

James Buchner
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COLLEGE TOPICS



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

Vol. I.

TORONTO, JANUARY 25TH, 1898.

No. 10

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McGILL VS. VARSITY.

ANNUAL DEBATE IN CONSERVATORY HALL FRIDAY EVENING—THE PROGRAMME.

Once in two years the members of the Varsity Literary Society and their friends have the pleasure of hearing the annual debate between the representatives of McGill and of old Varsity. Only twice in his undergraduate course does the student, if he meet with no accidents, have this pleasure, and it is natural that he should look upon it as one, out of the multiplicity of college functions, which must not be missed.

This year the debate takes place in Toronto, and although the custom has been to hold it in Association Hall the Literary Society Executive has, for reasons of its own, decided on this occasion to make a change. The hall in the Conservatory of Music building on the corner of College Street and University Avenue has been secured for the purpose. This hall, which is large and splendidly fitted up, is admirably suited for an occasion of this kind, while its acoustic properties are of the best.

Professor Wrong has kindly consented to occupy the chair for the evening, and his name is sufficient guarantee that that part of the programme at least will be satisfactorily performed. It is unnecessary to say that the two men to whose lot it has fallen this year to uphold the honor and reputation of their Alma Mater, are undoubtedly as strong as any who could have been chosen. John G. Inkster's Gaelic accent is as well-known as it is popular amongst Varsity students, while Hugh Munroe, although he seldom favors the public with his eloquence, is known to be an able and fluent speaker. The musical part of the programme will be furnished by Mr. A. E. T. Jackson and by Walter A. Sadler, the Glee Club's pianist. On the Glee Club tour Mr. Jackson's solos were most enthusiastically encoored in every place visited, and those who attend the debate on Friday evening next may expect, and will certainly receive, a treat.

Mr. J. T. Shotwell is the essayist, and Mr. N. E. Hinch will give a reading. The programmes are already out and may be secured at the janitor's office, Varsity.

NOVELS: THEIR ORIGIN AND USE

Interesting Lecture by Prof. Alexander in Students' Union

GROWTH OF ENGLISH NOVEL

Causes Which Make It so Popular—Its Difference Compared with the Drama and the Story

The largest audience which has been in Students' Union in a long time assembled Saturday afternoon to attend Professor Alexander's lecture on "Novels: their Origin and Use."

Professor Alexander opened his lecture with a few remarks on the wide acquaintance of the novel in the reading world and its increasing popularity with all classes of readers. He then entered upon the lecture proper. He said:

Novels, which form so large a part of the present output of books and which afford almost the sole literary pabulum of a large number of readers were, in the strict sense in which the word is employed, unknown in English literature two hundred years ago. There existed, to be sure, something called novels, but the origin of what we regard as the "novel proper," is very recent as compared with the birth of the other great divisions of imaginative literature—the story, the epic, the drama, the song. It may be interesting to inquire why this is so; why a form which is so popular, so adapted to gratify an almost universal taste, which when originated, developed with such extraordinary rapidity all over the western world, is the latest of the great literary species to come into existence.

Now, though all novels are stories, all stories are not novels. We may roughly define a novel as an "imaginative prose narrative," and such a definition will serve to exclude all other forms of literature except the prose story.

How is the novel proper distinguished from stories that are not novels? For fairy stories, the "Arabian Nights," Gulliver's Travels, the "Pilgrim's Progress" Kipling's "Plain Tales from the Hills" are not novels, yet having a close resemblance they would be included in the preliminary definition which we have given. How are we to distinguish? In the first place, a novel must be a story whose prime object lies in the fact that it is a story;—that it gives pleasure as such. This object must not be secondary to some other purpose, as in "Gulliver's Travels" and the "Pilgrim's Progress" in which the aims are respectively to satirize society, and to embody religious truth. This distinction is sufficiently apparent. It will be observed, however, that this ulterior purpose beyond the story may be present in different degrees, and may exist in what might properly be termed a novel for example in "Little Dorrit." But in the typical novel this practical or didactic purpose is subordinate, and in the ideal novel is altogether absent. In as far as the writer has some other aim than that of telling a story, and of giving pleasure, whether it be to inculcate views on social or religious questions; to reform institutions; to teach a moral lesson,—in so far does the novel depart from this type. It may still be a novel because of the subordination of these aims to the main one of telling a story.

Wherein does the latter differ from the former? I suppose the most obvious point of dissimilarity is the length. A story may be, and usually is, short; a novel must be of some considerable length.

I think we are able to define with some exactness the novel proper. A novel is an imaginative prose narrative, which aims at presenting, through a plot and characterization, a picture of actual human life.

In English literature the first marked change upon the earlier story of adventure, are the so-called novels of Elizabethan times. But these do not attempt to represent life as it actually is. The title of the most famous of them, Sir Philip Sidney's "Arcadia" indicates, what is generally true, that they are laid in an unreal and fanciful scene and surroundings, "where they fleet the time carelessly as they did in the golden world."

