently arise in the history of nations, when such a form of government must needs be adopted.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.—At the last meeting of this association, in the School of Practical Science, the President, W. H. Pike, Ph.D., in the chair, Prof. R. R. Wright delivered an address on the life of Alfred Russell Wallace and his work in

relation to the Theory of Descent. Dr. Wallace, when in Brazil making observations on the fauna, was struck by the number of butterflies which had, as it were, copied in coloring or mode of flight others of their tribe distasteful to the birds. Connecting this and similar facts with the evidence offered by paleontology, he evolved the theory of the survival of the fittest, and sent the papers containing his discovery to Mr. Charles Darwin, to be read before the Royal Society. Seeing that the conclusions to which he had himself been led by over 20 years' labor had been independently arrived at by another observer, Darwin was induced to hasten the publication of his Origin of Species, being a "Selection from his Manuscripts," as he called it, and this we owe to Wallace above his own contributions to science, the early publication of this great work, the greatest up to its time on biology. The speaker concluded by announcing that Mr. Wallace, now travelling in the United States, would deliver two lectures in the University Convocation Hall on March 10 and 11, under the auspices of the Canadian Institute. The next paper was by Mr. R. A. McArthur, on the Liver Ferment, being a synopsis of work recently undertaken, which goes to prove the absence of any specific hepatic diastase. On the conclusion of this paper the views therein advanced were discussed by the society, led by Mr. G. Acheson, M.D.; Mr. A. B. McCallum, B.A., and Mr. F. T. Shutt, M.A.

The Y. M. C. A. meeting on Thursday evening was conducted by Mr. J. G. Hume. His subject was "Purity," the passage of Scripture, 1 John 3 : 3. After a neat and interesting address, which was listened to by a very fair audience, the discussion was thrown open to the meeting. Several took part, the remarks being brief and pointed.—On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock the ten delegates who represented the association at the Kingston convention reported to a meeting of the members held in the reading-room of the hall. The report was very encouraging.

#### GENERAL COLLEGE NEWS.

Italy has twenty-one universities.

A dramatic association has been formed at Yale.

Yale, Princeton, Harvard, and Cornell each have a daily paper.

America has 370 universities and colleges, with 65,522 students.

The Yale football team are to receive miniature footballs of gold as trophies.

Co-education was first introduced into the United States at the University of Michigan.

The Inter-collegiate Y. M. C. A. has determined to publish a new paper called the *Intercollegiate*. Mr. Wishard is its editor.

The resolution authorizing Yale College to be hereafter named Yale University, was passed by the Senate at Hartford last Thursday.

Cornell is to have a number of prominent lectures this term on practical business subjects. Mayor Hewitt and Professor Graham Bell are in the list.

Senator Stanford's University in California is to accommodate at first only those who wish to pursue higher courses. It will be open to both sexes.

A. C. Merriam, Professor of Greek at Columbia College, has been chosen as Director of the School of Athens for the year 1887. He will leave for his new position at the close of the present college year.

There are at present four foreign schools for the pursuance of classical studies in Athens. The American school has the largest number of students: seven, representing the colleges of Amherst, Columbia, Michigan, Beloit, Trinity and Yale.

Princeton has laid down rigid requirements for applicants for the degrees Ph. D. and LL.D. They must pass satisfactory entrance and final examinations, they must be Bachelors of Art, and must pursue a special course of study in their department for two years, one year of which period must be in Princeton.

Prof. Wadsworth, of Colby University, has been making experiments with his Geology class to ascertain the practical value of classical studies to a student in assisting him to master the sciences. Members of the class were requested to give the derivation of sci-

entific terms without previous preparation, and, as a result, some statements were made, which, if true, might lead to startling revelations in science; for instance, a Senior, noted for his proficiency in the classics, derived "Iepidodendron" from the two Latin words, *lepidus* and *dens*.

The Illinois *College Rambler* for January has the following glee club notes, which represent a case almost identical with our own: "College glee clubs all over the country are complaining of the almost total lack of new college songs. Year after year they have been singing the same songs until the people are almost tired of hearing them. Our glee club, though only five years old, has had such a run of concerts since its beginning, that it is feared the end of the rope is nearly reached. What is needed is not so much new tunes as new verses adapted to the old tunes. There is enough talent among our students, if once awakened, to accomplish some very creditable work in this direction. Let some poetic, patriotic man, who is ambitious withal to become famous, set his brains running to the tune of 'New Jersee,' 'Cochalunk,' or 'Upidee.'"

