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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

COLLEGE TOPICS

Devoted to the interests of the Students in the Universities and Colleges of Toronto.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, MARCH 8TH, 1898.

No. 16

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BANQUET TO THE SENIORS.

Victoria Men Hold Their Fifty-Fourth Annual Dinner.

THOSE WHO WERE THERE.

Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, as an Old Graduate, Presided—The Toast List.

Seldom has Victoria College presented such a happy spectacle as was witnessed by the two hundred and fifty graduates and undergraduates assembled Friday evening, to do honor to the graduating class of '98, on the occasion of the fifty-fourth annual senior dinner. The institution is a peculiar and pleasant feature of life at Victoria, where once a year the members of the three junior years constitute themselves as hosts, and, in company with a number of graduates and friends of the college, entertain the ladies and gentlemen of the final year.

The tables, supplied by caterer Williams, were spread in the large hall of the college, and were presided over by Hon. Clifford Sifton, a Victoria graduate of '81, as chairman, and by Mr. W. R. Riddell, as vice-chairman. Among the guests present were the members of the class of '98 and the following gentlemen:—Chancellor Burwash, Rev. James Allen, Rev. Dr. Dewart, Rev. Dr. Barriok, Hon. Geo. A. Cox, Mr. Kerr, Dr. MacLaren, Rev. Dr. Potts, Rev. Alexander Sutherland, Mr. F. M. Jacobbe, '96, Rev. Dr. Carman, Dr. Graham, Dr. Sweetman, Mr. W. E. H. Massey, Mr. Masten, Mr. J. E. Hodgson, Mr. C. C. James, Mr. N. Powell, Dr. W. W. Ogden, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Henry Hough, W. F. Kerr, Q.C., Mr. R. P. Bowles, Dr. Coleman, Rev. N. Burwash, Rev. Dr. Badgely, Rev. Dr. Wallace, Prof. Bell, Prof. Langford, Prof. Horning, Rev. Dr. Reynar, Prof. Edgar, Prof. Long, Prof. Robertson, Prof. McLaughlin, and others.

MANY TOASTS PROPOSED.

A lengthy toast list was provided, and opened with that of "Queen and Country," which was ably responded to by the Minister of the Interior, in a neat patriotic speech. Other toasts were spoken to as follows:—"Old Vic. and Her Faculties," by Rev. N. Burwash and Prof. A. H. Reynar; "Graduating Class" by Mr. A. E. Steer, '98, and Miss Graham, '98; "Alumni and Learned Professions," by Rev. R. P. Bowles, Mr. W. F. Kerr, Dr. W. W. Ogden and Mr. J. G. Hodgins; "College Societies" by Mr. J. H. Faull, '98, Miss W. Wilson '98, and Mr. R. J. Dobson; "Lady Undergraduates," by Miss M. Hawkins, '98; "Senior Stick," and "Langford Athletic Stick" by F. W. Walker, '99, and E. W. Grange, '99; "College Press," by W. H. C. Leech, '98, and B. A. Cohoe, '98; and "Other Classes," by Mr. F. E. Marlott, '99, Mr. A. N. St. John, '00, Mr. W. H. Wood, '01, R. W. Knowles (spec.), and Mr. A. E. Hetherington B.A. (B.D.).

The Committees in charge of the banquet were:—Miss M. H. Kyle, '99, Mr. G. A. Winters, '99, Mr. S. J. Courtice '99, Miss M. Bollert, '00, Mr. N. R. Wilson, '99, Mr. W. J. M. Cragge, Mr. F. L. Farewell, '00, Miss C. M. Woodworth, '01, Mr. H. W. Davison, '01, Mr. A. Robb (spec.), Mr. E. A. McCullough, Mr. J. Newton (spec.), and Mr. M. R. Chapman, B.A.

VARSIETY LIT MEETS.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE "VARSIETY" BOARD—DISCUSSION ON THE MODE OF HOLDING ELECTIONS.

Friday's meeting of the Varsity Lit was undoubtedly the largest of the academic year. The drawing cards were the expected announcement of the Varsity boards for next year, and the reconsideration of the "scrap" matter. The success of Varsity next term is already assured, as the board chosen by the nominating board is a strong and representative one. The members of the business board will probably be Messrs. E. N. Armour, J. B. Hunter, Mitchell and Isbester. Messrs.

W. A. R. Kerr, G. W. Ross, V. E. Henderson, H. Birmingham, G. F. Kay, E. H. Cooper, J. Little, P. A. Carson, and G. F. McFarland, will in all likelihood be the editors. Why "in all likelihood"? Well, the report as read by Freddie Cleland, and as given above, was not accepted by the Lit but was referred back to the committee. Mr. Shotwell and Mr. Narraway wanted Mr. Alexander's name on the Editorial Board, and the majority of those present at the meeting evinced a similar desire. The report, therefore, was not adopted. Another report will be made next Friday.