Of this character were the writings of the best known novelists of that time, "Rosalynd or Euphues' Golden Legacy," where Shakespeare, found the story of "As You Like It," is an example, and "Pandosto or The Triumph of Time," upon which "Winter's Tale" is based, is another.

Somewhat later, we may note a school of prose fiction which did not however differ fundamentally from that of Elizabethan times. It flourished in the latter part of the seventeenth century and was mainly translated or mis-stated from the French. One of these romances would fill ten or twelve volumes, and they unfolded in endless succession the utterly unreal and improbable adven-

(Continued on 4th page.)

TORONTO UNIVERSITY—MEDICAL FACULTY.

An interesting meeting of the Medical Society was held last Friday afternoon in the west wing of the Biological Building, Queen's Park.

Mr. Lindsay, president of the society, was in the chair. Having called order, suggestions were asked by him from the members. J. D. Webster advocated the changing of the term treasurer to hon. treasurer and 1st and 2nd treasurer to treasurer and 1st assistant treasurer respectively. This was carried. This motion was quite in order and causes an improvement in the constitution of the society.

The remaining time was wholly taken up in the nominating of candidates for office for the term 1898-9.

The list of nominations is:—
President, Messrs. Tanner, Holmes, McLeah; vice president, Messrs. Martindale, Dunnington, Hutchison; hon. treasurer, Dr. Dwyer, acclamation; recording secretary, S. W. Smith (not Stubbs), acclamation; treasurer, Messrs. Peters, McDougall; assistant treasurer, Messrs. Pirie, Christie, Costes, Smith; curator, Messrs. Downing, Montgomery, Carder, McKinnon, Lathan, Ditttrick, Blanchard; and the rest of the second year; councillors from 1st year, Messrs. Warren, Steele, Moak, Gordon, Campbell.

A brief resume of the above candidates is as follows:

A. W. Tanner, otherwise known as "Tan," by familiars as "Tannie," and by common people as "Good-day, Sir." He was born in the County Cork, Dublin, and emigrated to Ottawa early in this century. There he soon made himself agreeable to the parliamentarians, and his best friends are numbered among the members who annually visit the great public buildings there to represent the people. Sometime ago "Tannie" gathered together his effects and marched to Toronto, where he now is.

A more genial, haphazard, open-hearted, generous fellow than "Tannie" cannot be found anywhere, and he would make a good president for the Medical Society. His platform is simple. He advocates that no person shall be allowed to pay his Medical Society fees unless he furnish proof of good moral character. The moon last night was carefully examined with a pathological microscope, and it was found that the auguries are good for "Tannie."

C. U. Holmes, alias Cecil, by cronies is called "Cece." It is not known where "Cece" was born, but all at once it appears he appeared in Selkirk and then moved to Toronto, where he is now chinking bones and boning chink. He has so many excellent qualities, that it is next to impossible to put them before the public. However, it is a thing assured, that "Cece" is all right, that he is going to get there with both feet and that everybody that knows him will vote for him. Those who don't know him had better look out, for "Cece" comes from out west and carries bowie knives in his boots and hoss pistols in his sleeve. It has already been discovered by an astronomical investigation of the stars (and stripes) that he is bound to win.

L. McLeah, alias Mac, is known to chummies as "Frizzly," and to best friends as "Friz." "Friz" is a big, blue-eyed Irishman, and a better hearted fellow never stepped into the University of Toronto Medical Faculty. Bigger feet than his never stepped upon a tender corn. "Friz" came to this country at the time of the Fenian raid and has been here ever since. He never had an office, "Friz" hadn't, and this speaks well for his modesty and retiring disposition. Looking through the telescope some months ago some water was seen to spill from the dipper, and this sugurs well for "Friz."

O. J. Martindale, known as "Martie," will need no recommendation. Everybody knows him and likes him.

W. H. Dunnington—"Dunnie" alias "Eddie Blake"—is a good man and true. No better man could be thought of. He is bound to win.

N. S. Hutchison—alias "Hutch"—is an amateur actor of no mean ability and will commend himself to all. He, too, is bound to win.

J. H. Peters, better known as "Joie," to familiars as "Joey," to best friends as "Little Joe."

"Little Joe" is well adapted to handle the cash of the Medical Society.

A. J. G. McDougall, alias "Mac," alias "Glen," alias "McDoodles," known to cronies as "Doodles the cartoonist."

He would make an excellent treasurer, as he has had a wide experience in financing. Even now, it is said, he takes up the collections in three churches. His popularity also will be with him election day. All the other men are good men and representative medcs. It would certainly be a difficult task to pick the winners before the votes are counted. Suffice it to say, the nominees are a good line and the winners will work hard next year to keep alive the interest in the society.

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F. D. McENTEE, '99 Arts, Editor.

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TORONTO, TUESDAY, JAN. 25TH, 1898.

The scheme of giving a play by the students at the next Hallowe'en demonstration was discussed at the University Literary Society Friday evening, and we are pleased to say, was approved of by that body. Since the matter was first broached, considerable interest has been aroused, and the plan has already been sanctioned by the authorities of University College. It has been proposed that a committee be appointed in the near future to confer with all the colleges interested in the annual demonstration and secure their opinions in the matter. Until this committee has been appointed and has made a report, no more progress can be made toward furthering the plan. If the interest already manifested, however, is any sign, there is not the least doubt but that the Hallowe'en demonstration this year will be essentially a students' night, as it should be.

