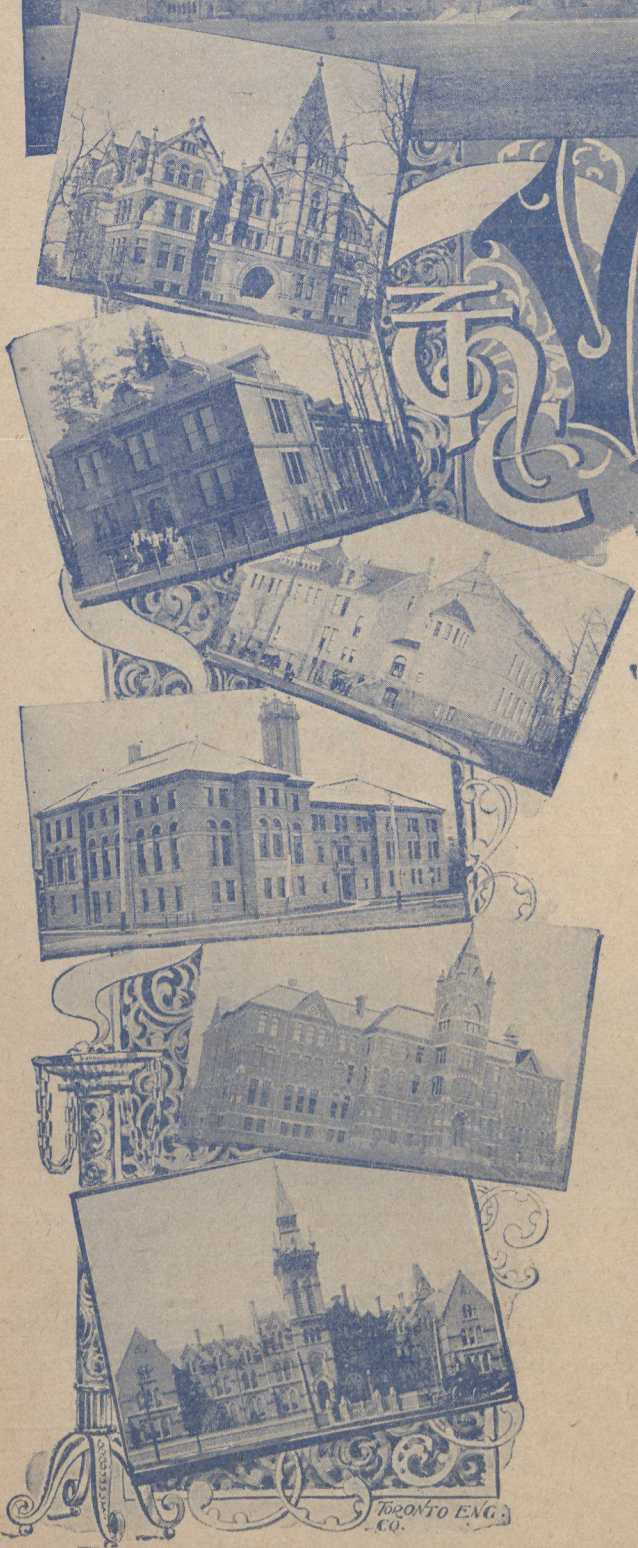
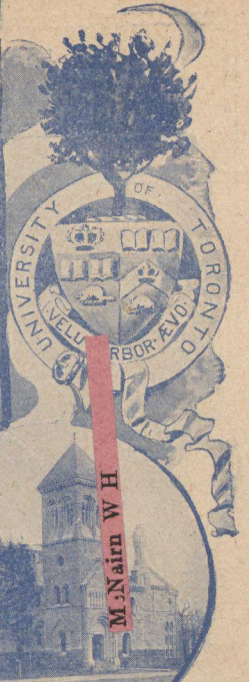
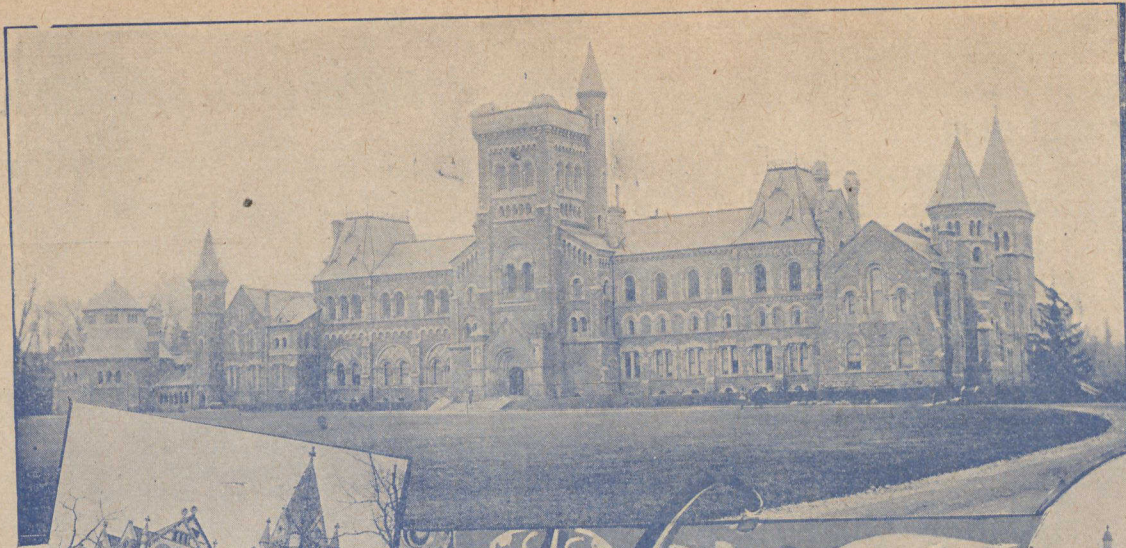


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# THE UNIVERSITY

VOL. XVIII.

No. 14

University of Toronto.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1899.

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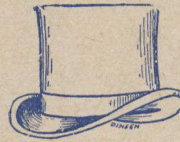
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# THE VARSITY

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1, 1899.

No. 14

## A MERIDIAN LINE TO JAMES' BAY.

Having received instructions from the Department of Crown Lands to continue the survey of the boundary line between the Algoma and Nipissing Districts from a point 132 miles North of the C.P.R. to the Moose River, emptying into James Bay, I set out on 20th May last to carry out those instructions.

My party numbered 19 in all, including Mr. Parks, of Toronto University, as Geologist, with his assistant, Mr. Carter. My assistant was Mr. E. Neelands, of the School of Practical Science, Toronto, and Mr. J. L. Biggar, also of Toronto University, formed one of the party. The others were mostly from Haliburton, and these, with four halfbreed Indians from Lake Temiscamingue, completed the number.

The journey was made to Mattawa on the first day, and the following morning we boarded the train on the Temiscamingue branch line of the C.P.R., and arrived at Lake Temiscamingue about noon.

We then took the steamer "Meteor," up Lake Temiscamingue to Haileybury, where we remained over Sunday. Here our journey may be said to begin, and on Monday morning, May 23rd, we set out across a portage of six miles to Sharp's Lake, carrying our canoes and survey outfit, and sending the supplies over by the wagon-road or trail. From here, by lake and portage, we reach the Montreal River, and proceed up it, passing the H. B. Co.'s posts of "Bay Lake," and "Matachewan." From Matachewan Lake we proceed again by lake and portage, and on the 4th of June reached our starting point, the 120th mile post, a little North of Redstone River, to which point the "line" had been run in 1896.

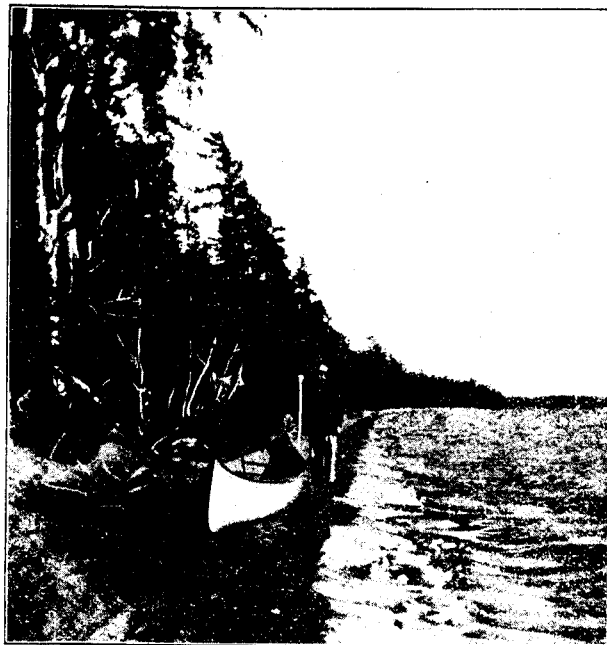
On Monday, the 6th June, the survey was commenced, the line being opened out due North, blazed and chained, all streams and lakes noted, kind of soil, and timber, and a post planted and marked at every mile.