Mr. Groves wanted a few changes made in the Constitution one of which was to the effect that there should be no obstruction of voters at the election. This he withdrew, after a full discussion had taken place. It was thought to be inadvisable to put such a clause in the Constitution until experience had shown it was for the best interests of the society.

In Mr. Hastings' absence, Mr. Garvey moved that the motion to do away with the "scrap," which aroused such intense feeling the week previously, be reconsidered. Mr. Carson said a few words in favor of this, but on a division of the house Mr. Garvey's motion was lost. Mr. Hinch, however, gave notice that he would make the following motion next Friday: "Resolved, That in the opinion of this society the motion passed Friday, Feb. 25, concerning the manner of conducting the annual elections is impracticable, and therefore of no practical value." So that there is still a slight possibility of the time-honored scrap materializing once more in all its erstwhile glory.

Mr. Hinch also gave the following notice of motion: "That art. 2, sec. 4 of Constitution be amended by striking out the words 'at an election' and substituting 'on any motion or election'"; and Mr. Carson notified the meeting that he would move that the Constitution be so changed as to have the 2nd vice-president from the S.P.S., and the corresponding secretary from the third year Arts, instead of vice versa, as at present. His reason was that the correspondence as a rule came to the main building, and great inconvenience to the corresponding secretary was the result.

Auditors were appointed to go over the treasurer's books. The lucky mathematicians are Messrs. Pringle and Bone. Charlie Carson read the report of the Conversat Committee, which met with the approval of the society. Freddie Cleland announced the resignation of George Black from the Business Board of Varsity, and the appointment of Mr. G. M. Murray by the board to fill the vacancy. Fred Harper read the list of magazines which the House Committee had supplied the reading-room with. The meeting seemed satisfied with the lengthy list.

Nick Hinch announced that Julia Arthur would be at the Grand in a "A Lady of Quality," on March 17, 18 and 19th, and as there was a McMaster graduate in the company, as well as a native of Toronto, he thought the boys should turn out. A committee will be formed to bring about a grand rally on Saturday, the 19th.

FAVORS FOUR-YEAR TERM.

DR. R. J. HUSBAND ADVOCATES IT FOR THE YOUNG ONTARIO DENTISTS.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Dental Society, Friday afternoon, at the Dental College, Dr. R. J. Husband, Hamilton, read an interesting paper before the morning session on "Our Responsibility for the Future of Dentistry in Ontario," in which he advocated a four-year term at the college, and the necessity of the students doing everything in their power to uplift the profession. Papers on "Dentistry and Dentists in Ontario before 1868," and "Thirty Years' Development since 1868," by Dr. H. T. Woods, M.D.S., Toronto, and Dr. J. A. Marshall, Belleville, who also read at the morning session, and much appreciated.

The most important item on the programme was the address by Dr. G. V. Black, of Chicago, delivered at the close of the afternoon session. Dr. Black spoke of "Dental Amalgam, and Amalgam Alloys," and accompanied his remarks with experiments which proved very instructive and entertaining. An open discussion, led by Dr. H. Clark, of Toronto, followed the reading of his paper.

The current number of *Acta Victoriana* contains an interesting sketch of Walt Whitman, by Miss Winnifred Wilson, '98, and a description, of a "Sojourn in Mexico," by E. M. Burwash. The usual editorial, literary, scientific and local columns are quite up to the standard.

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A SUCCESSFUL JOINT-MEETING.

It has seemed to many of the students of the University that the numerous departmental Societies and Associations should endeavor to reach some sort of an amalgamation which would bring the several courses more in touch with one another than they are at present. The Philosophical and Classical Associations have been the first to make a substantial advance along the line of that project. These Societies have had two union meetings during the present session; both of them very successful, the last, held last Friday, especially so. The names of the essayists, Mr. W. H. Alexander, '99, and Mr. M. Shaw, '96, were sufficient to ensure a full meeting about 50 being present. Mr. Alexander dealt in his own lucid and inimitable style with "Stoicism and Christianity." Seldom has such an excellent paper been read before the Societies by an undergraduate. No idea of the ability with which it was written can be given in this brief notice. Taking Stoicism as the highest ethical development of Greek philosophy, Mr. Alexander compared it with Christianity. It was clearly and indisputably shown that the Stoic sages inculcated many of those cardinal doctrines and virtues which we are accustomed to consider as certainly peculiarly Christian. Stoicism had, however, one fatal defect, it gave no place to "Love." It admitted that we were under law, but it could never say that "Love is the fulfilling of the law." Christianity, based on "Love" became the faith of the common people, because they could appreciate its meaning, while Stoicism could be the solace only of the few—the philosophers. Mr. Shaw followed with a paper on "Certain Christian Doctrines Philosophically Considered." In an exact and painstaking way, Mr. Shaw examined "Regeneration" and "Justification by Faith." The essay aroused much interest, inasmuch as some of the conclusions reached were far from conventional. Proof that the papers were of exceptional merit was seen in the unusually critical discussion they evoked, in which the essayists found it expedient to speak in defence of their positions. Prof. Badgely, Prof. Hume, Mr. Milner and others took part. Mr. Milner, who presided, found it necessary to adjourn the meeting, because of the lateness of the hour, before the questions had been satisfactorily canvassed. If this meeting may be taken as a criterion of the success with which such meetings can be conducted, there will surely, next year, be an earnest effort made towards more general intercourse among the societies.

