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# THE VARSITY

*A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.*

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No. 3.

## Editorial Comments.



HERE is much uncertainty existing at present as to what provision is to be made for the departments of Mineralogy and Geology. Until a week or two ago the students in those departments believed that adequate accommodation would be provided for them in the New Building which is to be erected at a cost of \$100,000—now, it is understood, that the New Building is to be devoted to Chemistry alone.

The men in Professor Chapman's department have been induced to smother their grievance for years past by promises of better quarters and brighter days. If those promises are not fulfilled, if no better provision is made for Geology than it has at present, the complaints will be broad and bitter.

The present accommodation is wretchedly inadequate. By the re-arrangement and re-adjustment of Lecture rooms and Laboratories in the School of Practical Science consequent on its completion, the students in the above mentioned departments have been deprived of their old place in this building and have been assigned one in the basement of the Biological Department.

Professor Chapman claims that his department has been persistently neglected by the Senate, greatly to the detriment of the students taking his course in Arts and Science. His old quarters in the School of Science were not what they should be by any means, being poorly equipped, difficult of access, and unhealthy in consequence of their being almost completely underground. His new quarters are little if any improvement on the old, being situated in the bottom flat of the New Biological Department.

The claims of the professor and the students in his course should receive the Senate's immediate attention—not because the Professor has been lecturing for thirty-eight years, nor because he has performed all duties devolving upon him satisfactorily, nor because he has shown a zeal which betokens love for the department over which he presides, but because it is of the highest importance to the University and to the Province and to themselves that the students in Mineralogy should be well and efficiently trained.

And of the three the claims of the students are the strongest—the University will outlive the charge of lopsided development, the Province can wait to have its mineral resources explored by later generations of students, but the man or woman who has taken an improperly equipped College course has suffered a loss incalculable and irreparable. And in him the Science has suffered. We hope that the claims of the students in Mineralogy will receive due attention.

The opinion of the students on the "cap and gown" question has been pretty thoroughly tested time and time again. About three-fifths of the men—and in the first year the percentage will be larger—are mildly in favor of adhering to the old custom. Those who do not wear it sometimes say that the gown is inconvenient, that it is not suited to the climate and the changed conditions of student life; and some offer the harsher objection that it isolates the students from the men and affairs of every day life, by giving an air of ostentation to the members of a profession that should not be ostentatious. And then of course there are the extremists on both sides—the one swears by the gown as the badge of an honored profession, the other swears at it as a relic of the time when learning wore long clothes. Still almost all the men wear academics at Convocation and on examination days, and a great many wear them at lectures; and the students are unanimous in one thing—in desiring that the matter be left to individual choice. The gownsmen do not want the custom made unpopular by an attempt to enforce it, and the great ungowned claim that their opinions should be tolerated and their wishes respected. There is no other unanimity in opinion—it is useless to expect it, there is no uniformity in action, and it is unwise to attempt to enforce it; but there is a quiet tolerance of both conservative custom and radical opinion which makes our life very comfortable and does not deprive us of the picturesque of either.

The whole question does not deserve as much attention as it has received. The best way to encourage the wearing of the gown is to provide lockers in which they may be kept, and the surest way to make the custom unpopular on all occasions is to attempt to enforce its observance on some.

We hope that the *Patres Conscripti* have no intention of returning to the paternal methods of government—at least to those methods which mark the relation of the *Pater* to infancy and early childhood.

We hope that they will be so much occupied with their task of providing for the efficient equipment of the Courses and the sufficient accommodation of the students that they will leave it to the men themselves to decide and provide what they shall eat and drink and wherewithal they shall be clothed. For if Rex is to be Lex, our forefathers have lived in vain, three centuries have faced to the right-about and our bodies belong to the enemy.

The graduates and undergraduates of the University of Toronto need no reminder of the gallant services of their companions and predecessors in the University, and the volunteers, when Fenian invaders crossed our frontier, and were so bravely repelled.

But there is one feature connected with the memory of the brave young soldiers who were included among those

who then laid down their lives in defence of the sacred soil of Canada. In his Inaugural Address, in the old Library Hall, on the 5th of October, the President, Sir Daniel Wilson, made the following appeal, which we cannot doubt will meet with a hearty response:—

“Among the effaced mementos of our own brief history as a University, I trust the graduates will recognize that a sacred duty devolves on them to replace the memorial window, which in the old Convocation Hall perpetuated the memories of those of our undergraduates whose lives were sacrificed in gallant defence of our Canadian frontier against Fenian invaders. The east window of the hall in which we now assemble has been reserved for its restoration there.”

The President, when speaking, pointed to the window overhead, filled manifestly with a mere temporary glazing, in contrast to the windows, with their colored glass on either side; but the noise of some students among the audience, we fear, rendered Sir Daniel's appeal inaudible.

### OCTOBER.

Royally vested, o'er the solemn wolds,  
When nature rests, the great ingathering done,  
Sweeping in robes of heather-purple folds,  
Diademed with fire-red rays of setting sun,  
October hastens, swift on Summer's track,  
To touch her rose-flushed cheeks with hue embrowned,  
To gird her robes for Winter's coming wrack,  
Whose earliest victims wither on the ground.  
Then veils he her in frosted mist and white,  
And, quick of mood, begins a wanton chase,  
Spurns all the fallen glories out of sight,  
With frolic, north-blow song and revelling face;  
Then shakes the branches, showers down the leaves,  
While for each dying flower some dryad grieves.