The camp and a few supplies and one canoe are carried along the line. The remainder of the canoes take all supplies, and everything not required on the line, around by water route to where we expect the line to cross a lake or river ahead, and where we do not expect to cross water, the canoe men have to carry in supplies to where we may be with the line.

The line was carried on from day to day, from the 6th of June to the 7th of October, moving camps almost every day and running 180 miles in that time. Very few lakes were met with, but we crossed numerous rivers and streams; crossed the Abitibi twice (109 miles between crossings), and the Moose River once. The line for over 100 miles from the starting point ran through a good track of farming land, the soil being clay, and the timber, spruce, tamarac, and poplar, chiefly, with birch, balsam, and balm of gilead in

places. The 50 miles next Moose River was largely "muskeg," and the timber, as a rule, scrubby spruce and tamarac. Game of all kinds was very scarce along the line, but a number of beaver were met with North of the Abitibi River, and a few prairie chickens and wild geese were seen.

I went down the Abitibi from where the line crosses it to its junction with the Moose—perhaps 15 miles, and thence to Moose Factory, 20 miles, on the 6th October. The time going was about 7 hours, but it took 2 days to come back. The Hudson Bay Company's post of "Moose Factory" was established over



MR. NIVEN AND CANOE—VERMILION LAKE.

200 years ago. Between officers and employees of the company, and Indians, the population is said to be about 500, exclusive of the Bishop of Moosonee and his family. They get all their goods and supplies from England by the ship that comes in August.

I left there on the 8th of October, and travelled every day (two Sundays excepted), till the 27th, when we reached Abitibi Lake. The journey up the Abitibi was a very laborious one, the canoes having to be "tracked" and "poled" a great part of the way.

We had three inches of snow on the 5th of October, and about 18 inches on the 25th and 26th, after which Abitibi Lake froze over on the night of the 27th. Here, then, we were obliged to remain until the lake would again open, or the ice become strong enough to walk on. We were now about out of food, but fortunately were able to get a bag of flour, a beaver

and some fish from an Indian, and having shot a caribou, we were able by economy to exist till the 3rd of November. On the 31st October, the weather having turned colder, we gave up all hope of the lake opening, and made a number of sleighs, and broke up one of the canoes and made toboggans of it, and on the 1st November started on our journey along the South shore of the lake, taking one canoe with us on a sleigh, walking on the ice across bays and through the bush across points. By night we had walked at least 20 miles, and made about 9 miles in a straight line. The weather had in the meantime turned mild, and rain followed in the night. It was snowing next day, and the ice was not safe, so we remained encamped, and the weather turned colder. We started the following morning, November 3rd, and walked till 2 p.m., when having crossed a peninsula, we found the Eastern part of the lake open, or nearly so, and now we wanted canoes.

Having found an Indian's house, and helped ourselves to another supply of food, necessity knowing no law, we started the canoe with three men for Fort Abitibi, over 30 miles distant, to bring back a canoe large enough to take the whole party to the Fort. After having gone about 8 miles, they were obliged to go ashore on account of ice.

On the 4th November the passage was still full of ice, and the men returned. Another visit was made to the Indian's house, and two bark canoes secured, and two of our men, that we left behind to fish, having overtaken us with a fourth canoe, we started at daybreak, on Saturday, the 5th November, with the two Peterboroughs and two Barks along the South shore (a heavy gale blowing from the South-west), expecting to reach the Fort that evening.

The lake by 2 p.m. had calmed down, and we were making good headway, when a dense fog came on, and we crossed a bay about seven miles wide, steering a little North of East by the compass. One of the bark canoes in charge of Toussaint Hunter, a halfbreed Indian from Lake Temiscamingue, and in which were also Mr. Neelands, Mr. Biggar and three others, got separated from the other canoes, and then followed the South shore of the lake, the Indian being afraid to venture across the bay. The other canoes reached the opposite shore in safety about dark, but the fourth canoe could not be heard from. After firing a number of shots, and waiting two hours, the three canoes proceeded on the journey to the Fort, but meeting with ice on the way, went ashore at 10 p.m., and camped till morning. Rain came on during the night. At daybreak on Sunday, 6th, as we were about stepping into our canoes, a tremendous hurricane arose, accompanied by snow, and in less time than it takes to write it, the lake was a sheet of foam. The storm continued all day, and at 2 p.m., being again out of food, we decided to make the Fort if possible, now 8 or 9 miles distant. Accordingly six men went on with the three canoes, and five of us—myself among the number—walked the shore. The canoes reached the Fort in safety, and securing a large bark, which we called the life-boat, with three Abitibi Indians, two of my men returned with them for those of us who were walking the shore. When night came on we built a fire on the shore, and about an hour after dark were picked up, wet, cold, and hungry, and taken to Abitibi Fort. Never shall I forget that canoe

ride across the stormy waters of Abitibi. But what of those who were left behind? Arrangements were at once made to return for them with the life-boat the following morning, but at daybreak the lake, although still rough, was actually freezing, and in a short time was frozen to such an extent that canoeing was an



A RIVER CROSSED BY THE LINE.

impossibility. Monday passed, but no relief could be sent them; Tuesday and Wednesday also, for the ice was not strong enough to go upon yet.

On Thursday morning, November 10th, one of my men succeeded in getting to the Southerly shore with a hand sleigh and provisions, and went in search of the missing men. At 5 p.m. we noticed six men coming on the opposite shore, and went to meet them, but all of our six were not there. "Who is the Indian?" I asked; and the reply by Biggar was, "that is the man who saved our lives." "Where is Toussaint?" "Drowned!" "Drowned?" "Yes!" "Where is Neelands?" "Gone back with Ritchie and Isadore to try to find Toussaint." And then followed the story of the 4th canoe.

They had taken the South shore, as before stated, passed an Indian at his house, from whom they got some directions as to the route, and travelled till dark. They went ashore, had tea, and remained there till about midnight, and then continued the journey. When about half a mile out, with six paddles going, they ran into a large piece of floating ice, and knocked a large hole in the bow of the canoe. She immediately began to fill, and was headed for the shore, but shortly afterwards went down, and the six men were struggling in the water. Biggar got hold of a water-proof dunnage-bag, which acted as a life-preserver, and swam to an island. The Indian started to swim with two paddles. The canoe, after dumping her load, came up bottom upward, and Neelands and the three others caught on to the canoe. By pulling and pushing the canoe, they got to the island, but the poor Indian was nowhere to be seen. One paddle remained in the canoe, and Neelands, by getting into the stern of the canoe and keeping the bow out of the water, took the

men, one at a time, to the main shore. Fortunately, the fire they had left was still burning, or with their matches wet, and axes drowned, they might have perished with cold. One of the tents had caught under the thwart of the canoe, and by putting this up to windward of the fire, it afforded them shelter.

Sunday morning came and with it the storm before described. They started to walk Easterly towards the Post, and after having gone a few miles came to a river, and having no means of crossing, returned to their fire. Here they remained without food until Monday noon, when Neelands, Craig and Bowen went back to the Indian's house they had passed two days before, Biggar and McDonald remaining on the point where they were, in case any of the advanced party should return. On Tuesday, Craig and Bowen returned with the Indian, bringing food for Biggar and McDonald, and then all went back to the Indian's house. Here they remained till Thursday morning, the 10th, when accompanied by the Indian, who had fed and housed them, they started for Abitibi Post on the ice, meeting the relief party and arriving as before described.

We remained at Abitibi waiting for the Upper River and height of land lakes to freeze, till the 15th, when we set out for Temiscamingue, 100 miles distant, with 10 toboggans and one sleigh drawing a canoe, and after a great deal of difficulty, on account of the alternate freezing and breaking-up of the lakes and rivers, our party reached Lake Temiscamingue on the evening of November 24th, and after that with little trouble we reached Toronto, a few days later.