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TORONTO, TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH, 1898

HEARD IN THE HALLS.

One of the striking features of Christian activity to-day is the multitude of consecrated young students who are volunteering for foreign service. Two thousand of these gathered in Cleveland last week, and Toronto's contingent, numbering over one hundred, has returned, filled with enthusiasm. It has been arranged to have six of the most representative and best speakers speak each for ten minutes on some special phase of the gathering, at the Guild Hall, McGill Street, next Friday evening. A student quartette will supply vocal music, and the public are given a hearty invitation to be present.

The Varsity I. baseball team is arranging for a Western tour to begin about the 25th of May. The T. A. C. team wish to play the first home game with Varsity on Good Friday, April 8th.

A very large number of guests responded Friday evening to the invitations sent out by Mrs. George Dickson, the lady principal of St. Margaret's College, to hear a lecture on architecture by the Rev. C. H. Shortt. Rev. Dr. Milligan presided, and the lecture was preceded by a couple of choruses sung in capital style by the Glee Club of the college, and a finely rendered piano solo by Miss Fanny Sheidrake. The lecture, which was most interesting and instructive, was entitled "How to Read Architecture." It was the same which Rev. Mr. Shortt delivered some weeks ago to the Woman's Art Association, but on this occasion it was most beautifully illustrated by the best examples of classic, gothic and modern architecture, by means of lantern slides. Some of these were: The majestic Temple of Theseus at Athens, the Parthenon, Coliseum, the Arch of Titus, and the noblest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in England from the earliest period. Light refreshments were served before the departure of the guests, who expressed in warmest terms their intellectual as well as social enjoyment of the evening. The lady principal of St. Margaret's College is to be congratulated upon the success of these delightful Friday evenings.

At the final meeting for the academic year of the Political Science Club, held on Thursday afternoon, the following officers were elected:—Honorary president, Prof. Mavor; president, J. H. F. Fisher, '99; first vice-president, W. G. Harrison, '00; second vice-president, F. A. Kilbourne, '01; secretary, W. F. Mackay, '99; treasurer, F. E. Brown, '00; librarian, F. G. T. Lucas, '01; fourth year councillor, F. W. Halliday, '99; third year councillor, J. W. P. Ritchie, '00; second year councillor, A. J. Isbester, '01. The question of forming a union society was discussed but no action was taken.

Rev. W. H. Sparks was a guest at Wycliffe last week.

The Varsity Ladies' Glee Club held a meeting Tuesday afternoon, at which the following officers were elected for next year: President, Miss N. Cleary; vice-president, Miss B. Tennant; secretary, Miss H. Hughes; treasurer, Miss L. Darling; curator Miss E. Crane; pianist Miss M. E. Mason.

The ladies of class '98, Varsity, held a luncheon Friday afternoon in the ladies' lunch room in the college. Toasts and speeches were made and a most delightful time was enjoyed by all.

The annual elections of the Knox Theological and Literary Society were held last week and the voting was close and exciting. The following officers were elected: President, T. Eakin, M.A.; vice-president, J. McRae, B.A.; 2nd vice-president, Findlay Matheson, B.A.; recording secretary, W. A. Findlay, B.A.; treasurer, N. H. McGillivray; corresponding secretary, Hugh Matheson; secretary of committees, W. Mercer; critic, J. L. Murray, M.A.; curator, R. M. Carlyle; councillors, J. T. Cheyne, R. S. Laidlaw, R. Douglas.

"Casey" Watt, R.A., '97, who is now on the staff of the Woodstock Sentinel Review, was a guest at Varsity Residence Sunday.

The dental exams commence on Tuesday, March 22nd. R.C.D.S. students, who have been grinding away for some weeks past, say that it is worse than pulling teeth; other people's at least. They are consoling themselves with the reflection that they will have the laugh on the others when they are through.

The initial article in the current number of the *McMaster University Monthly* is devoted to a life sketch of the late Alexander Grant, by D. E. Thomson, Q.C. Other features of the issue are: "Some Impressions of Cambridge," by Miss Eleanor P. McKay, and "The Scene of Barrie's Stories," by Rev. Thomas Wilson. The "Students' Quarter" is also ably sustained in its several departments.

It is probable that the army of Klondikers will be reinforced this spring by a squad of S.P.S. students.