WOODSIDE, BERLIN.

J. KING.

### THE SEA NYMPHS.

“Come unto these yellow sands.”

Three moon-lit maidens  
Upon the beach,  
Treading a measure  
Just out of the reach  
Of the waves that greet  
With a kiss the strand  
Where they fain would meet  
On the golden sand  
The silver feet  
Of the maiden-band.

The moon-lit maidens  
Whose silver feet  
On the golden sand  
So airily beat,  
Are clad alone  
With the wealth of hair  
Around them strewn  
By the love-sick air,  
Which laughs at the moan  
Of the waves' despair.

The moon-lit maidens  
Whose wealth of hair  
Is wet with the wave  
That moaneth there,  
A figure form  
Of triple mould,  
And dance to warm  
Their white limbs cold,  
Which the waves by storm  
To their breast would fold,

Varsity, Dec. 22, 1888.

### WHAT WE OWE TO THE SEMITES.

In this nineteenth century when everything seems to move faster, when science is taking such mighty strides onward, where art and literature are so highly cultivated, we are prone to overlook and forget what we owe to generations long since mouldered back to the dust whence our race has sprung. We are accustomed to contrast ourselves, possessed as we are of so many benefits, with the ages of the past, and from such comparison to draw the conclusion that our forefathers were savages--nay more, were the missing links of Darwinian philosophy. Hence from such a conclusion it very naturally suggests itself to our minds that we far exceed them in mental calibre, in power of brain; and to such an extent is this true that we are accustomed to hear our age spoken of as the brain age. In such a comparison and such an estimate I think we err in judgment; we lose sight of the fact that we are building upon the foundations laid long ago; and should ever keep in mind that it is easier to improve and complete than to invent and produce at first. It is quite true that we possess modes of travel which put to shame in regard of speed the Caravan or ship of Tarshish; yet without these earlier and slower forms we would never have possessed the palatial “greyhounds” or through expresses of to-day. The world is more nearly joined together I admit; to circle it is no longer an exploit to be heralded at courts and boasted by descendants; it is to-day but a summer excursion; our arts and sciences are so nearly perfect that their rude beginnings are almost lost to sight in the mists of tradition, are subjects alone for archaeological cranks and other fanatics. Let us not forget however in our admiration of the present to suitably honor the past ever, holding as our motto in this respect, “tribute to whom tribute is due.” To whom then are we indebted for these benefits and whence derive we them? In answer to this question, I think, we must admit that we are in a large measure in the debt of the Semites for them, and the Semites owe them chiefly to the Babylonians and Phœnicians. In treating of a subject such as the present I will not make any particular mention of the derivation of our religion. “Salvation is of the Jew,” and the debt we must owe the Semites, if this were alone what we have derived from them, is indeed very great. But there are other things in which they have led the way for us to follow. And first we will look at the question of writing. Our alphabet was and is even yet supposed by many to be Egyptian in its origin. But that this derivation of it is hardly to be accepted is now pretty definitely proven. Its source without doubt is through the Phœnician (to which step all will agree) without doubt from the Manæans. This people who inhabited Southern Arabia, some twenty centuries before the Christian Era, developed an alphabet quite distinct from that of the Egyptians, while displaying all the peculiarities both in sound and name found in the Phœnician. For instance the first letter “Aleph” represents in Manean an ox's head and bears the name “Aleph.” It is now therefore no longer necessary to draw as strongly, as some of us have had to do, on our imaginations to find supposed resemblances between the Phœnician letters and freehand drawings of the ornithological remains of Upper Egypt.

Such is one of the greatest debts we owe to them, but there are others hardly less important on which we will however but briefly touch.

And first we find, in the subject of art and science, the earliest examples amongst the Babylonians. Here first sprang into existence the sciences of astrology, weights, measures and such like. Here too are found mathematics and phonetics, in their incipient stages. These of course were vastly improved upon by the Phœnecians and others and spread by them, but their origin is distinctly Semitic. Here too in the valley of the Euphrates forty-five hundred years before Christ we find human forms, grotesque it is true as first attempts are necessarily, chiselled in the rock. Here sculpture and architecture first sprang into being, afterwards to grow to the stature of perfection under the master hands of Greek and Roman geniuses.

Turning to our own Era we find that in the literary world we are again in the debt of our Semitic brethren.

During the middle ages when scholastic philosophy held sway, Aristotle was once more introduced by means of a Latin translation of an Arabic translation of his works. Stored up by the Arabs through several centuries once more his works sprang anew into life, and have since held their place and influence throughout modern Europe.

In regard of sculpture and architecture I need but mention the sojourn of the Moors in Spain. We have but to read the description of the Alhambra, to picture to ourselves all its oriental gorgeousness, in order fully to appreciate the influence the Moors must have exercised in that line.

There is, in closing, but one people to whom I wish to call attention—the Phœnecians, and in no better way can I give an idea of the influence they must have necessarily exercised on the Aryan races, chiefly through the medium of the Greeks, than by giving a short sketch of their characteristics. They were the foremost miners, metal-workers and glass blowers of their day. They were the boldest mariners of the ancient world; the first to leave the coast and to steer by the polar star. They opened up, before any others, the darkest parts of Europe, Asia and Africa. They were the first systematic colonists and traders, and set an example such that it has born abundant fruit even to our own day.