ON LAKE TEMISCAMINGUE.

I may say in conclusion, that in my 20 years' experience of this kind of work, this was the hardest trip I have ever had, and yet every man of the party came home in perfect health.

ALEXANDER NIVEN.

## PROFESSORS AND BOOKS.

"The great defect in the Educational System of Toronto University is that the professors and lecturers never come into intimate, personal contact with the students." This fact has been pointed out time and again. Those in high places have shaken their heads, and exclaimed: "It is too true; it is a pity," and nothing further has been done.

In all that has been said on this subject, however, stress has been laid principally upon the loss to the student of a most valuable source of culture—contact with cultured men. Little has been said of the effect upon the mere teaching or lecturing efficiency of the professors. Yet, it is here that the worst results are apparent. The separation of the student from the professor is not only greater at Toronto University than in the English Universities, but, so far as I have been able to judge, it is much more complete than in other Canadian Universities. In one or two courses, the lecturer is brought into closer relations with the student by "practical work." In the majority of the courses, however, our connection with the professor is very limited. The professor does all the talking at the lectures, the student merely listens to what the professor says. We occasionally receive a bow from him at an afternoon tea; we sit in the same room with him at an annual Dinner, we salute him when we meet him on the street, and with this our intercourse with him ends. It is not then to be wondered at, that many of our lecturers are not in full sympathy with those to whom they lecture; that some of them persist in regarding the student as a well-trained philosopher, and continually "talk over his head," while by others he is looked upon as a school-child, and treated to a process of spoon-feeding.

It is pointed out that we have 800 students, and only 50 lecturers, and the small number of the lecturers, as compared with the number of students, is made the excuse for the absence of any attempt on the part of the Faculty to enter into more intimate relations with the student. The argument seems to be that as the lecturer cannot know everyone under his care, it is therefore of no use for him to know anyone. As a matter of fact, however, the paucity of our staff of lecturers renders only the more imperative a closer contact with the students. If our University were a wealthy institution, and were fully equipped with a large staff of professors, lecturers, fellows and tutors, or if the students were wealthy and could afford to employ private tutors, then the failure of any of the Faculty to understand the needs of the students would not be such a serious affair. But where one professor, or one lecturer even, is your all-in-all, then it is most important that he should understand thoroughly his position.

This separation of the lecturer from the student is at once the cause and the effect of a certain inability, that many lecturers show, to understand the real function that they discharge in our Educational System, and especially to grasp the position that they hold in regard to the books that the student reads. Professor Wrong, in drawing attention recently to certain Americanisms that are creeping into our University life, remarked that it is desirable that we should not imitate other countries, but rather that we should develop a type of University peculiar to ourselves. The truth of this remark is fully illustrated when one ex-

amines the part that a professor has to play in our University. His position is unique, in so far as he must be professor and tutor combined, and must do all the work that is done elsewhere by various other members of the staff. This peculiarity of his position should surely have some influence on the way in which he treats the books that the student reads.

There are many who hold that so far as the training and knowledge to be acquired at a University are concerned, the books are everything, and the professors little or nothing. They assert that if the student stayed at home and read alone for four years, he would have quite as good a training, and would learn more than he does at a University. "What is the use of going to lectures?" I remember hearing a man say once, "You don't get anything there that is not in the books, and in the majority of cases it is given in the books in a great deal better shape."

The truth in this argument seems to be that a lecturer, if he is to be of any use, must discharge a function quite different from that performed by books. Written books are much better than spoken books. The time is now past for using the ordinary lecture-room as a place where original thought is expounded. What the ordinary student wants is substantial work that has stood the criticism of the thinkers of the world. As a rule, this is now to be obtained in good, and fairly cheap text-books. If the professor does not agree with the writers of these books, or if he has some new ideas on the subject, it seems to me that the best thing for him to do is to put his ideas into a book. The University student has not the matured judgment necessary for estimating correctly the value of new work, and he wants nothing that has not been pronounced upon by the public.

Books are, in fact, the most important source of the student's knowledge, as they are of the professor's, and it seems to me that what the student wants from the professor is work based upon them. This, however, does not seem to be the view of many of our Faculty. Often whole courses of lectures are delivered without any mention ever being made of a book. At other times so many are spoken of that the advice is useless. One lecturer, of whom I have been told by a friend, during a short course of lectures recently, recommended, by actual count, over fifty books, with practically the same emphasis on all. I once went to a lecturer for advice as to what I should read on a comparatively insignificant part of one of the many subjects I was studying, which was not well treated in the text-book I was reading. The gentleman took a pencil and wrote down the titles of eight books, averaging between three and four hundred pages each. "Which one of these shall I read, sir?" I asked. "Why, read them all," he replied. "But I won't have time this year." "Well, you will sometime," he answered.

This is only a fair example of the unpractical manner in which the books are treated by our lecturers. What we want most is not a list of books, that we "shall read sometime," but careful and particular advice as to what we should read now. A bibliography that will be a guide to us in further reading is no doubt a valuable possession, but infinitely more valuable would be advice as to the present. In giving this, moreover, the lecturer would do well to remember that his subject is not the only one on the course.

The student comes to the University from a High School, where he has been accustomed to the most

careful guidance, having every lesson definitely assigned for the next day. At the University, with nothing but the calendar to guide him, he is bewildered. The calendar contains a list of books that are doubtless well selected, but in most cases they are altogether too many for even the cleverest students to read. Even if this were not the case, much more particular direction is necessary. Not only would it be well for the lecturer to indicate the books that should be read; but the sequence in which they are to be read is often an important consideration. Imagine, for instance, a person reading Carlyle's French Revolution before he has read anything else on this period, and you have a parallel to the absurdities which are daily being committed by students without guidance. In the English Universities, I imagine the tutor would direct the student in these matters. At Toronto University the advice of students of Senior years is the only thing that saves the younger students from the loss of much valuable time through misdirected effort.

If the lecturers would base their work upon the books read, they could, after giving full directions as to what should be read, be of very great assistance by explaining difficulties that arise in mastering their contents. In reading any book, these difficulties are almost sure to arise, and often destroy the whole meaning of the book for the student. These difficulties the student might look for the lecturer to elucidate, yet in our present system the puzzles are usually left unsolved. The lecturer pursues his course quite independently of the books, covering practically the same ground. He wastes much time in expounding what they make quite clear, while those parts in them which cause difficulty are often passed over almost unnoticed. The whole result, so far as the student is concerned, is often a terrible jumble, which is absolutely worthless.

Another direction in which the student feels the need of help from the professor is in aiding his defective perspective. The average student does not possess the maturity of judgment that is necessary to decide what the important part of a subject really is. Even if his judgment were perfect, he is in no position to estimate the relative importance of the various parts of any study until he has surveyed the whole field. This he cannot do until he has spent a long time in study, and in the meantime, through error, much time may be lost. In this respect again it seems to me that the lecturer could best aid him by basing his work on the books. He could then point out not only what are the important things to be looked for in reading, but also indicate exactly where they are to be found. It would be of great benefit to the young student to know just what place each book should fill. Books, such as Parkman's History of Canada, when they cover new ground, are often read with the greatest ease and the utmost regard for detail, while such condensed works as Bryce's Holy Roman Empire are often read with the same rapidity as an up-to-date novel. Should it not be the duty of the lecturer, when so much is required from the student, to indicate what books and even what parts of books should be studied thoroughly, and what parts may be read hurriedly?

When the student has read the books, and has acquired a certain amount of knowledge, there still remains the difficulty of relating the different elements of his knowledge to one another. It seems to me that in doing this lies the source of all true knowledge

and culture. Many men have stored up in their brains a universal number of facts which are of absolutely no use to them. This is because their facts are not related to one another. To assist the student in the process of "inwardly digesting" is perhaps the most important function of the professor. The knowledge gained from a book too often remains in the mind merely as a part of the book, without being thoroughly understood, and without being related to other knowledge. To help the student to assimilate and relate his knowledge, is the most important part the professor has to play. He cannot do this, however, by giving an independent course of lectures filling the place of another book, but only by approaching the subject from the same direction as the student. It can only be done by taking account of all the various sources of the student's knowledge, by showing how the different parts of one book are related to each other, the position that one book holds in relation to another, and how the views of one writer harmonize with those of another.