Harvard University has just issued its annual announcement of the famous summer school, which, for six weeks, meets in historic old Cambridge. On the list of lecturers Toronto University is represented by Dr. W. H. Schofield, who graduated from Victoria, and Mr. George H. Locke, who graduated from the University of Toronto.

At the meeting of the Varsity Mathematical and Physical Society, Friday afternoon, the following will be the programme: The Ether: its nature, properties, etc. Mr. Wilton '01; Mathematics applied in chemistry, Gibson, '00; biography of Kepler, E. G. F. Cwell, '99; Physical experiments, Messrs. Mode and Wager. Nominations for next year's officers will be made at this meeting.

Dr. Kirschman will discuss "Lime Light Views" before the Philosophical Society Friday afternoon.

The committee from class '99 Varsity appointed last year to arrange for the publication of a Year Book will hold a meeting this afternoon.

The annual meeting of the University of Toronto Cricket Club was held in the college on Friday. The following officers were elected:—Honorary president, President Loudon; honorary vice-president, Prof. Fletcher; president, R. W. K. White; vice-president, J. R. Howitt, '98; secretary-treasurer, S. F. Shenstone, '00; curator, A. J. Isbester, '01; committee, D. B. White, '98, R. S. Waldie, '99, R. Telford, '00, E. P. Brown, '01; captain, M. C. Cameron, '99. The prospects for cricket were never brighter in the University than this season. The new material includes A. F. Mackenzie, last year's Ridley crack; E. P. Brown, who held the batting average at U.C.C., and A. J. Isbester, of Ottawa. The season at Varsity will last from about May 15th till June 15th. Every student that has ever played the game is requested to turn out to the practices, which will be held as soon as practicable. Address all communications to S. F. Shenstone, 16 Walmer Road Toronto.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE.

The St. Charles Literary Society held its regular fortnightly meeting yesterday, which proved to be the most successful of the year. Much interest and speculation had been created as to the probable outcome of the debate "Resolved that Lee was a more accomplished General than Grant." The vice-president Mr. D. O'Connor, was in the chair, and called upon Mr. H. Martin to open the debate. Mr. J. Mahady, the leader of the negative, championed the cause of Grant, and lost no time in warming up to his subject. Almost with the first sentence the flood of oratory began, and continued till the call of time by the chairman. So pronounced a rhetorical success has seldom resounded through the halls of St. Michael's. Mr. M. Martin for the affirmative and Mr. J. Curley for the negative also made successful speeches. Mr. W. Roach, at the request of the vice-president, presided at the debate, and with a brief resume of the arguments proposed, decided in favor of the negative.

A most successful debate was held at the last meeting of the St. Michael's Literary Society. The subject was from the well-known sentence of Principal Grant of Queen's University: "Resolved that the day is not far distant when college games will be played only on the home campus." Mr. D. Powers opened the argument for the affirmative, and although his speech was not fluent, his arguments were very effective. The negative found an eloquent leader in Mr. A. Walsh, who quoted such high authorities as Newman, Longfellow and Burke, to confirm his assertions. His speech was a pronounced success and contributed largely to deserve the decision. Mr. Torpey for the affirmative made a good speech, and Mr. J. Hayes in a very humorous oration was an able second to the eloquence of Mr. Walsh. Rev. Father Kelly, the president of the society, in deciding the debate remarked that the debate was in his estimation the best he ever listened to in his sixteen years' experience in the society. The decision went to the negative.

Rev. Dr. Teefy attended the funeral of Archbishop Cleary, at Kingston, Ont., last week.

Right Rev. D. D. O'Connor, of London, stopped a few days at the college last week.

The second of Father Kelly's course of pedagogical lectures was given on Saturday evening in Belles Letters Hall by Prof. Robertson of Victoria University. His subject, "The teaching of Latin in the first year," was treated in a masterly style. The lecturer advocated a medium between the "cramming" style of teaching so prevalent in American schools, and the equally deficient spoon feeding which holds in the English schools. The amount of success in presenting this happy medium will depend largely upon the innate tact of the teacher. The lecture was an unqualified success.

Some of the boys enjoyed a trip home during the week to vote.

James McPeak, who fell on the ice last Wednesday, was hurt pretty badly and was obliged to go to the hospital. The boys hope to see him around soon.

Mr. Girardot, Mayor of Sandwich, took dinner at the college on Sunday.

Mr. C. McRae, after a week's absence, succeeded in casting his vote.

McMASTER HALL.

A very interesting meeting of the Camelot Club was held last evening at which the life and work of Charles G. D. Roberts was discussed. The following was the programme: Instrumental solo, H. W. Newman; sketch of the poet's life, G. L. Sprague; reading, "The Silver Thaw," Miss Dryden; vocal solo, A. C. Newcombe; paper on Acteon, J. T. Jones; paper on the poet's style, Miss Whiteside.

A number of McMaster men went to the Union Station last week, to bid bon voyage to Rev. A. B. Reekie, who was leaving to take up missionary work in Bolivia.