While the rest of the world was sunk in despotism they could boast of a form of government almost constitutional, and gave proof to the nations, that as much could be gained by the peaceful means of art, trade and commerce as by war, bloodshed and rapine. Such an example must needs have had its weight. Greece acknowledged its influence and this influence extends even to our present day. However much we are advanced we must never forget that we owe much to the past and of the nations of the past preëminently to the Semites.

D. MCGEE.

#### THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY.

The first literary meeting of the Classical Society was held on Tuesday afternoon, Prof. Hutton in the chair. After an essay from W. P. Reeve on Greek and Roman civilizations, Prof. Hutton gave an interesting address. Messrs. Stoddart and Wains were elected councillors, and R. A. Shore treasurer.

An electric swing for the World's Fair will carry twenty-four people and swing a distance of 900 feet.

#### MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The attention of the new students is drawn to the Modern Language Club, which is to hold its first meeting at four o'clock on Monday, October 26, in the Hall of the Y. M. C. A. The subject of the first meeting will be "American Humorists," and the programme will consist of papers and readings, the full announcement of which will be posted on the bulletin board early this week.

The meetings are held weekly, and are devoted to profitable and interesting subjects in English, French and German. At the close of each meeting time will be allowed for open discussion on the topic of the afternoon, and for conversation in French and German, when these languages are under consideration. A special effort will be made this year to make the conversation of profit and interest to the members of the lower years. It is scarcely necessary to point out the advantages to be derived from connection with such an institution.

All students are invited to the first meeting, and those who desire to become members will hand in their names to any old member of the Club.

#### To the Editor of THE VARSITY:—

There is one department of Natural Sciences in Toronto University that is not properly equipped with apparatus, nor has it sufficient accommodation with regard to space, considering the number of students taking the work. I refer to the department of Mineralogy and Geology. With an able Professor and a competent Fellow, with six students of the Fourth Year, taking this special course, exclusively, with twelve Third Year students and between twenty and thirty Second Year students, all required, according to a formidable curriculum, to spend a specified number of hours in practical work in this department, we find at the beginning of this academic year actually no laboratory available, nothing but a bare room down below in the Biological building.

The old laboratory in the School of Practical Science was required for other purposes, and on this account had to be given up. Sufficient provision was not made for Science students of the University, but it was suggested that they perform their practical work under the supervision of the Professor of the School of Science—a plan neither satisfactory nor practicable. We have our special work according to the curriculum. We have a professor and a Fellow to direct this work, and they are the only ones who know what is required, and are willing to give the students the necessary instruction.

It would appear that this department is not considered an important one. In reply let the following quotation from the "Report of the Royal Commission on the Mineral Resources of Ontario," page 415, under the heading "Technical Instruction," suffice: "The witnesses examined by the Commission are almost unanimous in the opinion that there is great need of technical instruction in all operations relating to mining and metallurgical industries of the Province. . . . Time and means are often wasted in searching for the precious and economic minerals through districts where there are none, and where nature never designed that any should be. Some knowledge of the geology of the country, and of rocks and minerals and their relation to each other, is of obvious advantage to the prospector; and if he is also able to use the blow-pipe or make the ordinary tests for metals, his quest cannot fail to be infinitely more satisfactory than it could be without such knowledge, and he may be saved from much disappointment and loss."

Surely prompt action should be taken in this matter in order that science students may receive the proper instruction in this department; while apart from their needs, Professor Chapman, as one of the oldest and best known of the Faculty, deserves better treatment than he has received.

GEOLOGIST.

# The Varsity

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BY

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OCTOBER 20. 1891.

## THE LITERARY SOCIETY.



ONCE more in the history of our great University has assembled, on the night of the 16th of October, that great and influential body, that learned that august body, that society of nature's own orators whose utterances lend lustre to the fame of Canada and assuredly settle the political destinies of the New World.

We refer to our Literary.

The attendance at the first meeting of this term on Friday night was very encouraging, the hall being more than filled. Shortly after eight o'clock the new President, Mr. H. E. Irwin, B.A., entered, and upon advancing to the chair was accorded a very hearty welcome. Mr. Irwin spoke a few words referring to the individual advantage to be derived from the Society, and exhorting the members to try to make it a success since they have a record to maintain.

Proceeding to business the President explained that the minute book had not yet returned to College, but he believed it was on the way. Hence accordingly the first order of business was suspended. The others were soon disposed of and the literary programme commenced. The Glee Club being called upon responded with becoming modesty after a few minutes. Mr. Parks, however, actively resisted any attempts to escort him to the piano. They sang that piece the chorus of which goes "Then blow ye winds," and came within a hair's breadth of getting an encore.

Mr. Graham did credit to himself and to the Society by his interpretation of "Lasca." In response to an encore he gave "The Old Man and Jim." You will be a star elocutionist, "Murphy," if you "take keer o' youself."