In the more general substitution of seminary work for the conventional lecture, seems to lie the solution of the difficulties here presented. This would at least place the professor in a position to find out for himself the needs of the student, and to enter with more sympathy into his difficulties. HAROLD FISHER.

[Mr. Fisher's article was received some two weeks ago, but owing to crush of matter could not be published.—Ed. VARSITY].

#### THE CONVERSAT.

Preparations for the great and last social event of our academic year are fast approaching completion, and the committee which has the function in hand are bending all their energies to make it greater and grander than has been. The final arrangements, which will supply the pleasure to Varsity's many friends throughout the evening, are as follows: 8.30 to 9.30, General reception. 8.45 to 9.15, Graduates reception by the Faculty. 9.30 to 10.30, Concert. 10.45, *ad infinitum*, Dancing in East and West Halls—promenading in lower corridors.

The Committee, in charge of the Graduates, has added four past Presidents of the Lit. to its forces, namely: Messrs. Young, Bristol, Irwin, and Clark. This Committee is meeting with excellent response from the graduates, and a large representation is expected.

The Concert, although not occupying a great deal of time, will be a notable one. Madame Trebelli has been engaged to sing four numbers. Messrs. Knox and Gorrie will sing, Miss Fulton will give a violin solo, and J. H. Cameron a reading. In addition to these attractions there will be exhibits by the Natural Science students and S.P.S. It is also expected that Mr. Bengough will entertain again with his splendid cartoons.

The dancing will take place in the East and West Halls, in each of which will be an orchestra. The promenaders will "walk" in the lower corridors, where an orchestra will be stationed at the corner where the stairs lead up to the ladies' waiting-room.

All this entertainment will be supplied at a rate within the reach of all, namely, one dollar for ladies, and one twenty-five for men. The tickets are strictly limited to 800, and the students should all assist the committee by securing them as soon as possible.

## The College Girl

The regular meeting of the Women's Literary Society was held on Saturday, January 28th. For the first half hour Miss Woolverton occupied the chair, as Miss White wished to speak to the members about the various duties devolving upon them on the evening of February 4th. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A short discussion took place on the pro's and con's of dancing next Saturday night, but after an able speech by one of our leading members, the matter was dropped, and Miss White returned to the Presidential chair.

The programme was then proceeded with, and opened by a number from the Glee Club. A debate upon University work's training a woman for any sphere in life was ably presented by the Misses Marshall and Fraser of '02, speaking for the University women, and Misses Gundry and Wicher of '01 against them. The President decided that the Freshies had won by two points, although she met the hearty approval of the audience in saying that the debate had been so exceptionally well-rendered as to make it very hard to decide. Miss Dennis, a talented young lady, and the winner of last year's silver medal at the Conservatory of Music, gave a selection that, I think, was from Howells.

The play "An Iconoclast," which closed the programme, was particularly well done, as none of the actors were troubled by anything even approaching stage fright, and they certainly knew their parts. Miss Cockburn, as the central figure, seemed perfectly at ease in her peculiar position. Miss L. M. Mason was the prim old maid, and provoked considerable laughter, whilst Miss Butterworth, as a clever, rather pert young lady, did her part admirably.

Altogether the meeting on breaking up on Saturday night felt at peace with itself and all the world.

In enumerating the attractions of next Saturday night's programme, it was, by some oversight, forgotten to mention the musical treat in store for those who will then hear the Misses Evans and Covert. We are already acquainted with Miss Grace Evans' playing on the violin, but it is only a few who have been privileged to hear Miss Evans, a pupil of Mr. Hahn. Miss Evans gives promise of great things with her cello, and as she is now attending lectures at the College, we feel proud of her, as in some sense, our own. Miss Covert, who is also attending lectures, will be the accompaniste.

In these days when girls of the Second Year maintain with many weighty arguments that the College girl takes no interest in anything, it is with pleasure that we report unabated interest in and attendance at the Y.W.C.A. meetings. Last week Rev. Mr. Patterson, of Cooke's Church, addressed us, in his ever ready and fluent style, on the "Privileges and Responsibilities of College Women," taking as his text: "To whom much is given, of him much shall be required." He called to mind our many privileges, and by many examples from Old Testament history showed that women had always taken a prominent part in the world's history, and that her influence was with few exceptions for good.

We sincerely hope that this will not be Mr. Patterson's last visit to the Y.W.C.A.

# The News

MOCK PARLIAMENT.

## CALENDAR.

Friday, February 3rd, 4 p.m.—Math. and Phys. Society. "The Problem of Contact Electricity," A. M. Scott, Ph.D. "The Meth. of the Middle Ages," C. Engler, '01. 8 p.m.—Mock Parliament, '01 versus '02

Saturday, February 4th, 3 p.m.—Sat. Lecture, Chem. Bldg. "Our Salmon Fisheries," Prof. Prince. 8 p.m.—Canadian Institute. "Microscopic Study of the Electric Organs of Fishes," Prof. Prince.

Monday, February 6th, 4 p.m.—Modern Language Club. "Mod. Germany and its People," Dr. Needler. Athletic Directorate Elections.

## THE ANNUAL DEBATE WITH MCGILL.

(Written for THE VARSITY by V. E. Henderson).

On Thursday night, F. W. Anderson and T. A. Russel went to Montreal. At the station the President, Mr. Robertson, of the McGill Literary Society, met the Toronto debaters, and went with them to the hotel. They had arranged to take them for a drive during the afternoon to see the sights of the city. When the afternoon arrived, Mr. Robertson appeared on the scene with a sleigh and the party drove to Notre Dame Cathedral, the Chateau Ramsey, and McGill. Chateau Ramsey is one of the oldest buildings in the city, and was built in 1687. It was the palace of the Intendant, and was occupied by General Amherst and several of the early English governors.

The debate was held in Molson's Hall, in the East wing of the McGill Arts' building. It is quite a small hall, with seating capacity for about 300 at the outside. There were about 250 present, principally students, as the debate was not noticed in the daily papers. The subject of the debate was "Resolved, that a system of international arbitration was practicable and in the best interests of peace." The affirmative, which was upheld by our representatives, was decidedly the weak end of the question. F. W. Anderson, however, in his opening speech, brought forth many good arguments. He dealt first with the evils of war, and then showed what had been accomplished by the use of arbitration in the past. He also insisted that the development of the world was towards peace, and that hence any effort put forth now towards arbitration should be successful. Mr. Murray was the first of the McGill debaters, and made a good speech, or rather recitation, for he had his speech by heart. T. A. Russel made the second speech for us, and again his arguments seemed to be conclusive. The final McGill speech, by Mr. Elliott, was largely a lengthy and powerful ridicule to the points made by our representatives, and of many other arguments usually used for the resolution. F. W. Anderson summed up the arguments and objections in a short speech. The McGill men practically never touched upon the second half to the resolution, but devoted their powers to the attacking of the practicability. After half an hour of consultation, the judges decided against us by a vote of two to one. Judge Hall, in delivering the verdict, made a short speech. The students present applauded the arguments of our men, and treated them in right royal manner. The verdict with many of them was quite unexpected.

The Lit. Friday night drew a good crowd of students to hear the pseudo-parliamentary heroes of '99 battle against those of the same genus from '00. Before the House "agreed to disagree," some business of importance was transacted. Messrs. T. A. Russel and W. H. Alexander were recommended to represent Varsity in the final struggle for the Inter-College Championship, and the recommendation will doubtless be sustained, as the choice is a good one. Howard McLean, '99, was sent to Wycliffe Conversat., and W. Fred. Mackay to the Osgoode Rugby Dinner. Another favor to be dispensed was a complimentary ticket to J. H. F. Fisher, '99, for the Trinity Conversat. Having scattered these favors, the members of the opposing forces seated themselves at opposite sides of the hall, with several tables intervening to keep them apart, and the serious mien of Dr. Wickett, as Speaker, to quell any obstreperous "honorable member." Ingram, '01, held the Sergeant-at-Arms' sword.