A very enjoyable sleighing party to Little York was given last week under the auspices of Messrs Rock and Torrie. During the evening the following programme was enjoyed under the direction of chairman MacGregor: Recitation "Jimmie Brown and the Baby," by Miss Gile; solo, by Miss Lugsdin; recitation "Lord Ullin's Daughter," by Mr. F. Brophy; and a trombone and guitar duet by Messrs. Phipps and Brophy.

At the Lit meeting Friday night, the debate was "Resolved that the country is in need of immediate prohibition." Messrs. W. Daniel and A. MacDonald argued for the affirmative, and Messrs. P. C. MacGregor and H. E. Jordan for the negative. Rev. J. B. Warnicker acted as judge, and in an excellent little speech decided the debate in favor of the affirmative side. A solo by Mr. H. C. Newcombe and a piano solo by Mr. A. Thompson added greatly to the evenings entertainment.

WOMEN'S LIT NOMINATIONS.

The meeting for the nominations of officers for the Varsity Women's Literary Society for next year was held Friday afternoon in Room 8, University College. The following is a list of candidates:

Honorary president, Miss Ryckman, elected by acclamation; president, Miss L. R. White, '99, Miss D. F. Wright, '99; vice-president, Miss C. C. Benson, '99, Miss B. Tennant, '99; fourth year councillor, Miss H. S. Woolverton, '99, Miss B. Jamieson, '99; recording secretary, Miss A. Cole, '00, Miss L. Wegg, '00, Miss C. Cookburn, '00; third year councillor, Miss M. E. Mason, '00, Miss E. Fleming, '00; treasurer, Miss C. C. Grant, '00, Miss R. Thornton, '00, Miss G. MacDonald, '00; corresponding secretary, Miss Robertson, '01, Miss Darling, '01; third year, Miss G. Hall, '00, Miss L. Wright, '00; representatives on Women's Residence Committee, assistant secretary, Miss N. Cleary, '99, Miss E. Dennis, '99, Miss O. Benson, '99; representative from fourth year, Miss H. Wolverton, '99, Miss G. Millar, '99; representatives from third year, Miss H. Hughes, '00, Miss C. Cookburn, '00; representative from second year, Miss L. Darling, '01, Miss Wicher, '01; second year councillor, Miss A. C. MacDonald, '01, Miss E. Crane, '01, Miss White, '01; representatives on Editorial Board of *Varsity*—fourth year representative, Miss H. Downey, '99, Miss E. Preston, '99; third year, Miss L. Mason, '00, Miss H. Hughes, '00; second year, Miss Barr, Miss Forrest, Miss White, Miss Ahner; business board—fourth year, Miss G. O. Burgess, '99, Miss N. Cleary, '99, Miss M. F. L. Turner, '99, Miss J. Johnston, '99.

GLEE CLUB CONCERT.

A large audience attended the Varsity Glee Club concert at Massey Hall last evening. The following excellent programme was rendered: March, Blue and White, Varsity Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club; Lullaby and Poor Willie, Varsity Glee Club; variations, Misses Sutro; song, Bruce Bradley; Geisha, Varsity Mandolin Club; two pianos, (a) Polonaise (b) Gavotte, Misses Sutro; song, Bruce Bradley; valse, Andalusia, College of Music Ladies' Mandolin and Guitar Club; two pianos, valse, Carnavalesque, Misses Sutro; Kentucky Babe, Varsity Glee Club and Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club.

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Errors in Science and Art—The Moon a Source of Confusion—Anachronisms that Would Shame a Schoolboy—Queer Blunders Perpetrated by Dramatists and Artists.

The general unreliability of the human memory, even in matters in which it believes itself infallible, is so remarkable that, instead of an occasional mistake here and there in the works of well-known authors, the marvel is that blunders of statement and fact are not more numerous. Among its other peculiarities, the mind has one of being often quite certain of its own knowledge, even when that knowledge is far from reliable, and this statement is constantly illustrated in the writings of leading historians and historical writers, who often err very gravely by taking for granted something which, on examination, turns out to be a misconception of fact. Sometimes the blunder is that of the writer himself; sometimes it is that of the authority from which he obtained his information; but in either case the fault arose from a lack of pains taken to verify the statement, the neglect being the result of overconfidence in one's own information.