The debate, like all our debates, was the occasion of many arguments and of some high flights in oratory. If Cicero or Demosthenes or Burke or Bright had been there

wouldn't they have felt cheap? The debate was: Resolved, —That Independence is better as a future for Canada than Annexation. Following we give a few detached selections from each of the speeches. The affirmative was led by Mr. J. H. Lamont. He said that if we were free and independent "our flag would float on countless ships carrying our produce to all parts of the earth." The speaker said we had reached maturity and had sufficiently advanced in the field of self-government to become an independent nation. He referred to the immensity of our resources, to our railway, canal, educational and other systems which were unsurpassed, and that we were thus in a position for Independence. He maintained that Independence and Free Trade were adapted for securing the two things we wanted—population and capital. When Mr. Lamont was speaking of the numbers who were leaving Canada and was asking why it was, a *marine* voice exclaimed "Sir John," which brought down the house. The leader further said that in treaties under Annexation our interests would materially suffer, that under Independence there would be fostered a decided national sentiment, etc., etc.

Mr. Perrin, leader of the negative, said there were many objections to Independence—that we were nearly independent now, that our foreign credit would be diminished, that a standing army would become a necessity, that the public debt is already very large, that "Canada contains the elements of her own dissolution" through the rivalry of the French and English races, that we have no distinct national characteristics, that Free Trade only meant Annexation, and that we wanted the American capital to develop our mines, etc., etc.

Mr. Knox followed, supporting Mr. Lamont. He thought we didn't want to be dragged into the solution of problems arising out of the foreign element in the United States, which consisted mainly of the "riff-raff" of Europe. We didn't want to have to deal with the Negroes or the Mormons, who bid fair to engulf the Western States and set up a capital at San Francisco. Mr. Knox referred to the immorality in the United States as a reason for steering clear of Annexation. Moreover, with Independence we would get rid of the Governor-General—a needless bill of expense.

Mr. J. H. Brown, '94, followed, in a somewhat nervous condition, taking up Mr. Knox's points, one by one, and endeavoring to demolish them. He mentioned the immorality in Canadian politics. He thought, contrary to Mr. Knox, that the negroes were decreasing (relatively) instead of increasing rapidly.

Mr. Lamont, in a short reply, said that northern countries never had united successfully with southern, that our geographical position is favorable to Independence, that, as regards capital, Independence and Free Trade would be equally as good as Annexation, that we needn't fret yet about a standing army, that if we had Independence we would have a rallying point round which to gather.

Between Independence, Free Trade and Annexation some of us got all tangled up. The President preferred, for several reasons, not to give a decision, so none was given. A letter was read from Mr. Badgerow, father of the late Geo. A. Badgerow, expressing his feelings towards the students for their kindly expressions of sympathy. Also another letter from McGill, desiring to have an inter-collegiate debate this term; and one from Queen's, to the same effect.

Mr. Peter White was disappointed that no action was taken to transfer the athletic games to Rosedale, as he had come to the Literary for the express purpose of opposing any such measure. The Society stumbled around for a few minutes, and then passed a motion recommending the General Committee to call a mass meeting of the students in the near future to make preparations for the fall games.

Mr. N. M. Duncan was elected as a representative on THE VARSITY from the year of '95. The Society then disbanded upon singing the National Anthem.

## CHANGES IN THE FACULTY.

Mr. W. S. Milner, B.A., who has just been appointed Lecturer in Latin, received his early training in Upper Canada College, where he was equally distinguished for Classics and Mathematics. In the University he chose Classics for his special course and won the Gold Medal in a particularly good year—a year noted in College annals for the production of the *Antigone*. After graduating Mr. Milner was for a time Classical master in the London Collegiate Institute, and then returned to Toronto to study medicine. But his fondness for teaching prevailed, and, accepting the classical mastership in Lindsay, he taught there with success for several years, when he was persuaded to join the exodus, taking the position of head of the Latin Department, in the Hill School, at Pottstown, near Philadelphia, one of the great Classical schools of the United States. To have left a lucrative position for his present appointment is a proof of patriotism to his Province and devotion to his *Alma Mater* that bodes well for Mr. Milner's success, already assured by his high attainments in classical scholarship, and his personal worth.

## MEDICAL NOTES.

On Friday night was held the first meeting of the University of Toronto Medical Society. At 8 o'clock the President, Dr. Peters, took the chair, and in his speech, which was the opening address of the session, and his first as President, gave evidence of his fitness for the position, and of his great interest in the welfare and advancement of the Society. During the years in which his predecessor, Dr. Ferguson, occupied that position, the Society grew and flourished; it is expected that it will during the coming year do even better, if that be possible.

A noticeable feature of the meeting was the appointment of Dr. J. M. McCallum to the position of Fellow in Pathology. This position is one instituted by the Society, who pay their appointee an annual salary. Dr. Ferguson, who suggested the idea, and was the principal in bringing it about, deserves much credit, as well as the boys who so cheerfully pay him.

Another very pleasing feature was the music rendered by Messrs. Wakefield and Coulter. Who can sing "Marguerite" with greater power and pathos? Mr. Harper's address was admirably given and well received. It is to be hoped his suggestions will be planted in each bosom and bear fruit "an hundred-fold."