Two Freshmen, Banwell and Hamilton, made good "maiden speeches," in moving and seconding the address. Then R. J. Wilson, the leader of the Opposition, proceeded to tear the Government to pieces for daring to defeat them at the polls. The eloquence so touched "Bob" Hunter, the Premier, that he was constrained to remark, that, as he had neither a wife nor a private secretary to write his speech, he would not be able to be eloquent in any way. Whereupon "Frank" Brown remarked that Wilson had neither of these impedimenta. Then Hunter said: "I take it back." "Sandy" McLeod rose and asked how the Honorable Premier could "take her back," when the Leader of the Opposition had no wife. After Hunter had finished his eloquent arraignment of the Opposition, A. W. Keith, Fisher, Keith (another one), McNairn, Watson, J. McKay, "Sandy" McLeod (for the Opposition), Monds, Harrison, '00; Fred. Smith, '99, and McNeil followed, each in turn supporting the policy of their own party and casting to the winds anything that their opponents thought right—after the manner of intelligent politicians.

"Sandy" McLeod, who declared himself always "agin the Government," especially distinguished himself and extinguished all against whom his humor and ire was directed. He brought down the house in taking exception to the clause in the speech from the throne, which proposed the buying of "stocks" for cheeky Freshmen. He couldn't understand why the Government should spend so much in this direction for Freshmen, without supplying "stockings" for Freshettes. This point was so well taken that we are sure it was the cause of the downfall of the Government. He closed with the following peroration, which, in-so-far as we know, was extemporaneous:

Go in Col. Bob-Wilson, go in!  
I'll hold your bonnet, and sail in too!  
I'll run and bite, and scratch and fight,  
And tumble in the fray,  
Till all the ground, for miles around,  
Be covered with my blood,  
And when at last I've lost my strength,  
I never will give in;  
But rest myself and catch my breath,  
And then sail in again.



## MOCK PARLIAMENT.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

'01 Versus '02.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:—

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—We have much pleasure in welcoming you to this the twelfth Parliament of Canada, and in congratulating you upon the marked prosperity of the country. Our exports have enormously increased, the railroads and shipping interests are all flourishing, and the agricultural condition of the country is such as to promise continued advance in national prosperity. We have every confidence that under the ministry which has again received the approval of the electorate, the country will make every great stride in the future which it has made in the past.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—The following measures will be proposed for your consideration:

1. To extend the International Railway to Parry Sound.
2. To charter the G.T.R. to build a line to the Pacific Coast.
3. To establish a differential tariff in favor of the British West Indies.
4. To authorize the removal of the principal Ladies' Colleges of Toronto into closer proximity to Varsity.
5. To extend the franchise to lady graduates of Toronto University, until such time as they enter upon a state of connubial felicity.
6. To prevent the overcrowding of street cars.
7. To amend the Redistribution Act with a view to giving the "Lit." a representative in Parliament.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—You will be asked to vote supplies for the following purposes:

1. To build a partition six feet high through the centre of the Library Reading-Room, to prevent stolen glances.
2. For a fast line of trans-Atlantic freighters from Paspebiac, N.B.
3. To aid Toronto University in erecting a Convocation Hall.
4. To deepen Toronto Harbor.
5. To establish a secular College for the Russian Deukhobors, with Sir John C. Mackintosh, A.B.C., as Chief.

Premier and President of the Council, Sir Richard J. Hamilton, K.C.B.

Minister of Finance, Hon. Robert M. Stewart.

Minister of Public Works, Hon. John Wilson Cunningham.

Minister of Justice, Hon. W. Mac. Mackay, L.L.D.

Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Wm. J. Loughheed.

Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Admiral Edward Brown.

Minister of Trade and Commerce, Sir Ernest R. Paterson.

Minister of Railways and Canals, J. Alex. Soule, D.D.

Minister of Militia and Defence, Gen. Tarte Hills, K.C.M.

Minister of Interior, Hon. Herbert T. Wallace.

Postmaster-General, Count Neil R. Gray, P.O.

Secretary of State, Earl Egbert Carson.

Solicitor-General, Hon. H. H. Allen, Q.C.

Controller of Customs, Sir Albert MacRae.

Controller of Inland Revenue, Archibald Mullin, P.C.

Ministers without Portfolio, A. Cohen, W. C. Bray.

John Wycliffe Monds, A. L. Burch and Alex. MacDougall will be gazetted a Royal Commission to investigate the charges against certain Freshmen who used Sophomores as toboggans at the hustle.

Gen. Van Wick, Lord of Slippery Slope, will be appointed Varsity's representative to Tampa.

The front benches of the Opposition will be occupied by the following members: Messrs. Kylie, Cassidy, Miller, Aylesworth, Brophy, Wilcox, Chapman, Robertson, Coyne, Lockhart, Carson, Brown, Fisher, and Deroche.

## A NEW FRATERNITY.

There has been added to the number of Fraternities at the University a chapter of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Greek Letter Society. The latter is supposed to be one of the largest and most influential in the States, and has a membership of some 12,000, with 35 chapters. Some ten D.K.E.'s or Deke's—as they are called on the other side—came to Toronto last week, and initiated some sixteen Varsity undergraduates.

## NEWS NOTES.

We are sorry to hear that the President has not escaped the grip. We hope he will be better again soon.

Mr. Chant was able to lecture last Monday for the first time since his sickness.

Professor Fraser entertained the Executive of the Modern Language Club at Dinner last Monday night, and a very enjoyable time is reported.

Prof. McCurdy lectured last Friday night at St. Margaret's College, on "The Bible and the Ancient Monuments."

We take pleasure in congratulating Knox College on receiving the benefaction of \$52,500, from the late James W. Brown, of Chatham.

Prof. Mills' lecture last Thursday brought out a large crowd, who listened with a great deal of interest to his talk on "Egypt."

The next Saturday lecture will be given by Prof. Edward E. Prince, Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries, Ottawa, on "Our Salmon and Salmon Fisheries." The lecture will be illustrated.

The date for the finals in the Inter-College Debating League has been fixed for February 17th, when Varsity will do battle with the representatives of Knox. "Billy" Alexander and "Tommy" Russel have been selected to form Varsity's winning team.

The Athletic Directorate Elections for '00 are called for Monday next. It is to be hoped that the men of the Junior Year will use careful discrimination in their voting, and particularly distinguish between the executive and active athletic capabilities of the candidates. As Athletics is one of the most important branches of undergraduate activity, so are these offices most important. Nominations must be signed by five members of the year.

# The Varsity

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G. W. ROSS, *Editor-in-Chief.*

ERIC N. ARMOUR, *Business Manager.*

A. N. MITCHELL, *Assistant Business Manager.*

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TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1, 1899.

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## THE UNIVERSITY CLUB AND GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION.

At the University Dinner in December last, Prof. Wright first publicly proposed that a "University Club" should be formed, which should have as members, the Faculty, graduates, and all citizens interested in the University. The proposition was well-received by those present, and Prof. Goldwin Smith later announced his readiness to become a member of such a club, and drew attention to its probable usefulness in furthering the interests of the University.

The formation of such a Club should meet with hearty support from the Faculty and all graduates, for there cannot be the least doubt but that it would be productive of many good results in several directions. As far as the Faculty themselves are concerned, it would form a medium of social intercourse, for which academical is but a poor substitute. Then the gathering together of the best men of the city, the graduates and Faculty, would soon make the Club the centre of the best thought, not only in Toronto, but in all Canada. Again, it would unite all graduates, in the city at least, in a common interest for the advancement of the interests of their Alma Mater. These reasons alone would be sufficient to make the new organization worthy of general support, but there is yet a wide sphere of usefulness, which, though not included in the original proposition, is not foreign to it, and would perhaps form the strongest argument in favor of the formation of the Club. We mean that it should form the nucleus or directing-centre of a Graduates' Association for the Province and Canada.

The non-existence of such a uniting body as a Graduates' Association is to be greatly deplored, for we believe there is no one thing that can be done now which will further the interests of the University in a greater degree, than the organization of such an Association. The University of Toronto has been graduat-

ing men for some fifty years now, and equipping them for successful endeavor in almost all of the spheres of human activity. There are about 3,000 graduates now scattered over the Province and Canada, and these men in hundreds and hundreds of instances are the leading, or at least most influential men in their community. It can thus readily be seen what a great combined influence the uniting of all would form.