In this way a thousand myths, which had but the remotest basis of truth, if any, for a foundation, have been industriously repeated and conscientiously believed by thousands. Thus the yarn about George Washington and his little hatchet, which was originally a pure fabrication, is as religiously believed by young Americans, as was the story about Romulus and Remus being suckled by a wolf by the young Romans a couple of thousand years ago. So also in England it is the fashion to believe that, at the battle of Waterloo, the Iron Duke said "Up, guards, and at them," though the Duke himself testified that he said nothing of the kind, being too busy praying that Blucher or night might come before Napoleon thrashed his army all to pieces. The idea that George III. was a cruel, bloodthirsty tyrant, who went about his place with a Fee-Foo-Fum aspect, sniffing the blood of Americans, was sedulously inculcated by the Declaration of Independence, when, on the contrary, he was a mild-mannered old gentleman, who would not have hurt anybody's feelings for the world, and who would turn over in his grave did he but know how grossly he has been misrepresented on this side of the water. But history is full of just such blunders and in spite of the fact that Curtius did not leap into the gulf, nor did Mucius Scaevola plunge his hand into the fire, nor the Horatii put up the gallant fight credited to them, nor did Nero fiddle while Rome was burning, nor the priest of Louis XVI. say, "Son of St. Louis, ascend to heaven." People will go on believing these things, though they be disproved a hundred times, simply because the historians have got into the fashion of telling them, and they look pretty when put in type.

If blunders like these are perpetuated in history simply by dint of the public stupidity, greater accuracy in matters of statement and closer adherence to the probabilities are not to be expected of the novelist. The writer of fiction creates his own history, for, to him, the characters he presents are as real as any that ever lived; the scenes he depicts are, for the moment, as true as any that ever appeared on the stage of life's action. He is, in fact, writing history as it should be; but as he is under the necessity of manufacturing it as he goes, it is not wonderful that lapses of memory should here and there occur and his pictures be blurred by his own forgetfulness. Of all sinners in this respect Thackeray confesses himself to be the chief. In writing on the subject, he owns up to a score of delinquencies. He said: "As sure as I read a page of my own composition, I find a fault or two, half a dozen. Jones is called Brown. Brown, who is dead, is brought to life. Aghast, and months after the number was printed I saw I had called Philip Firmin, Clive Newcome. Now, Clive Newcome is the hero of another story by the reader's most obedient servant. The two men are as different in my mind's eye as Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli."

When novelists makes such blunders in dealing with the creatures of their own brains, it is not wonderful that when scientific accuracy is demanded they should err even more egregiously. The catastrophe in the "Mill on the Floss" is brought on by a scientific blunder. The gifted author gives her readers to understand that the boat in which the heroine and her brother were floating was overwhelmed by a huge mass of debris which was travelling down stream at a more rapid rate than the frail craft. Of course, then, it overtook the boat and sank it by the force of the collision. The incident is dramatic enough to satisfy the most critical, but scientifically it is an absurdity, for if the two were borne along by the same stream the pile of wreckage

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went as fast as the boat, and not a whit faster, no matter what might be the needs of the situation. Equally open to scientific criticism is that appalling scene in "Bleak House," where the unfortunate drunkard died a horrible death from spontaneous combustion. No doubt he deserved to get out of the world in some such dreadful fashion, and Dickens, having read of cases of drunkards who went to bed in a normal condition and were found a few hours later a pile of charred flesh and cinders, considered that he had accomplished a master stroke in bringing about such a result in the case of his own particular drunkard, but the fact remains that no matter how rum-soaked a human being may become, no one ever died of spontaneous combustion, and, so long as the human system is more than three-fourths water, no one ever will.

Many a novelist, as well as historian, has come to grief by not taking the pains to consult a geography or atlas when dealing with some particular in his story that demanded more than a general knowledge. Charles Lever in "Charles O'Malley," speaks of Andalusia as a province of Portugal and puts Valencia on the wrong side of Spain, while Dean Swift, in writing of Pennsylvania, declares that the cold winds from Hudson's Bay blow directly down upon it and render it one of the most inhospitable regions on the globe. This, however, is but a trifle in ignorance compared to that shown by Amelia B. Edwards, author of "Hand and Glove" who compares one of her characters to "an overseer on a Massachusetts cotton plantation." It should not be forgotten, however, that the densest ignorance in regard to American geography, politics and matters in general is very English, even Thackeray, who really liked America and Americans, making some exceedingly comical blunders when dealing with American topics, placing close together cities that are separated by a distance of hundreds of miles. But when the descent is made from the great writers to the small fry of literature, the density of ignorance becomes appalling. One has his hero take a run on the railroad train from New York to Chicago in one afternoon, as though the two were as close together as London and Margate, while another evidently believes New Orleans to be a suburb of Washington, and still another makes the Mississippi flow past the national capital into the Atlantic Ocean. These are the well-informed; those who do not pretend to knowledge of American topics dilate on the danger of the unwary being scalped by the Indians, if, too venturesome, they go out of sight of the stockades of Boston, and make their heroes hunt tigers in the jungles of Delaware.