At a meeting of the McMaster Literary Society last week the question of forming an intercollege debating league was brought forth and discussed. It seems to us that the suggestion is an exceptionally good one. The benefits arising from such a league are well worth the consideration of every college society in the city. At the present time there are few societies in the city in which debating is carried on with any considerable amount of interest. This would not be the case if the debates were between different college societies, instead of students of the same society. The friendly rivalry created by the plan suggested would increase the love for debating and would also afford students many more opportunities for public speaking than they enjoy at present.

The president of a Chicago University claims that there are a large number of students in that city actually starving themselves in order to secure a college education. This is indeed a pitiful state of affairs. But what heroes those students must be! We wonder if there are any cases of this kind in Toronto.

HEARD IN THE HALLS.

The date of the opening meeting of the Natural Science Association of Varsity which was set down for Feb. 4th, has been postponed, as the conversat will be given on that evening.

A "Burns" supper will be given by the students at Knox this evening. The birthday of Scotland's great poet will be celebrated with speech and song. A very interesting programme is arranged and everyone is looking forward to a good time.

F. W. Godeve, of Wycliffe, has received an invitation to preach the anniversary services in Horning Mill's parish.

Mr. Keele, B.A.Sc., gave a very interesting exhibition of Old Country Architecture before the School of Science Engineering Society Friday evening. Mr. Walter Boyd also performed on the graphophone.

A. M. Rosebrugh, M.A., lecturer in electrical engineering at the School of Science, was wedded to Miss Jessie A. Whyborn, A.B., of Syracuse, N.Y., during the holidays.

At the meeting of the Natural Science Association to-morrow afternoon, W. H. McNairn, '99, will read a paper on the "Song Birds in Canada," and D. Whyte, '99, will speak on "Color in Animals."

A hockey club was formed at Knox College last week with the following officers: President, Harper Gray, B.A.; Captain, R. W. Dickie, B.A.; Sec.-Treasurer, A. W. Haro.

Miss Florence Sheridan, B.A., '97, who has been visiting friends in New York for the past few weeks, is expected home this week.

"Jack" Martin, B.A., '96, of Hamilton, spent Sunday with friends in town.

John R. Mott, organizer of Y.M.C.A. work among students, will visit the Toronto colleges about the middle of next month.

The Conversat this year promises to be the most enjoyable in the history of this great student event. "Nick Hinch," who has charge of the decorations, is going to turn the building into a veritable flower garden. The Natural Science Committee will have a more than interesting exhibit in the Senate Chamber. The orchestras of Messrs. Bailey, Glianni and D'Alessandro have been engaged for the main building. Every student should speak for a ticket at once, as the number will be limited.

The Varsity Tennis Club elections will be held this week.

As predicted last week the social function held in the Fourth House, Varsity Residence, on Saturday, surpassed all its predecessors. The ground floor rooms were used as dressing rooms, into which the guests were ushered by two little pages, who also announced the arrivals. On proceeding up stairs, the guests were received by that charming hostess Mrs. C. M. Fraser, who chaperoned the "At Home," and Messrs. Black and Fitzgerald, at whose hospitality was due the very pleasant time which all enjoyed. Mr. Black's room, which is known as the Lyceum of Residence, was looking its best, with a profusion of cut flowers and palms. The piano solos were much enjoyed, and the draperies and cosy corners more than admired. D'Alessandro's orchestra was stationed in Mr. Hinch's room, while Mr. Gahan's served as a refreshment room and Mr. Fitzgerald's room as a secluded spot for those who preferred quiet. The halls were decorated for the occasion with flags, bunting and curtains, and the old Fourth House was hardly recognized by many of those present. The refreshments were served by Webb. Amongst the invited guests were the following: Professor and Mrs. Wright, Professor and Mrs. Fraser, Dr. Needler, Dean DeLury, Miss Salter, Misses Lash, Maybee, Burns, Boulton, Kinnear, Williams, Miller, Sheridan, Crane, Young, Gibbs, Montgomery, Kerr, Skinner, Thornton, Webb, Wegg, Andison, Woolverton, Lynde, White, Patterson, DeRoche, Rumball, Beatty, Cleary Kirkwood, Slater, Lamont, the Misses Lamport, the Misses Crane, the Misses Burbidge (Ottawa), Miss Hill (Ottawa), Miss Pinhey (Ottawa), Miss Craney (Bay City), Miss Burgess (Montreal), Messrs. Carder, Young, Parker, Parsons, Boulton, Burbidge, Hobbs, Hill, Carson, Beatty, Cleland, Inkster, Jackson, Ross, Hinch, Scott, Gunn, Gahan, Bogart, Cohoc, Hastings, Johnston, Richardson, Bone, McEntee, Meredith, King, Armour, Clegg and C. R. Fitzgerald.