For some time past the absolute necessity for more money has been keenly felt by the authorities, if the University of Toronto was to maintain its position among the leaders in higher education on this continent. Three sources of financial assistance present themselves. One from the beneficence of wealthy citizens, another from the more prosperous graduates, and finally from the State coffers. An energetic Graduates' Association would materially assist in reaching any or all three of these. In the first place, the attention of public men would doubtless be favorably attracted to, or by well-directed effort could be turned towards the University and its needs. It is needless to give example of the almost lavish beneficence of many men in the foundation and support of institutions for higher education, both in Canada, but especially in the United States. In the latter country some \$13,000,000 were offered last year alone, to keep the lamp of knowledge burning brightly, while in Canada the kindness of Lord Strathcona, Sir William McDonald and Mr. Redpath to McGill is on every lip, and nothing but gratitude and admiration felt.

In the matter of material assistance from graduates, we need only mention that for several years the Old Boys' (or Graduates'), Association of Upper Canada College each year wiped away an average deficit of five thousand dollars. They, and the able principal, Dr. Parkyn, alone can be thanked for the unprecedented condition of prosperity in which the College now finds itself. At Harvard, graduates contributed thirteen thousand dollars for the improvement of the Athletic Field alone. Queen's University has always received hearty responses from its alumni, when in financial difficulties, and even now it is calling for assistance in this direction.

In the final respect of reaching the State coffers, we believe that these could be most readily opened by the persistent and energetic appeals, or if you wish, demands of such an influential organization as the Graduates' Association of the University of Toronto would be. Its members could, through such a body, focus all their energies and influence on one point, and that would be the Government in power, and make palatable their appeals with the sauce of influence.

We earnestly hope that whatever be the outcome of the University Club, that steps will soon be taken to band all the graduates together in one common cause, and that—the furtherance of the interests of their Alma Mater.

## THE '99 MEMORIAL.

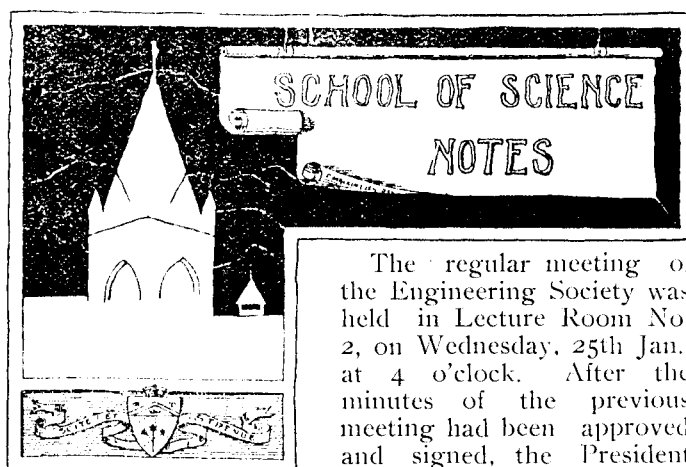
Since the first time the proposal was made that the graduating year, and especially that of '99, should, in a slight degree, perpetuate its memory, by leaving some souvenir to the University, it has met with a remarkable unanimity of approval. Letters have been written to THE VARSITY by prominent men, it has been supported editorially, in the Literary Society, in the Halls and on the Campus.

The only matter over which any controversy has taken place has been the exact form which our memorial should take, and we will enumerate a number of the suggestions. One was to provide a new sign-board, appropriately carved, to take the place of the present "herald of news" in the Rotunda. A second was that a room should be obtained in the Students' Union, and suitable furnishings provided, as a memorial. Another was that a bust should be secured of one of the Presidents of the University, and placed in a suitable place in University College. A fourth was the replacing of the memorial window to the members of "K." Company that fell in the defence of their country. A fifth we wish to suggest. It is that a suitable silver trophy should be presented to the Literary Society or Hallowe'en Club for competition in Oratory, among the undergraduates, and be called the Class of '99 trophy.

There has been a marked increase of interest or reawakening of interest in debating and public-speaking this year, and it is to be hoped that this will continue to increase each year. We believe that if an "oration evening" were set aside for the undergraduates to deliver their efforts in public, great good would result. The method of procedure is usually something after this fashion: A well-known public man and competent judge is secured as Chairman and judge of the speeches. These are governed by certain rules and call forth the best efforts of the competitors. Another desirable result of this would be that a certain dignity would be lent to what is now too often considered as a mere adventitious acquirement, and men would be induced to study public-speaking earnestly and scientifically.

A step in the right direction has recently been taken by the formation of the Hallowe'en Club, whose avowed purpose is to stimulate an interest in public-speaking, and satisfy the desire to learn. We point out these several things to add weight to the statement that anything which will tend to increase the interest in what has been called the "lost art," merits the hearty support of all.

Any of the last three of the above suggestions, we think, would make a suitable souvenir to leave to our Alma Mater, but in this matter, as in all others, the size and elasticity of our purse must be taken into consideration. We enumerate the probable cost of each of the three from the best information we have been able to obtain. The marble bust would require some five or six hundred dollars. The replacing of the memorial window would cost one hundred to two hundred dollars, and a suitable trophy from fifty dollars up. There is thus a variety of opportunities for a large or small purse; but whatever the Class Executive decide to do, however, it is essential that it should not be delayed, and that active work should be begun as soon as possible to enlist the material support of the many who have already generously lent their moral support to the undertaking.



The regular meeting of the Engineering Society was held in Lecture Room No. 2, on Wednesday, 25th Jan., at 4 o'clock. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been approved and signed, the President called on Mr. Thomas

Southworth, of the Forestry Department, to read his paper on "The Forestry Interest of Ontario." In this paper Mr. Southworth pointed out the necessity of surveyors and engineers knowing the proper names of the trees, and also of listing Jack Pine for paving blocks. He also announced that a prize of \$10 would be offered for the best essay on some subject of Forestry, by a School of Science student. After a vote of thanks had been tendered to Mr. Southworth, Mr. E. V. Neclands gave a graphic account of his adventures on the Abitibi River. The invitation to the McGill "At Home" was accepted, and Mr. Carter unanimously elected as delegate, after which the meeting adjourned.

Mr. Wilfred Alger Hare, one of the brilliant lights of the Third Year, was stricken down at his home last week, while endeavoring to locate the missing half inch of his Plate Girder. The ambulance was summoned, and he was at once removed to the Sick Children's Hospital, where he lay for some time in a precarious condition. We are glad to be able to announce that he is once more able to be in our midst. It now turns out that the article which caused all the trouble had not disappeared, but had merely been mislaid.

Mr. George Clothier has devoted his life to Science, and the sacrifice nearly came off one day during the past week. Mr. Clothier turned on the gas in the assay furnace before he discovered that there were no matches at hand. Absent-mindedly he plucked out one of "Blue-Beard's" whiskers, and applied it to the gas. As might be imagined, a terrific explosion followed, and in a moment furnace and pipes lay in a shattered heap on the floor, while Prof. Graham, who was in another part of the building, rushed upstairs to see if any locomotive boilers, at present under construction by the Third Year, had "blown up." Fortunately there were no casualties. Prof. Ellis is now making a qualitative analysis of the new explosive, and it is said has discovered two or three new elements which will materially assist in the completion of Mendelejeff's table. Meanwhile, we believe it is intended to send samples to some of the more famous English and German chemists, for confirmation of Dr. Ellis' work.

Professor Mavor again favored the Chess Club with an invitation to play a match with a dozen ex-Varsity chess players, at his residence Saturday night. The match resulted in a tie. The evening was a most enjoyable one to all present.

## SPECIALIZATION (UNDERGRADUATE).

Editor of THE VARSITY,—

SIR,—Your well-penned editorial of two weeks ago on "Specialization," and the thoughtful article by "Graduate," gave expression to thoughts on a question that has been in the minds of many students in the University, regarding the power of some of the Honor Courses to give a liberal education. It is the almost unanimous opinion that everyone who comes to Varsity should acquire a liberal education as a result, and many students in the Honor Courses are wondering if they are getting this when they give so much time to specialization. But it has been shown by "Graduate" that specialization is a good thing, and an actual necessity of our times. Further, it has an undoubted pedagogical value in that it teaches the student the meaning of "thorough," and by showing him something of the profundity attained in one branch of knowledge, gives him an ideal to strive to reach in other fields he may enter in after life. Moreover, all will agree that whatever the finished product of a liberal education may be, he is not turned out at the end of the four years spent in a University, but, under the most favorable circumstances, only a beginning is made, and the education is continued in after years. These facts, neglecting altogether the "bread and butter" consideration, would seem to indicate that the specializing should come first, as it is made to do in our University, and that the broadening will come in greater part in course of time, as the result of the mental power and inclination acquired at the University. But if I have read correctly, you believe that certain Honor Courses, although eminently thorough and excellent in everything in their respective departments, do not give the stimulus, or the opportunity, or the power to enter intelligently other departments of knowledge, and hence are narrowing in their tendency. This, I am inclined to agree with you, is true of some, but not of all. I will try to show that in the Honor Natural Science Course, there is no incompatibility to prevent the specializing and the broadening being concurrent; the latter, of course, being merely incipient; and, it is admitted, acquired indirectly. But the highest possession the University can give is that of self-help.