Petitions! petitions!! petitions!!! We think Mr. Bruce deserves much credit for his assiduity. It is certainly a splendid medium by means of which to obtain our rights and desires. It would seem as though one had, like the Indian juggler's seed, been planted, sprouted, grown, blossomed, and borne fruit while watching it. We refer to the one having reference to Dr. Peters' appointment. However, we must say we do not very heartily sympathize with the movement projected by the other. We think it is needless and useless. Dr. John Caven, in a lecture the other day, remarked that the post mortem room showed that not over fifty per cent. of diagnoses were correct. If that be so, it is not to be wondered at that our professors' diagnoses are sometimes shown to be wrong and false by the pathologist. The same would happen—and should, if that be true, in the natural order of things,—whether Dr. Caven made the post mortem or not. A better way would be, we think, for the professor to personally attend the post mortem on his own patient, and if any injustice is being done he is there to correct it. It really seems to be a matter of very little moment who performs the post mortem.

The students of the third year are well pleased at the prospect of getting three bedside clinics a week this year. It is as many as they can reasonably expect. The recent

appointments made by the Senate are very satisfactory in every particular, and all are pleased. But the Senate did not go far enough. They certainly, in our opinion, should not have overlooked Dr. Avison, than whom a more deserving man, or one better liked by the students, does not exist on the teaching staff. Why is he not made professor in his department? That is a question for the Senate's consideration.

We hope next week to contribute an article on the present state of affairs in our department, and the outlook for the future. We have not time just now. We will merely say, however, that the final men are lonesome without the primary men. No scraps, no elevation, no dissecting-room, no freshmen!—what could be more calculated to sadden the heart? But the primary fellows are delighted with their new quarters and the character of their work, and hope to get at their dissecting next week. A glance into a couple of well-filled vats has informed us that they have good material, and, it is hoped, plenty of it.

Next Saturday night the Y.M.C.A. intend holding a special meeting, missionary in spirit, literary in character. All the students are invited to attend. Those spoken of as being invited are: Rev. Dr. Kellogg, S. H. Blake, Rev. Mr. McLaren, Rev. A. M. Phillips, Miss Agnes Knox, elocutionist, and others. These are expected to take part. There will be plenty of music by some of the best talent in the city.

E. E. H.

## SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

Lectures opened in the School of Science last week, and by this time most of the departments are in full working order. Nearly all the men in the upper years in Engineering are back, and are settling down to the routine of another year's work. As for the new men, the increase in number is surprising, and unfortunately the accommodation for the large First Year is much too small. There are already almost seventy men registered in the First Year, while there is accommodation in the draughting room for not more than fifty. Consequently the remainder of the number is supplied with draughting tables in the senior rooms, which arrangement, as may be seen, is very inconvenient. As far as can be ascertained, the majority of the new men are taking the courses in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering; not a few the Architectural course; while the rest are to distinguish themselves in Civil Engineering.

It may not be generally known that there has been another year added to the courses in Engineering. This year, so says the calendar, is to be known as the "Fourth Year," though not constituting a year of the course required for graduation. As yet very little is known respecting this new year's work, except what may be found in glancing over the formidable array of subjects as set down in the calendar, and, as no one has yet presented himself for the course, it appears as if we were to remain in ignorance of the virtues of the new departure.

The Colors!—Have the Arts and Medical men been wondering what college boasted the white, blue and gold colors? If they have, let them understand and take notice that the said colors are solely the property of the Engineers of the School of Science. Many will remember the efforts which of late years have been made to obtain a distinguishing mark for the Engineering men, and what success these efforts have attained. The distinctive colors of the School are blue and gold, as designed on the shield by Prof. Chapman in 1878, when the institution was incorporated. It was decided last spring to make another attempt to rouse general interest in the subject, and with that object the matter was taken up by the Engineering Society, which granted a deposit preparatory to ordering the ribbon from England. A committee was

appointed to act in the matter, and consequently the result is seen this fall. The arrangement of the colors on the ribbon is certainly odd, but tasteful withal, and, as far as known, is giving general satisfaction.

As usual, the upper years did very little work in the building the first week of the term on account of the "Vacation Work," which was required to be handed in by the 8th of October. For this the "old thief, procrastination," is to blame, in that many of the men leave their vacation work in thesis and construction notes until the last of the vacation term, and are consequently hurried during the first week of the ensuing session.

A special meeting of the Engineering Society was held last Tuesday in Dr. Ellis' lecture room. The meeting was called at the request of the president for the purpose of recognizing by a suitable means the sad loss sustained by the death of our late ex-president, Mr. J. K. Robinson, '91. There was a large and representative attendance at the meeting. A letter of sympathy to the bereaved widow was read by Mr. Goodwin, and on motion of Messrs. Lea and Laing it was resolved that a copy be sent as soon as possible. The meeting was then adjourned.

An informal meeting of the class of '92 was held in Lecture Room No. 1, at 12 o'clock Friday last. The object was to take steps to form a class organization. The only business transacted was the appointment of Messrs. Laing, Anderson and White as a committee to draft a constitution and inquire into the business management of former organizations in Engineering.

Where are the men of '91? This might be an interesting question to many around college. By '91 in this case is meant the "grads" in Engineering. As far as we can learn the twelve who left our presence last spring are well scattered. Mr. J. E. McAllister is in the offices of the Dominion Bridge Co. in Montreal. Mr. Beatty is down on the Ottawa. Mr. Dill is engaged in the City Engineer's office in Brantford, and reports favorably. Mr. Deacon is on a survey party in the wildernesses of Algoma, and when last heard of was subsisting on white fish and hardtack, but enjoying himself withal. Mr. Dunbar is in an engineering office in Chicago as draughtsman. We have not heard from Mr. Symmes yet, but wherever he is no doubt he is at least enjoying himself; at last reports he was down in New Brunswick. Mr. Lane is hard at work in the City Engineer's office in West Toronto. Mr. Silvester is with G. R. Mickle, B.A., '88 (S.P.S.), in mining work in Port Arthur. Mr. W. Russel has been engaged in railway work in the north all summer. Mr. J. E. A. Moore is with the engineering corps of the C.P.R. in Western Ontario, and is at present engaged in running the construction levels of the main line from Toronto west. Mr. Newman is engaged in municipal work near Point Pelee.