Trinity will not hold a conversat this year.

A very pleasant dinner party was given Saturday evening by Professor Wrong of Varsity to a small party of professors and Varsity seniors. Those present were Professor Hutton, Professor Fraser, and Messrs. Wickett, Moss, Hinch, Murray, Gunn, Shotwell, and Cushing.

The "Saturday" lecture this week will be given by Professor Robinson on Palestine. It will be illustrated and will be given in the Biological building.

Varsity Base Ball Club will hold a meeting to-morrow afternoon for the election of officers for the ensuing year.

When you wish good barbering call at Coke's 464 Spadina.

A highly instructive and very interesting lecture was given on January 20th, in the Students Union, before the Political Science Club of Varsity and their friends. The subject was "The Present Condition of Banking in North America," and the club could not have chosen a better qualified man for the subject than Mr. Byron E. Walker, general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who had so kindly consented to address a meeting for them.

Mr. Calcut, ex-president of the Board of Trade, acted as chairman, and in opening the meeting emphatically pointed out of what great importance was the problem of banking to a nation, and how necessary it was that the students in Political Economy should gain a broad and thorough knowledge of this subject that they might be of good service to their country when in public life.

He showed that our banking system was much superior to that of the national system of the United States in points of elasticity, distribution of capital and in stability. The financial question as it is now apparent in the U. S., Mr. Walker said, is the most serious problem with which they have had to deal since the time of slavery, and a crisis or radical remodelling is imminent. The banking systems of Canada and of Scotland are the soundest and most advantageous of all present systems, and the reform will likely be along their lines. The democracy of the American, however, objects strongly to the principle in our system which requires the large capital of \$1,000,000 to be subscribed before a charter incorporation can be taken out. In our country this has resulted in the fact of there being but a comparatively small number of banking companies (about 11), while in the U. S. there are between 10,000 and 11,000, arising from the fact that each one must be a local institution and the

amount of capital required to start a bank is only \$25,000. The Americans consider banking in Canada of a monopolistic character, but such it is not, more than that it takes a large amount of capital to incorporate it.

At the close of the lecture Dr. Hoskin in very appreciative terms moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Walker, and complimented the club upon the high order of meetings they were affording the students and public. Professor Mavor, replying in behalf of the club seconded the motion and the deep appreciative interest with which the audience had received the address was plainly evidenced by their hearty applause.

IMAGINATION IN EDUCATION.

ITS VALUE STRIKINGLY DEPICTED IN AN ENTERTAINING LECTURE BY REV. G. M. MILLIGAN, D.D.

The friends and pupils of St. Margaret's College, who accepted the invitation of the Board of Management and Mrs. Geo. Dickson, Lady Principal, enjoyed a rich intellectual treat Friday evening, when Rev. G. M. Milligan, D.D., delivered a lecture in the college assembly hall on "The Value of Imagination in Education." The lecturer had evidently given profound thought and research to his subject, and his carefully-prepared remarks were thoroughly appreciated by an audience notable for intellectuality rather than for numbers. In opening, the derivation of the word imagine was discussed, and the value of imagination in every sphere of life was pointed out. The power of imagination and its application in art and science was forcibly portrayed by numerous illustrations selected from the most celebrated authors. Shakespeare's power of imagination would, the lecturer thought, have made him a magnificent reporter, whose report of some of the politicians of the present day on the stump would be most entertaining. Imagination is especially necessary in the student in order to enable him to grasp the idea and spirit of the author before he can thoroughly appreciate and grasp the truths he is seeking to acquire. The advantages of the imagination were shown to be many, among the most useful being that it cultivates our powers of observation, having its fixed laws requiring great self-discipline and bringing us into sympathy with nature and when acting as it ought, is directed by knowledge acquired by study and discipline, directed by judgment based on experience. Secondly, it is useful in giving a higher scope to our reasoning powers; it is in studying imaginative truths that we cultivate in the most effective way our reasoning powers, as illustrated by Tyndall's idea that no great progress can be made in science without imagination. Thirdly its great educational value is that it gives vigorous exercise to our voluntary powers to enable us to put ourselves in the author's place, and by so doing to obtain a true conception and view of his ideal.

The value of imagination in education is that it teaches people to see with reason's eye, and hear with reason's ear. Imagination enables a reader to see through the eyes of the author. At the present day people read newspapers and magazines—the "knick-knacks" of literature—almost exclusively. The reader should aim to cultivate continuity and self-control, and try to understand his author. Imagination enabled Dante and Goethe to see into the truths of life. The object of culture is to enable people to see the wondrous in everyday life. The aim of education should be to cultivate healthy influence—the scaffolding to the formation of a useful life.

On Friday evening next Dr. Spencer will deliver a lecture on the Geology of the Niagara River and Niagara Falls.

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I have had a reading from Prof. A. H. Welsh a phrenologist in my estimation of unusual ability in delineating character. He is perfect in telling you of your good qualities; he is excellent in pointing out how to improve the weak ones. All who desire to thoroughly know themselves should consult Prof. Welsh for in properly knowing one's self, success in life depends. Respectfully yours, Dr. G. H. Treadgold, Port Huron, July 2, 1897.