The Honor Natural Science Course in the University comprises instruction in the following subjects: Biology, Psychology, Geology and Palaeontology, Physics and Chemistry. In addition, Latin or Greek, Mathematics, French and German are taken in the First Year, and English in all the years.

Let us examine the educative power of this course of study. In common, no doubt, with the other University courses, it teaches you the value of work. It was during the time spent here that I was impressed with the truth that the future will contain only what is carried into it. The course in Natural Science is pre-eminently one to make you a man of action.

Again, it enables you, and more than that, absolutely compels you to think for yourself. Many a serious young student, who has been brought up in beliefs of long standing, gets a tremendous tossing about when the props of tradition are knocked away from him, and he finds himself launched without an anchor into a sea of cold facts that are very turbulent. But before he gets through his course, he probably has found

his bearings, at least to such an extent that he acquires confidence, and now, free to progress, he finds the ocean grander, and vaster, and infinitely more sublime than the little yard on the shore, where the view was so obstructed by the high fence all round it, where, perhaps, he might have stayed all his life, if liberal education had not blessed him.

Further, the spheres of knowledge opened up to you in the study of Natural Science are such as to give you a voracious appetite for all forms of knowledge, and any course of study is a good one which will cause you to broaden out eventually. In this course you do more than learn to dissect an animal. You get an inspiring view of the great laws of nature, physical, mental, and moral. For instance, you get a firm grasp of the great doctrine of evolution, in the mold of which so many of the 'ologies have been recast in our day. The great department of History can now be entered intelligently, and an interest in social economy is a natural sequence. And what a field of scientific Literature is opened up to you! You may have all the joy of battle in reading the iconoclastic Huxley or Haeckel, whether you agree with him or not; or you may satisfy your constructive propensities in Herbert Spenser and many others. Nor is the humanistic side neglected. The lectures in English are profound and broad, teaching you "from the writing to construe the writer." Moreover, they open up to you the department of Philosophy, as well as of general Literature. The reading of Darwin, even, introduces you to the department of Ethics, which at first sight may seem so far removed. Perhaps it is not necessary, by further instance, to show the great breadth of the outlook in the Natural Science Course.

To claim the same virtues for all the Honor Courses I would not attempt, and one or two of them I believe to be perniciously narrow. Even my own course has the fly in the ointment, for I do not consider it wholly perfect in the details of its curriculum. It seems to me that this defect in all the courses would be remedied by adopting the system of options suggested by Mr. Houston, and already to some extent in force in the Ph.D. Course. If a student were compelled to attend lectures in, say, three or four subjects, out of an option of a dozen or more, he could choose to attend those which he felt were required to broaden him out; in which, without some lectures of an introductory nature to show him how to go about his studies, he probably never would make much headway. With regard to my own course, I think this plan could be adopted without detracting very much from the thoroughness necessary in the major subject. Personally, I wish I had acquired during my course the faculty of reading French and German, and Latin and Greek, better than I am able to do, as the result of the short time devoted to them in the present curriculum; also, I wish I could use the Calculus, and had an acquaintance with the principles of Logic, and had had some introductory lectures in Philosophy, and perhaps a little Political Science. But, then, some people are never satisfied. Fortunately, however, even if it has its little shortcomings, the Natural Science Course, as it is in our University, may be to the thoughtful student a liberal education.

Yours sincerely,

January 26th, 1899.

W. S., '99.

# Athletics

## ATHLETICS.

### THE HOCKEY CLUB.—

Again it is our pleasurable duty to report another victory for our representatives, and to congratulate them upon their success. Before a crowded house (1,200 persons), Varsity defeated Stratford's speedy combination. The game was throughout fast, but at times inclined to be rough. The excitement was always at fever heat. The score at half-time was three all. The first few minutes after the resumption of play were anxious ones for the spectators, and for the Stratford defense; for in spite of Kern's good work in goal, Varsity scored three times in fast succession. Then, again, play became more even, and after a hard struggle Stratford pulled its score up to five. Varsity thus won the match by a goal. The return game, which will probably place the U. of T. representatives in the finals, will be played on Wednesday, before this is read. The work of the team was very good. Isbister played in better form than he has shown thus far, and no mistake is made in keeping him on the team, if he is properly looked after. Broder, too, played hard and effectively, but Snell and Sheppard are still by far the most valuable men. Darling and Mackenzie both played excellently, and would form an impregnable defense if aided a little more by the forwards. The former, however, again indulged in a little roughness, which is quite unlike his previous clean reputation. Waldie at times had a great deal to do, but did it well. The second team succeeded in tying Parkdale, but lost the round by two goals. Boehmer (S.P.S.), in goal, and Wright (1st Med.), on the forward line did the best work. Boehmer should fill Waldie's place next year; Wright, too, if he improves, should look for promotion. He was taken to Stratford by the Seniors, as spare.

### GENERAL ATHLETIC GOSSIP.—

The uncertainties of this frivolous winter have turned all thoughts, with the exception of the skating enthusiasts, to either the Gymnasium or to the spring sports. Prof. Williams has been very busy of late organizing and drilling classes for the annual Assault-at-Arms. Several new features in class work will be introduced, and the instruction being given is more general than usual. Thrift Burnside, having recovered, is again performing at the head of a class. Walter Boyd has not been so regular as formerly. Organization for the spring Athletics has been proceeding apace. The Baseball Club has held a meeting, which was more than usually enthusiastic, and elected officers. Jack Parry, the well-known catcher, was made captain, and intends, with the assistance of his manager, McEntee, to get his men in shape earlier than has ever been attempted. I hope to be able to report that practices of some kind have been arranged for, quite soon. The Lacrosse Club has also installed its officers. A. E. Snell was elected captain. The managership was made over to J. Bone, who has always shown a great interest in this branch of Athletics, and has turned out every spring with great regularity, though he has never been up to the team standard. An extended tour will be

made in the States, as has been the custom. Rumors, too, have been heard of a meeting of the Rowing Club, which is affiliated with the famous Argonauts and a definite announcement will soon be made. Every man should, during the weary strain of close study for the Exams., take regular and vigorous exercise. Far too many of our students break down, and in almost every case it is due to lack of exercise. Personal experience has convinced me that an hour a day spent regularly in exercise, even if it be but mild walking or light gymnasium, is an hour gained in studying capacity, not an hour lost. I speak with the assurance due to being an honor man of good standing. This leads me to speak of another subject. It is a very general complaint. I find that the Gymnasium, indeed the whole building, is kept insufferably close and hot. I know that in many cases, at all events, exercise taken in that atmosphere has been given up, as too enervating and exhausting. I have in past years tried, as an individual member, to have this rectified, but have never met with any success. Something, however, should be done to stop this evil.

As regards the question of the Athletic Association, I have received word from one of our graduates, who served on the first executive, and was a prominent member throughout his course, that he is addressing to me a letter upon the subject. I have been rather pleased with remarks that have been made to me by some of our promising Athletes upon this vital question.

### THE REFEREE.

Mr. W. A. Parks, at the Canadian Institute last Saturday night, gave a very interesting lecture on his trip as geologist for Mr. Niven's party last summer. He described the country through which the great Abitibi River runs to the Moose, and ended by giving an interesting account of Moose Factory, the old Hudson's Bay Co.'s post on James Bay. The lecture was illustrated by a number of splendid lantern slides. Mr. Wright, of S.P.S., was to have lectured, but sickness forced him to postpone it.

The Committee in charge of the preparation of the graduating photo wish it to be clearly understood that no sittings can be had after the 28th of February; and it is especially desirable that everyone would sit very soon and not delay. One dollar and a half is required as deposit. This is the cost of the large graduating group. If a dozen photos are desired, they may be obtained at half price, three and four dollars, but this must also be deposited at the time of sitting.