The worst blunder along every line was the great dramatist whose name is at the head of every list of creative and imaginative writers, and one of the chief arguments against the theory of the Baconian origin of the immortal plays ought to be that it was impossible for a scholar like Bacon to make as many blunders as are found in the writings credited to Shakespeare. Among other things he alludes to cannon in the reign of King John, whereas these deadly implements did not come into use until 150 years after John had succumbed to the distress caused by the loss of his money and baggage during the war with the barons; he puts priating as early as the reign of Henry II., and speaks of a striking clock in the days of Julius Caesar. His Hector is familiar with the writings of Aristotle and his Coriolanus refers to Cato and incidentally also to Alexander. He fits up Cleopatra's palace with a billiard table, makes Bohemia a country with a sea coast and marine commerce; he regards Delphos as an island and places Naples and Tunis so far apart that none but a madman would attempt the voyage from one to the other. It is true that some freedom should be allowed a dramatist, and Shakespeare should not, therefore, be held to the same rigid accountability as a novelist of equal rank, if there were such a one but when a playwright, like Lee, speaks of Hannibal's men playing cards, or, like D'Urfey, makes the ancient Britons ridicule the Puritans, it seems as though a

line ought to be drawn somewhere, even if the play had to be cut.

But there are worse blunders than these to be found on the pages even of the authors of high repute. No writer in our literature stands higher than Chaucer, and yet, in the tale of Troilus, a narrative of an event supposed to take place at the siege of Troy, Pandarus, one of the characters, refers to Robin Hood as to an individual perfectly well known by those to whom he is speaking. So stupendous an anachronism seems impossible of occurrence, and yet it is but one of the many like it to be found on the pages of our earliest great poet. The temptation to work into a poem or imaginative narrative allusions to more recent times is almost irresistible. There are, indeed, few imaginative writers who take the trouble necessary to put themselves back in the time in which the tale they are contriving is supposed to happen, and, indeed, no little research is necessary in order to avoid such blunders as that just mentioned of Chaucer. Bad as this is, however, one made by Fletcher in his religio-heroic poem "Christ's Victory," is worse, for he describes the tempter as approaching the Redeemer in the garb of a monk, telling his beads and reciting his prayers as he slowly paced along. The plays of the last quarter of the seventeenth century are full of such blunders. In one, Dido speaks to Aeneas of a London cockney, in another, Alexander the Great in a battle with the Persians, laments the fact that his artillery did not arrive in time for the engagement.

The same period presents on the stage a number and variety of anachronisms that would make a scholar turn pale. Blunders of history and geography are too numerous to be noted, nor did they probably attract the least attention from the audience, for if the latter could tolerate the incongruities in costume that were constantly thrust on their notice, mistakes in historical matters could be easily overlooked. But the audiences of those days were far from critical; indeed, at even a much later age, the construing of the stage characters was a matter in which little or no attention was paid to antiquity, the actors wearing what they thought proper and the audience being satisfied to abide by the judgment of the stage people in the matter of dress as in everything else. So when an actor played the part of Aeneas in a cocked hat and knee-breeches, or when Cleopatra appeared on the stage in enormous hoops, or Coriolanus came in, dressed in a red coat and a plumed helmet, when Hannibal's army, arrayed as French soldiers, annihilated the Romans dressed in a nondescript military costume, by the help of an old field-piece borrowed from the junk yard for the evening, no one felt or seemed to feel any surprise whatever. In the matter of scenery, the playwrights of those days left much to the imagination of the audience, and so far as costume was concerned, when the people had been informed that the half dozen men on the stage represented an army, nothing more was deemed necessary.

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ALL THE NEWS OF ALL THE COLLEGES

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE.

At a meeting of the Canadian Church Missionary Association held last Thursday evening it was decided to send the Rev. W. J. Southam to Africa, and the Rev. T. B. R. Westgate to South America, as missionaries in these heathen lands.

Mrs. Robinson, wife of Prof. Robinson of Knox College, delivered an interesting lecture on missionary work in Egypt in the College last Friday evening.

Some thirteen Wycliffe students and three graduates returned from Cleveland last week, where they had been attending the Student Volunteer Convention in that city.

Mr. E. A. Langfeldt and Mr. E. R. James are both indisposed this week.

The second of a course of lectures was given at the Church of the Redeemer on Friday evening of last week by Rev. Prof. Ody, whose subject was "The Stately Homes in England." The lecture was illustrated by lime light views and was much enjoyed.

Preparations are being made for the annual meeting of the Students' Missionary Society on Tuesday evening, March 15th. The Bishop of Toronto will be in the chair and the Rev. Mr. Wallace, of St. James' Cathedral, will deliver an address. A report of the work of the Society will also be presented at this meeting.

The following Wycliffe men attended the S. V. Convention at Cleveland last week: Messrs R. J. M. Perkins, J. Gibson, E. A. Langfeldt, E. L. Howe, W. Simpson, W. A. McClean, A. R. Haslam, R. B. Patterson, W. Hunter, A. S. White, E. A. Rennie, C. W. Holdsworth, and G. P. Bentley. Among the grads were Rev. F. H. DuVernet, Rev. W. H. Sparks and Rev. W. McCann.

VETERINARY COLLEGE.

There are one hundred and sixty in the school at present. Several are going out to the Klondike in the spring. Lectures on now daily until 5 p.m.