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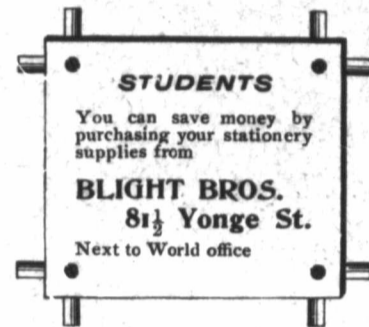
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ALL THE NEWS OF ALL THE COLLEGES

McMASTER UNIVERSITY.

The proposed opening of the rink had to be postponed from Thursday evening on account of the weather. It will be held as soon as the ice is in good condition.

A very large number attended the meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society Friday evening to hear Dr. Rand's address on "Shakespeare v. Bacon: a Side-light on the Higher Criticism." At a recent meeting of the society the secretary was instructed to communicate with societies in the other colleges and ascertain their views in regard to the forming of an inter-collegiate debating league.

The Tennysonians have elected the following officers for the term:—President, F. Cornish, '00; Vice-President, A. McNeill, '01; Secretary-Treasurer, F. N. Goble, '00; Councillors H. Jordan, '00, P. Baker, '00; F. Phipps, '01; Editors M. D. Colman, '00, A. Watson, '01.

Another McMaster graduate has won honor for his Alma Mater. Mr. Fred. T. Tapscott, '95, has been awarded first place in a competition in New Testament Greek, instituted by the American Institute of Sacred Literature. The competition was open to all undergraduate theological students in the colleges of America, and one hundred and nineteen competed.

A largely attended meeting of the Theological Society was held on Thursday evening. The chief feature of the programme was an address by Rev. Dr. Hooper on "Modern Cures," in which he discussed in an interesting way the claims of Spiritualism, Theosophy and Christian Science.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE.

The St. Charles Society held an informal meeting Wednesday evening. The first regular meeting of the society will be held this week.

Rev. A. P. Du Mouchel, professor of Rhetoric at Sanwich College, who has been visiting here, leaves for home this week.

Among the late arrivals this term are Mallon, Curley, Shannon, McRae, Nolan, and Boucher.

St. Michael's Society will have its first meeting for this term Saturday evening.

A meeting of the American students of the college was held last week, for the purpose of discussing the celebration of Washington's birthday. It was about decided that the play to be given this year would be either "The Upstart" or "St. John of the Cross." The matter will be definitely settled this week.

The hockey team this year is the strongest the college has had in years. A number of the old players are on it, together with several new ones who are exceptionally fast men. The first regular game of the season will be an intercollege match with Knox, Wednesday, Feb. 2nd. The team will be composed of the following players: Morrow, Regan, George Roach, Thomas Roach, Pagéau, Fitzgerald, Snyder, and McKenna.

Several new men will be on the baseball team this year. It looks now as if a crack team will represent the college this year. McDermott will again occupy the box and will doubtless continue to keep the local batsmen in a quandary.

TRINITY TOPICS.

The first general meeting of the Athletic Association was held Friday afternoon last. Some routine business was transacted of small importance, with the exception of the election of a committee man. Mr. K. McEwen, who held office before Christmas, was re-elected to fill the vacancy.

The inter-college debate between Victoria and Trinity has been arranged, the date only being yet unsettled. It will be fixed in the near future. Messrs. Bushell and Boyle have been chosen to uphold Trinity's reputation.

There is some talk of another Athletic concert. The one last term proved so successful that it is said the Executive are contemplating holding another.

The retiring business manager of the Review, Mr. MacGill, gave a most satisfactory report of that paper and its finances for the past year. For some years past its financial position has been precarious. Mr. MacGill has succeeded in placing it on a firm financial basis, and another successful year may be looked for. The new manager is Mr. H. C. Griffith, '99, an energetic and skilful financier, and we predict a prosperous future for the paper under his control.

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The Banjo and Guitar Club have begun practice in earnest and will soon be in "shape." They will fill several engagements out of town during the next few weeks, and afterwards give a concert down town for the funds of the club.

The Trinity men and St. Hilda's young ladies who took part in the Victorian Era Ball sat for their photographs on Friday afternoon. The costumes and fair faces made a very pretty group. An impromptu dance was indulged in in the common room to make up for the tedium of "sitting." Rev. Professor Huntingford afterwards entertained the group and others at a most enjoyable tea in his rooms.

Rev. H. H. Bedford Jones will be forced to be absent from college during a great part of this term. He will return to lecture before the Divinity class at stated times. Rev. H. P. Lowe will in the meantime take his lectures in Arts.

TRINITY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

All the boys have returned from the Christmas vacation and many new faces are seen around the corridors.

Mr. Manley Fallis, '98, has been confined to the house for some days suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis.

The hockey team has been practising steadily and look forward to the match with Toronto School, confident that this time victory will rest with the Rouge et Noir.

The O.I.C.C. will hold no more sessions until after the spring exams. Thus it hath been decreed.