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

We are much pleased with the state of our subscription lists. They indicate a large increase over the circulation of other years, which is doubtless due to the successful management of last year and the increasing confidence of the students.

But there is still much to be hoped for. Until the paper is taken by every undergraduate of the University of Toronto, until it is felt by every student and recent graduate that THE VARSITY is peculiarly and especially his own paper, the proper field of the paper has not been completely filled.

Our list of subscribers among the graduates is not as large as we could desire, and even our list of the Faculty is not complete, but we hope that in a few days our graduate connection will be strengthened and the gaps in the Faculty list filled up.

Of the undergraduates '94 is at present ahead, and the juniors are in a fair way to be distanced, but there may be

peculiar circumstances which have prevented '93 from sending in their names.

This week's issue is the last which will be sent to other than regular subscribers, and it is desirable that the list should be complete as soon as possible.

Arrangements are being made whereby the Medical School and the School of Practical Science will have certain columns of the paper definitely devoted to their interests each week, and we hope these arrangements will prove entirely satisfactory.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me space to offer a few remarks on your article on "Examinations" in last week's paper? In discussing the very noticeable increase in the number of those plucked and starved in the first and second years you suggest that a sudden and undue raising of the standard in these years was the reason of the extraordinary number of failures. I have no objection to make to that—it may or it may not be so. I merely wish to draw your attention and that of your readers to what appears to me to be another, and perhaps not less important, factor in producing this state of affairs.

One result of the tendency to specialization in the University is the decrease in the amount of attention paid to the so-called "pass" work. By most "special" or "honor" students this "pass" work is considered as a necessary evil—as something that has to be done, not for its own intrinsic value, but because it is laid down in the curriculum as obligatory. This view of the usefulness of the "pass" work is in itself a partial explanation of the general low stand taken in this work. But one might very easily look upon it in such a light, and still make a fair pass; in fact, the great majority of students do. But there is another attitude of mind in which this pass work may be approached. The undergraduate may recognize the difficulties, and resolve to do his utmost to master them. If he does his best in the pursuit of this resolve, the chances are all in his favor, and in most cases success will crown his efforts. If, on the contrary, the beginning of the term finds him perfectly sure that he cannot possibly pass, and that it is not worth wasting time over, the result will no doubt be disastrous. There are, of course, exceptions to this rule, but the general principle holds.

Now, it strikes me that many of last year's freshmen and sophomores owe their failure to the feeling I have last described. They have anticipated failure in the fall term; they have resigned themselves to their fate, and the spring has brought them even worse than they thought. "Oh, I am no good in that subject; I am going to take a star in it," was a statement repeated times without number. Herein lay the trouble: too many entered upon their year's work with minds made up to take a star in one subject, and consequently not to work on it. As time went on they gradually began to look with equanimity on the thought of two or even three stars, hoping that they would get their honors in the spring, write off their "stars" at the supplementals and go on swimmingly thereafter. Is it any wonder that such were plucked outright? In fact, is it fair to those honor students who do put conscientious work on their pass work that another man should be able to shirk all or most of his pass work, and thus have seven months almost entirely for his honor work while the former has seven for both honor and pass combined? This may account for the fact that honor men are allowed only one star. But I must not trespass on your space, Mr. Editor, only I wish to protest against this too common practice of taking "stars," and to hope that the experience of the last examinations may serve as a warning to future years.

I am yours truly,

STUDENT.

Sir Isaac Newton wore, mounted in a ring, a magnet which could raise 250 times its own weight.

## Athletic Notes.

## 'VARSITY vs. TRINITY (RUGBY).

'Varsity played her first tie match with Trinity, on the grounds of the latter, on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 15th.

The students turned out *en masse* to witness the contest, and noticeable among the great crowd was a four-in-hand, containing over twenty men, mainly from the college Residence, which arrived shortly before the game commenced.

Each occupant of the large "drag" was armed with a fish horn, and all carried streamers of blue and white, the whole turnout making a pretty spectacle and bringing fear to the hearts of more than one ardent backer of Trinity.

The 'Varsity team preceded the four-in-hand to the scene of the fight, and when the procession arrived there were nearly 1,000 people on the grounds, mostly made up of students, interspersed with many representatives of the fair sex.

All through the game it was apparent that the supporters of the blue and white were in the majority, and the incessant shouts of 'V-A-R-S-I-T-Y, mingled with the inspiring notes of the fish horns, completely drowned the frequent but weak shouts of *Rouge et Noir* rendered by Trinity's admirers.

At about 3.45 'Varsity lined up as follows: Back, McQuarrie; half-backs, Bunting (Capt.), Parkyn, Gilmour; quarter back, Smith; wings, Laidlaw, Cross, Bain, Clays, Moss, Parker and N. Lash; scrumage, M. Lash, McMillan and McRae. Referee, Mr. E. Bayly.