Several leading public men have promised to attend the closing ceremonies of the school this year.

The Grits and Tories tried hard to capture a majority of the boys' votes in the recent Foy-Rogers election. Many who are not Canadian subjects could not vote.

A snowball contest took place the other day among the boys. The *Star* gave the boys a roast over it.

THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTES.

The rivalry in sports between Jarvis, Jameson and Harbord Collegiates is going to be keener than ever at the annual games this year. The board has voted \$200 for the games.

The old boys of Jarvis street are going to hold a social evening soon. Their annual meeting was held yesterday. Prof. Alfred Baker of Varsity was re-elected president.

A number of young men from the country come in on the train daily to Jameson avenue school.

More than half of the scholarships and honors at the last matriculation were captured by the three Collegiates, according to Chairman Dr. Ferguson's report presented to the board last night.

A great list of candidates for scholarships and honors are now in training at the three schools for the next matriculation.

Out of 36 teachers in the Collegiates, 30 of them are graduates of Varsity.

Young Orton of Jarvis street is going to rush things at this year's games. He is a brother of George Orton.

Billy Michell, the celebrated Osgoode Hall Rugby scrimmager, is teaching in Jarvis street. J. T. Shotwell, of Varsity, was teaching temporarily in Harbord street.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

Capt. Lee's military lecture in aid of the Rifle Corps, was well attended last Friday. Principal Parkin presided. Another lecture

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will be held next Friday. Mr. Bengough will lecture on the 18th.

Principal Parkin has returned from Ottawa, where he was the guest of the Governor-General.

The entire residence saw "them Wellingtons" beat College in the final hockey game for the city championship last Thursday.

Fred Rutter, trainer of College hockey team, and Biddy McGaw, nearly wept over the defeat.

Capt. Darling's pets will go down into history as the best aggregation of junior hockeyists College has turned out in years.

There is a small matriculation class this year.

Art Hills is going to Varsity next year.

The "A. T. O." will hold another dinner soon.

Cricket is going to be boom up here next season. The executive of the Club are going to look for a "pro," while Jack Counsell will help coach in June. Nine of last year's eleven are left.

OSGOODE HALL BRIEFS.

Arthur Hardy and Jack McMurrich were scrutineers in North Toronto, and assisted many 'Varsity Tories to take the "oath" before voting.

The students at the law school took a good deal of interest in the recent Hardy elections. Many went home to vote. Osgoode Q. Cs. by the score, took the stump for the parties. Ex-President Claude MacDonnell of the "Lit" and President John H. Moss of the Literary Society, were stumping in the city for the Tories and Grits. President Church, of the Athletic Association, spoke at over 30 meetings for the Conservatives in 6 ridings.

Albert Napoleon Cicero John Fraser Demosthenes Cyclone Hassard would teach the young orators of 'Varsity's "Lit" a thing or two. With Albert on the floor, what would a '98 Year Book debate be like?

Harvey German, the Osgoode lacrosse player, was sorry to see his old friend and partner J. W. St. John beaten. Harvey has deserted law for insurance.

"Rein" Wadsworth of '97 is practising law in Chicago.

Messrs. P. H. Drayton, E. Bayley, R. E. Kingsford and H. L. Dunn are the examiners for the spring exams.

Capt. Courtney Kingstone has resigned the captaincy of the Rugby Club, to which post he was re-elected for next year.

A. F. R. Martin, '96, president of the O. H. A., talks of going out to the coast to practise law.

"Joe" Atkinson, '99, has had a hard time talking conservatism, against the many 'Varsity liberals where he boards.

The Athletic Association elections are on now. Three directors are to be elected from each year. The annual meeting of the association will be held in the law school on Thursday. Polling day a week later.

B. B. Oaler, Q.C., lectured to the third year Friday, on "Practice."

R. F. MacWilliams, treasurer of the O. A. A., and H. A. Burbidge, secretary, are auditing Treasurer Ayre's Rugby football statement.

Tommy White, B.A. (Varsity), delivered an able lecture on "Assessment Law," last week before the Social Club.

O. E. Culbert, B.A., voted in Ottawa. Doc. expects to practise at the hospital.

Judgment has been given in favor of Fred Armstrong, in his action on a plumbing bill against the Athletic Association.

The hockey victory was very popular. The team had a photo taken last week.

Fred MacLennan is going to practise at Cornwall.

The Literary Society has closed down operations for the session.

The students' library is full of students these days, all making ready for the exams. Pat. Johnston, Q.C., M.P., is very regular in his attendance. He thinks the Hardy government ought to resign, as it's time, he says, "for a change."

It is expected that a large number of new students will enter the Law Society this May.

Several law students held down the posts of returning officers, poll clerks and other offices to which a little fee is attached, during the recent campaign.

The reading of statute law is causing some difficulty in exam. work. It is hard to procure a copy of the new Revised Statutes.

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