President Pascoe announces that a financial crisis is at hand in the affairs of the Literary Society. He is determined to cut down expenses—weekly shaves for the President is the first item to go.

The regular meeting of the Medical Society will be held on Tuesday evening. A number of many interesting papers will be read, including one by Dr. Chas. Sheard.

Capt. Ashton is the recipient of many congratulations from his friends these days.

Dr. Tommy Bell was a recent visitor to the college.

VARSAITY LITERARY MEETS.

PLAN OF GIVING A STUDENTS PLAY HALLOWE'EN DISCUSSED—INTERESTING DEBATE.

James G. Merrick, B.A., of Osgoode Hall, came to the Lit on Friday night to request the society to take some steps towards gathering together the graduating groups of the past few years have them framed and hang them in the Students' Union Hall.

Charles Carson 1st vice-president of the Lit, on whom the duty of occupying the chair devolved, in the President's absence, saw his opportunity to escape the dangers of this unenviable position, and after much persuasion, prevailed on the genial James G. to take the seat of honor. That he acquitted it to the satisfaction of all goes without saying.

"Freddie" McKay was the first to bother the chairman, and his little difficulty was merely a notice of motion to the effect that he would move, next Friday night, that the Literary Society appoint a committee to confer with the other colleges in regard to presenting a play next Hallowe'en.

The report of the Conversat Committee was read by Charlie Carson. It was short and concise. "Conversat to be held on the 4th of February. Dancing allowed by Council. Tickets limited to six hundred. Price, \$1.50 each. Orchestra in Rotunda for promenaders. Come early and avoid the rush."

The candidates for Wycliffe "At Home" were not many, so Fred Harper got this plum by acclamation.

Fred McKay and N. R. D. Sinclair go over to the S.P.S. building some time in the near future to debate with the worthy representatives of the school, at the annual debate.

Charlie Carson then brought forward a motion. He moved that the Literary Society favored presenting a play on Hallowe'en, as he thought it would be an excellent thing both for the performers and the student audience.

"Jimmie" Merrick was decidedly in favor of this, and was glad it had been brought up. He had heard the "Idea" mentioned before and believed it was the idea of the "fin-de-siècle." He advocated holding the great event in Massey Hall, keeping down prices, and limiting the sale of tickets to students as much as possible.

After some discussion, Fred Harper seconded Charlie's motion which was carried without a dissenting voice.

The programme proper commenced with a rendition of a selection from Mark Twain's "Innocents Abroad," by Mr. Malcolm '01. This was such a treat that "Corporal" Smith moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Malcolm, who responded in a few well-chosen words. If rumor speaks truly the Lit will hear Mr. Malcolm again, if the whole Executive Committee have to get after him. The Chairman introduced Murray Cohen

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'99 as the leader of the affirmative in the debate before the house. Murray announced the subject as, "Resolved, that departmental stores are at the present day injurious to the community at large." He advanced five arguments, which he then proceeded to elucidate. As nearly as it was possible for a hearer to catch the arguments they were: 1. The ranks of labor were increased by the displacement of the small shop-keepers, by the departmental stores. 2. The middleman was often reduced to the same state, the departmental stores purchasing direct from the manufacturer. 3. Labor market also increased by the non-employment of clerks formerly stationed in small stores. 4. Particular occupations being crowded out. 5. Increase of female and child labor. In a good speech, Mr. Cohen made the best of these points.

Robert Perkins, '98, fired the first volley for the negative, and every shot told. His motto was "Pro bono publico." He advocated a close relationship between producer and consumer, and not a long list of middle-men. This directness saved money for the consumers who were the people at large. He thought the mail order departments of these large stores were potent factors in their favor, as he knew one country store-keeper, who said he would rather have the business of a certain Toronto departmental store in his town, than his own business.

Other arguments advanced by "Orator Bob" in favor of departmental stores were: Saving in heating, lighting and cost of building; smaller capital required to carry on same business; no allowance for bad debts, honest customer does not now have to pay for goods procured by dishonest customer. Bob's speech was forcible and convincing, and do doubt greatly helped the Chairman in his decision.

Mr. Le Sur '99 for the affirmative, and Mr. Martin, '98, for the negative, followed with exceedingly able efforts, and after a short valedictory by Mr. Cohen, Mr. Merrick criticised the speeches at some length. He said it was very hard for him to decide, but after a careful consideration he rendered a decision in favor of the negative side.

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NOVELS: THEIR ORIGIN AND USE.

(Continued from Page 1.)

tures (chivalrous and fabulous) of some impossible hero who often was identified with famous personage of history. They were full, too, of extravagant sentiment expressed in the artificial and wordy jargon fashionable at the time.