'Varsity, having won the toss, kicked off with a strong wind blowing almost straight across the field. A combined rush immediately resulted in a touch-in goal for 'Varsity. Score, 1 to 0 in our favor.

After the kick out, Parker got what looked like a touch, but which was not allowed on account of an off-side play, for which Trinity obtained a free kick. So far fortune was with us, but the red and black now managed to work the ball close onto 'Varsity's goal line, and only by splendid play was the leather gradually forced down the field again, Moss being instrumental in the relief. Slowly but surely play was forced towards our opponents' fortress when Parkyn made a good flying kick which resulted in a rouge. Score, 2 to 0. After the kick out, Clays and Cross made a combined run, the latter player kicking into Trinity's touch behind the goal. Score, 3 to 0. Once more the ball was kicked out, and almost immediately Smith obtained a touch, but no try was allowed. This ended the first half with the score 7 to 0 in favor of 'Varsity.

After about ten minutes, play was resumed, Trinity in turn kicking off with the wind slightly in their favor. Mainly through the splendid play of Smith and Gilmour, the ball was worked back on Trinity's lines. Parkyn made a good drop on goal but missed by a few feet, a rouge resulting. Score, 8 to 0. The same player repeated this shortly afterwards, the wind alone preventing a goal, and another rouge was added to 'Varsity's score. Again, precisely the same play was made by the big half-back, and again a rouge was scored. Some open play was then indulged in, after which M. Lash got a touch close to Trinity's goal, but the kick resulting therefrom failed to add to the score, leaving it 14 to 0. The ball was then rapidly kicked up and down the field, the two backs, Grout and McQuarrie, doing some grand punting, the latter stopping a rush by Trinity by falling on the ball among a forest of feet, and preventing the wild-men-from-the-west from scoring. Gilmour then made the run of the day and obtained a touch for his effort. The wind again prevented a goal being kicked, the score then standing 18 to 0. Only twice during this half did Trinity manage to transfer the play beyond the centre of the field, and just before time was called McQuarrie was forced to rouge, the red and black saving themselves from a white-wash.

It would be beyond the power of anyone to individualize 'Varsity's players, each and every one playing a splendid game, noticeable for team-play, showing the effect of good management, and reflecting due credit on Mr. Armour, as well as on the men who bore the brunt of the contest, and on the captain.

Trinity placed the strongest team on the field which ever graced their campus, and they worked hard to the last.

'Varsity's forward line was grand, and Smith's passing, backed up by the good work of the half backs, made the game well worth going many miles to witness.

Noticeable throughout was the splendid work of the opposing full-backs, and neither's game could be much improved upon.

Trinity play a return match on the 'Varsity lawn on Saturday, Oct. 24th, and if the upholders of the blue and white succeed in coming out successful, Queen's will be played here on the 31st inst.

## VARSITY vs. SCOTS.

Misfortune has indeed followed close on the steps taken by the Association team to win the championship of the city. The strength of this eleven was an unknown quantity until the last moment. The services of last year's left wing was hoped for, but these expectations were not realized, as the above players found it impossible to be on hand. Merrill, who was severely injured in practice, had not recovered, and his place was taken by Mr. Wright, who materially strengthened the defence by his most valuable assistance. Much speculation and comparison of the strength of the opposing teams had been indulged in prior to Saturday's game. The excitement at times during the play was most intense, and the encouragement liberal, as 'Varsity's path to championship honors was to be trodden only through the defeat of the Scots. Cameron played half-back, checking closely and kicking with good judgment. Ketchum was a surprise to many, and with experience will certainly be a valuable addition to the team. Too much could not be said of Mr. Wright's play at back, in whose every kick there was strength and encouragement. Goldie at half was as reliable as ever. Dewar and Govanlock filled their respective positions with credit.

## THE GAME.

The Scots kicked off with a rush towards Varsity goal, but this was repulsed by our defence who passed to the forwards and the Scots' citadel was assailed. The ball was brought to the mouth of the goal and a score was certain, when Arnott, the back, with his hand struck the ball beyond the reach of the attacking forwards. A foul was immediately claimed, but the referee, Mr. Starr, did not see the offence, and the Scots kicked off from the goal. The Varsity forwards, who had been so ruthlessly deprived of a certain goal, made a determined and successful attack, the parting shot being delivered by Ketchum. The play for the rest of the time was in favor of Varsity, but no goals were scored.

The Scots pressed in the second half, and before Varsity could recover from its surprise had scored two goals. The prospect was dark, but the forwards set to work with a grim determination that has won honor for the college many a time. The right wing carried the ball right through the Scotch defence, when Hooper, dodging the back, shot the second goal, evened the score, and saved Varsity from defeat. For the rest of the time the Scots were continually compelled to kick in to touch. Varsity forwards played all around them, raining shot after shot on their goal. Before Varsity could raise the score the whistle blew and the Scots had won the championship of the city by the narrow margin of one point.

## NOTICE.

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

## 'MIDST THE MORTAR BOARDS.

Coaching in Mathematics and Physics of all years. Address K, University College.

The general meeting of the Association Football Club was held in the Y.M.C.A. on Friday, the 16th, at 4 o'clock.

K Company is making a zealous attempt to present a good appearance this year, and a new recruit class is now being formed.