"Wanted, some one to write poetry for the glee club. Adaptions of old songs for the home concert are especially needed."

#### LITERARY GENIUS IN YOUTH.

It is almost incredible, when one looks over the records of the past, to find at what early ages some of the world's greatest writers manifested literary genius and performed their most important work. Shakespeare, for example, wrote "Hamlet" when but thirty-six years of age; Thomas Moore wrote poems at fourteen; Bryant's "Thanatopsis" was written before the author had reached the age of twenty; Henry Kirke White published a volume of poems at seventeen; Fitz-Greene Halleck's best verses were penned when the author was between fourteen and seventeen years of age; Dickens produced the "Pickwick Papers" before he was twenty-five; Milton wrote poetry at the age of ten; Bulwer-Lytton, Bayard Taylor, and the poet Keats were successfully writing for the magazines at eighteen; Schiller wrote and published a poem on Moses in his fourteenth year; Southey began to write verses before he was eleven; poems by Chaucer and Leigh Hunt were known and read before the authors were twelve and thirteen years of age; Klopstock began his "Messiah" at seventeen, and thus might be cited a much longer list of illustrations of the mature development of authors at tender ages.—*Brooklyn Magazine*.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT.

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

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#### Topics of the Hour.

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#### Round the Table.

#### University and College News.

#### General College News.

#### Di-Varsities, &c., &c.



Owing to the persistent attempt of numerous cigarette manufacturers to cope in part the Brand Name of the "Richmond Straight Cut." Now in the eleventh year of their popularity, we think it alike due to the protection of the consumer and ourselves, to warn the public against base imitations and call their attention to the fact that the original Straight Cut Brand is the Richmond Straight Cut No. 1, introduced by us in 1875, and to caution the students to observe that our signature appears on every package of the Genuine Straight Cut Cigarettes.

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The Varsity Book.

PROSE AND POETRY.

Copies of this book—containing the choicest selections from the columns of THE VARSITY since its first year—can be obtained upon application at this office. Price, 50 cents. As but few copies are left, those graduates and students who have not yet subscribed for THE VARSITY Book should do so at once, as the edition will soon be exhausted.

DI-VARSITIES.

TO THE GLEAMING-EYED MAN IN BLACK.

Unknown, but honored sir :  
You've touched up all the teachers,  
The professorial staff,  
Now gave an inuendo,  
And now a quiet laugh.

But yet you've quite forgotten  
One of the chiefest things,  
For you've left out THE VARSITY,  
And its editorial kings.

The men who in the sanctum sit,  
Till the hours are sma' and wee,  
While mighty plans in mighty brains,  
Revolve in vigor free.

And thence, O, modern Delphic Shrine !  
Come weekly oracles.  
They teem with wisdom half-divine,  
Those editorials.

Phonetic spelling, scholarships,  
And subjects more abstruse,  
Are here *discussed*, while many a thrust  
Is given to fossil views.

And Oh ! when seated in full conclave,  
What wise, wise words resound ;  
King Arthur's table would ne'er be able  
To beat this table round.

So let me humbly recommend,  
When next you tune your lyre,  
To THE VARSITY Eds. give honor due.  
Yours truly, H. A. Dwyer.

A GRAMMAR LESSON.

To Miss Rose, P. A.

May no dark cloud for thee arise,  
Oh ! Rose ! a risen sun  
Of happiness, keep rain from eyes  
That sparkle now with fun.  
Yours,  
*A la mode,*  
J. GOODFORNOTHING HUMBUG.

Fogg : " Dreadfully close here. I think I'll open the transom." Smoothbore : " Ah, that makes me think of a story." Binks : " What does ? " Smoothbore : " Why, Fogg opening the transom." Binks : " Fogg, shut that transom."

" How much older is your sister than you, Johnny ? " Johnny : " I dunno. Maud uster be twenty-five years, then she was twenty, and now she ain't only eighteen. I guess we'll soon be twins."

There was a witty student,  
Whose scintillations bright,  
Filled those who dwelt around him  
With wonder and delight.  
Until at length a sickness quite  
Of memory bereft him,  
And thought his *intellect* remained,  
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That do the work of brains,  
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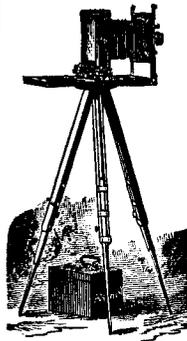
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