It is not in these, however, nor in what were then called novels, that we note the first appearance in prose of the characteristics which specially belong to the modern novel as distinguished from the romance of adventure. These new characteristics, and the new spirit which they expressed, crop out elsewhere most markedly, perhaps, in "The Pilgrim's Progress," where notwithstanding the didactic and allegorical purpose, the author's genius and keen powers of observation substitute for the cold symbols and personifications of allegory, vivid pictures of that lower middle-class English life with which he was familiar. For example the description of "Vanity Fair" and the "City of Destruction," "Ignorance," and "By Ends," and many more. Again later on, in the first dozen years of the eighteenth century, we find in the character sketches and descriptions of the "Spectator" preliminary studies, as it were, for a novel, without the plot and complexity of the novel itself. Especially is Addison's "Sir Roger de Coverley," the first person in English literature, who has all the peculiarities and is put before us by the method of modern fiction.

The next stage was the evolution of the modern novel, such as we now know it. This took place in the works of Richardson and Fielding, shortly before the middle of the eighteenth century. Here, at length the reader finds not a mere string of incidents but a converging plot—not "Arcadia," or such other fabulous scenes but contemporary English life—not impossible heroes and extravagant sentiments expressed in artificial language but actual men and women taking in a natural fashion; not a mere series of events, but incidents which interest many, because they exhibit and illustrate the characters of the personages concerned. They are treated too with that selection which constitutes artistic work, and carries the reader along in virtue of his awakened sympathies.

Having thus attained, as I hope, a somewhat clear perception of what a novel actually is, of what spirit it is the expression, and of what natural craving or demand it is the result, we are in a position to consider intelligently the use or function of the novel, why we read novels, and what is the outcome of novel-reading; and this in the face of a certain prejudice which still lingers against novel reading, it is a rather interesting subject.

The novel is the artistic presentation of human life, of men and women as they actually are, or have been. The substantial theme is human nature, the artist shapes and modifies his knowledge and his observations in order that the human life which he depicts may be easily conceived by his reader, so that he may be easily realized in his imagination, so that it may seize on his sympathies and hold his attention. In reading novels, therefore, the reader, through the material and help afforded by the writer, enters into the life of personages, not indeed real, but who represent reality.

The results are analogous to those which a man attains through seeing the world, getting acquainted with a great number of different personages, different conditions of society, different aspects of life. Such a broadening of real life is eminently desirable in general, though there may be individuals who would be injured by a wide acquaintance with life; who are of such a kind that they are best retained in a sort of cloistered seclusion; just as children should not be made acquainted with all aspects of life before their moral forces are consolidated. So I conceive the imaginative broadening of life which we attain through novels is also for the generality of men eminently wholesome.

I conceive the highest and best life here upon earth is the life which most adequately and completely employs all our powers. In a perfect life every function and activity with which nature has endowed us would receive its due proportion of exercise, as in the thoroughly healthy and ideal physique, every muscle will receive adequate employment and development. So the fundamental desire of man is for adequate scope, and repression of any activity gives a sense of uneasiness and results in a deforming of ideal manhood.

Of course, what I have said is true of all imaginative literature. The merit of the novel, as compared with other imaginative literature, is its popular character. It deals with the themes and persons most closely akin to those with which we are familiar, and hence most easily comprehended. Instead of the condensed and unfamiliar language of poets, it employs the language of ordinary life. Then the novelist's treatment is popu-

lar. He is free to use every means for explaining and bringing home to the reader the subject of his work. Novels can, therefore, be enjoyed by persons to whom other and higher forms of literature are a sealed book. Further, they may be enjoyed by the man of intellect and culture, when through weariness the energy is wanting requisite for the mastery or enjoyment of science, history or poetry.

If there is a use, as I think I have shown, of novels there is, doubtless, also an abuse. From the very characteristics upon which we have dwelt, they fall into the hands of readers the least competent to judge of excellence; the least competent to perceive and resist anything false and misleading. If it is the merit of great novels to give true pictures of life so there are very many which give false pictures; which exhibit the world as governed by principles which are not in fact dominant. From such novels the man of experience and cultivated taste turns away as utterly uninteresting and inane. But the untrained spirit may accept it all as gospel, and form false conceptions of what the world is and what is desirable there. Like the boy of whom we read from time to time in the newspapers, who prematurely starts life as a highwayman or thinks that the ideal life is to be found among the Indians and cowboys of the West. But this objection urged against novels also lies against all forms of literature. There is no larger a proportion of false fiction than of false history, false biography, science, ethics, theology. The safety in these other departments lies in the fact that they are but little read.

So, doubtless, some discrimination ought to be exercised in the selection of novels, for the young especially. Not that books beyond their powers of appreciation and which are distasteful to them should be thrust into their hands. That is not the way to make them care for good literature; and novel-reading is the most natural and easy way to cultivate the taste for books. He who has developed a taste for really good novels is not likely to stop there, but will naturally advance to reading of a higher character.

To turn from this long digression we must further note that not merely our knowledge of life and our experience are imaginatively widened by novels, but our own powers of observation and enjoyment of actual life are quickened and intensified thereby. He who has contemplated life as seen through the eyes of a great seer, who has become acquainted with human nature through the imaginative pictures of a Scott or a Thackeray, will find new sources of interest in the men and women about him. He will have his attention drawn to the significance and beauty of much that would otherwise have escaped his observation. Just as those who have read Wordsworth or Ruskin, or are familiar with the landscapes of great painters, will have their eyes opened to many aspects of nature, to many elements of beauty in the material world to which they would otherwise have been blind.