The Reception Committee of the Y.M.C.A. feel deeply indebted to the ladies who so kindly assisted in furnishing the means of entertainment at their last reception.

A party of Residence students attended the Trinity vs. Varsity game on Thursday in a four-in-hand. The presence of the drag did much to concentrate the applause of the Varsity men.

The political condition of the country is making itself felt in the Varsity. Verily, there is "something rotten in the state of Denmark," for there is, both in French and German, a *Section B*.

The annual meeting of the class of '94 will be held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall on Tuesday, the 20th, at 4 o'clock. The business to be transacted is the election of the class officers for the coming year. A large attendance of members of the year is requested.

Conflicting lectures are still the order of the day. Instead of matters being better than they were last week they seem to be worse. Students find themselves with three and four lectures coming off at the same hour, and the "curses are not loud but deep."

The ordinary weekly meeting of the Y.M.C.A. took place on the 15th at 5 o'clock. The matter before the meeting was the reports of the delegates to the summer school at Northfield. The reports were very instructive and were much appreciated by those present.

Rugby foot-ball occupies much attention at present. We notice that the Rugby men are so zealously practising foot-ball that they now turn out at 6.30 a.m. on the lawn. Such ardor and zeal is commendable. It is earnestly to be wished that the result of this practice may be that the Varsity will once more be champions.

Class matches in Association foot-ball are commencing to be spoken of again. The Mathematical men of '94 are understood to be desirous of mopping the ground with the Modern Language men of the same year. The

match will probably take place some time soon. The Political Science men of the same year will likely take a try at the victorious team.

Ninety-five is commencing to stir itself and take an interest in Varsity affairs. A meeting of the year was held in the Y.M.C.A. on Wednesday, the 14th, at 4 o'clock. Mr. N. M. Duncan was appointed as the first year representative on THE VARSITY directorate. The question of forming a class society was also considered, and it was determined to hold a meeting for the election of officers early next week.

Last Tuesday afternoon, Chief Ardagh, with a detachment of the fire brigade, tested the water pressure at the newly laid hydrants on the lawn. The results were far from satisfactory, the ordinary pressure registering but fifty-four pounds, at which stream a fire in the upper storey might bid defiance, and even when the high pressure station was signalled the force was quite inadequate, as the stream barely reached the ridge of the roof.

The Glee Club has arisen from its nap, and once more it will begin to practice. It will meet for practice on Friday, the 16th, at 4 p.m., in the Y.M.C.A. A good attendance is requested. It is also of note that a new departure is to occur this year. All those possessed of banjos and guitars are requested to bring them along. It is intended to form a club. It is to be hoped that this undertaking will prove successful, as similar musical clubs have been a marked success in American universities. We have the material; all that is needed is practice.

The notice boards in the corridors are much in demand these days; and many are the conflicting lectures. The look upon the face of the man who finds that he has three honor lectures coming off at the same hour is a study. One of the most peculiar features of the time-table mix was that of two honor classical lectures in the second year occurring at the same hour. Rumor has it that '95 is very much exercised over the vagaries of the time-table; in fact it is reported that one of "the gentlemen of the first year" roamed into the Registrar's office and asked for a time-table.

Ninety-four has distinguished itself again, and in a very commendable way. They have just issued a year book containing the poems, orations, prophecies and histories given at the various meetings of the class society during the year '90-91. The book also contains the constitution of the class society, and a list of its duly qualified members. The book is got up in an attractive manner, and reflects great credit upon its compilers. It is understood that it is something new for class societies to issue year books; if so, then it is to be hoped

that it will not be so in future, as such a book is a very pleasant memento.

A rather amusing scene took place on the lawn the other day. A stalwart member of THE VARSITY staff, who hails from the third year, was playing football, and happened to be struck somewhat severely in the face by the ball. He stopped playing for a little while to recover from the effects of the blow; soon a somewhat verdant member of '95, whom for obvious reasons we shall christen *Rex*, roamed over and, addressing the Junior by name, inquired if he were hurt. He then continued, "You know me, of course. My name is *Rex*; I come from Berlin; my father is Senator *Rex*." So much for senatorial freshmen.

MR. BARNES OF NEW YORK.—The management of the Grand Opera House, alive to the wants of its numerous patrons, have made special arrangements with Mr. Frank W. Sarger, of the Broadway Theatre, New York city, whereby the popular and romantic drama "Mr. Barnes of New York" will be seen for three nights and Saturday matinee, commencing Thursday, Oct. 22. Mr. A. C. Gunter, the favorite novelist and dramatist, has been, by the public press throughout the United States, highly praised for the meritorious and interesting work he has developed in "Mr. Barnes of New York." This engagement of "Mr. Barnes of New York" promises to surpass that of many dramatic engagements seen in Toronto for a long time.

"FOR WAYS THAT ARE DARK."

The following conversation, carried on by two of the ladies of the upper years, was overheard in the corridors last week:—

"Are you going to the hazing on Saturday afternoon?"

"Hazing! what hazing?"

"Why we have asked the girls of the First Year to a reception, and we are going to give them refreshments consisting of cakes of our own making."

O shades of departed muftis! Did ye ever conceive of a more exquisite torture for the most criminal Freshman than this! No! such refinement of torture could only emanate from the subtle brain of woman!

"A CHIEL."



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