And though the supreme might and power of Shakespeare are the most helpful, yet the novelists, working as they do more in the sphere of our own observation and experience, and employing a more popular form, have a special function and use of their own.

Finally, novels afford refreshment and solace, and the refreshment of an extremely salutary kind. And this is a thing not easily brought about. Novels lead us away from ourselves and our own concerns. The human spirit requires change—we weary of all things—we weary even of ourselves. To escape from ourselves, our cares, our thoughts, our environment, is a delightful and wholesome experience. Such escape is essential to our moral, mental, even our physical well-being. The man who cannot escape from himself, goes mad. A novel affords repose: it is available at any moment: at any moment it may be laid aside. It is an invaluable resource for the overwrought and weary man. I have put forward other and perhaps higher claims for the novel, but I think for the multitudes who can look back upon the hours they have spent in smiling over the quaint humors of Parson Adams and Partridge, the Vicar of Wakefield, Mr. Wilkins Micawber and in following the wanderings of Tom Jones and Waverley, and David Balfour; in making the acquaintance of Captain Costigan and Dick Swiveller, Beck Sharp and Blanche Amory, whose hearts have been touched by the sorrows of Jennie Deans, Colonel Newcome, who have had the door thrown open to many and varied circles, the Poyzers and the Pullets, the Bennets and the Woodhouses, to a thousand other scenes of laughter, of pathos, of beauty and worth, which crowd upon the memory,—to these, I think, there needs no other place for novels than the many hours of happy and innocent enjoyment of solace, of freedom from depression and weariness, which the great magicians of the world of fiction have provided for their readers.

NORMAL COLLEGE ELECTIONS:

The Literary Society of the Normal College, Hamilton, had an interesting election for the various offices Friday afternoon. The presidency was keenly contested for, as were some of the other offices. The result was as follows:

First honorary president, J. A. McLellan, M.A., LL.D.; 2nd honorary president R. A. Thompson B.A.; patron, Hon. J. M. Gibson; president, L. H. Graham, B.A., Toronto; 1st vice-president, Miss Tuer; 2nd vice-president, F. C. Shaw, B.A., Trinity; recording secretary, J. S. Martin B.A., Toronto; corresponding secretary, Miss McInnes; treasurer, W. H. T. McGill, B.A.,

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Toronto; committee Miss B. H. Nichols, B.A., Toronto; Miss Evans Miss J. I. Wood, Messrs. J. Taylor, B.A., Queen's, W. A. Wilson, B.A., Queen's, and Holmes; editors of College Jottings N. F. Black and R. B. Page, B.A., Toronto.

At the Mock Parliament on Saturday evening, Patrick Johnston, Q.C., M.P., completely surprised the members present by delivering one of the most powerful speeches ever heard in the hall forcibly arraigning the government, and concluding by moving a vote of want of confidence in the administration which was carried by a large majority.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE.

E. A. Langfeldt who has been ill for a few days has recovered and left the college on Thursday to make a short visit in Orillia.

Rev. R. J. Carson, of Sunderland, made a flying visit to Wycliffe last week. Mr. Carson is a recent graduate and his visits are always enjoyed by the students.

T. W. Savary, '00, assisted in the services of St. Paul's Church on Sunday of last week.

Many of the students are working hard this month in order that they may find time next month to attend the meeting of the Church Students' Missionary Association in Trinity College, Toronto, and also the convention of the Student Volunteer Movement in Cleveland.

Maurice J. Goodheart will give a free lecture on Tuesday evening, February 1st, in St. Peter's Sunday school room. The subject of the lecture will be 'The Jew's Life in Russia.'

Rev. Prof. Cody, of the faculty, is preaching a series of sermons in St. Paul's Church on Sunday evenings on "The Lord's Prayer."

The Literary and Theological Society of Wycliffe College will hold its annual "At Home" on Friday evening January 28th. Extensive preparations are being made by the energetic executive committee, which consists of Messrs. Holdsworth, Haslam, Good- eve, McClean and Docker.

TRINITY LITERARY INSTITUTE.

There was a large audience at the Literary Institute on Friday night, the interest being centred round the conversational discussion. The presence of the Reverend the Provost, the Dean and Professor Cayley added interest to the proceedings. Mr. Bushell read one of his characteristic selections, and was of course heartily applauded. Mr. Bell was unable to be present. Mr. Higginson's essay was particularly good and a vote was passed that it be preserved. The conversational discussion was opened by Mr. Macdougall's motion to dispense with it this year. The Provost, the Dean, and Prof. Cayley spoke for the faculty, Messrs. Baldwin, Bushell, Sparling and others for the students. Opinions were quite unanimous, and the vote resulted in the passing of the motion. Some minor business was transacted, a motion being passed transferring the power of electing representatives from the council to the members in regular meeting. It was also decided to hold a public debate. The date for the latter will probably be Thursday, February 16th.

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