### THIS WEEK'S VARSITY.

VARSIITY this week is four pages larger than usual, and contains an interesting article by Mr. Niven, who is one of the oldest and most-experienced land surveyors in the country.

The undergraduate article is on a very important question, which is ably presented by Mr. Harold Fisher. There will also be found a letter on "Specialization," by a Natural Science man, and one by a member of the Modern Language Class. With these, we would add the discussion on this subject ends.

## SPECIALIZATION (UNDERGRADUATE).

Editor of VARSITY,—

DEAR SIR,—Moderns! That word calls to the mind of the student four years devoted to the study of European Literature, since its emergence from the Dark Ages. Surely there is room enough here for the widest intellect; depth sufficient for the profoundest mind; Shakespeare, Goethe, Dante—who would ask for more!

Yet the average student has, I think, a sense of disappointment when his course is finished. If we pause to ask from what this arises, the answer will soon be forthcoming: The Moderns man—or woman at Toronto—feels somehow, whether rightly or wrongly, that he has a splendid superstructure of literary knowledge, but that it has a poor foundation in History and Philosophy—particularly in Philosophy. Of the latter, all we are taught is a little elementary Psychology, no Ethics, nothing of the history of thought, Ancient or Modern. Except for private study we would know but little of Aristotle, and less of Plato. While speaking of the Greeks, I am reminded of another thing—Hellenic Literature. With this the most of us have not even a bowing acquaintance. Homer, Sophocles and Euripides are but names. In order to read and appreciate Goethe's "Iphigenie," it is not necessary to be able to tell the difference between Alpha and Omega! With regard to Latin, we are a little better off; Virgil, Horace and Livy we have met, and Catullus is a friend.

Apart from Literature proper, there is another department of knowledge of which we are blissfully ignorant—Science. We have heard of Copernicus and Newton, and without committing ourselves too much, can confidently affirm that Darwin was a great man. But you must not press us for too many details regarding the double movement of the planets, the law of gravitation, or the principles of evolution.

Of course it is only too easy to sit down and point out flaws; destructive criticism is not very difficult. On the other hand, the building of a curriculum which shall satisfy everybody, is frankly impossible. Still that is no reason for resting forever content with what we have, and I cannot help thinking that if the present Moderns Course were tintured with a little Greek—even if only in translation—some Philosophy, and a few grains of Science, it would, on the whole, be strengthened.

I am yours sincerely,  
MODS., '99.

## NEWS NOTES.

The University College Mission Study Class meets on Saturday evening at 7.30, in the Y.M.C.A. parlor. The principal topic this week will be "The Status of Family Life in Non-Christian Lands." All students are cordially invited to attend the class.

On Friday evening, the Knox College Students' Missionary Society will hold their 30th public meeting in Convocation Hall. Several addresses will be delivered, and a musical programme rendered.

Mr. Sam. Hunter's lecture on Saturday, in the Saturday Lecture Series, was very interesting. He gave a splendid account of "Cartooning," Ancient and Modern, and illustrated his remarks by a number of original drawings. There was a large crowd present.

## In Lighter Vein

## THE WINNING COMBINATION.

Of love and such, I know not much,  
Nor yet of wizard's art,  
But oft I've sworn there's *one* back-door,  
To every maiden's heart!

A dozen stalk the front side-walk,  
To give their hearts' oblation,  
While the man who wins, just sits and grins,  
With the back-door combination.

AMAVO, '99.

The settler has not much sympathy for scientific research that does not provide immediate results, and I know of no better example of this than the following incident: "A geologist was in the act of photographing a peculiar rock, that a glacier had deposited by the roadside, when an old settler rumbled along in an old ramshackle buggy, pulled by an old gray horse almost as dilapidated as the rig. Business not being very urgent he stopped his chariot, and by a politely, but none-the-less effectively, round-about way, found out the geologist's business, and what he was trying to do. He broke the silence, after a minute or two, by this: "Wal, mebbe I doan't know, but seems t'me you'd do jes 'bout es much good ef y' turned that there cameera on my ol' gray mare' an me!" Then he rumbled on his way again.

## ECHO FROM THE SCIENCE LABORATORY.

The Menobranche he lived of yore,  
In the River Timbuctoo,  
When water was H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>,  
And air was CO<sub>2</sub>.

—OLD SONG.

At the Toronto Medical Dinner, Dr. Britton told a yarn of his undergraduate days that will well bear repeating. He described the annual "jambouree," that was held in his time, instead of the dinner. This once ended, he said, by a man, whom he disguised under the name of Smith (now a famous doctor), and his friend, whom he represented incog, as Brown, becoming very much under the influence of the weather—the former more so than the latter. So Brown undertook to escort Smith home, and, *mirabile dictu*, steered his way past numerous rocks and shoals to Smith's boarding-house. He forthwith proceeded, by knocks and kicks, to induce the landlady to come and open the door for him. Finally she came:

"Does—man by name of Smif—live—here?" he asked.

"Yes," replied the landlady timorously.

"Well—one of us is Smif—but I'm hanged if—if I know which—is Smif."

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A BIT OF LIFE.

"That's just the way with the poor, don't take a bit of care of their children. The mother goes and gossips over the back fence with her next-door neighbor, and lets her children wander around the street all dirty and half-dressed."

These remarks fell from the lips of the elder of two middle-aged women, standing on a street corner, in one of the poorer parts of the city. They were spoken in a disgusted, self-confident tone of voice, and punctuated by the approving nods and "just so's" of the speaker's companion, who added, "and I suppose their father is lying in bed drunk and unable to work."

"Quite likely," assented the elder, in a confident tone.

This philosophical, not to say philanthropical, conversation, arose from the ill-kempt appearance of two children, evidently in poor circumstances. One was a little fellow, of perhaps nine years, who was "playing horse" in a "gig," manufactured out of a soap box and a pair of wooden wheels. The driver of this equipage was a little flaxen-haired girl, of some seven summers. Although their faces were quite dirty, and their clothes meagre and ragged, yet there was a pleasing picturesqueness about the pair.

The two women now approached the children and the elder leaned over and patted the little girl on the head, remarking: "Poor little dear;" and added: "And don't you think you should be at home with your mother?"

She looked up from her "driving-box" with tears in her big blue eyes, and in a half-scared voice said: "I don't—know where my mother—is; she went to sleep two days ago and hasn't waked up yet; I don't know what's the matter."

"Poor little dears!" said the elder, sympathetically, "and where is your father, then?"

"Papa's sick in bed and me and Mary's all alone," replied the little fellow; and then his little sister began to cry.

Just then the boy turned and looked down the street. Two men, evidently performing the last rites for someone were lifting a long box from a wagon, and taking it into a one-story rough-cast house. The little fellow quickly wheeled the gig around and started in that direction with his sister in tow, saying: "Come on, Mary, there's somebody going into our place; perhaps they have something for us."

The little fellow ran down the street with the wooden wagon rattling after him, and the two women proceeded on their way home in silence.

JABEZ BROWNE, '99.

The Natural Science Association purpose holding their open meeting this year on February 14th. This is always looked forward to by the undergraduates as one of the best of the open meetings of the year. The preparations this year are on an elaborate scale. Prof. Stupart will give a paper on "Meteorology," Professor Wright will lecture, and Dr. Ellis also. The latter's subject is "Fire and Fire-Making." Intermingled with these will be vocal and instrumental music, readings, etc., and no doubt a most enjoyable evening will be furnished.

The Trinity University Year Book or annual Directory for 1898—99 has been issued. It is a small, neatly-bound volume of some 150 pp., and gives an outline of Trinity during the past year and also the most distant past.

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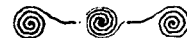
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## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CALENDAR.

### DECEMBER—

- Last day for appointment of School Auditors by Public and Separate School Trustees. [P.S. Act, sec. 21 (1); S.S. Act, sec. 28 (5).] (On or before 1st Dec.)  
Municipal Clerk to transmit to County Inspector statement showing whether or not any county rate for Public School purposes has been placed upon Collector's roll against any Separate School supporter. [P.S. Act, sec. 68 (1); S.S. Act, sec. 50.] (Not later than 1st Dec.)
- County Model Schools Examinations begin. (During the last week of the session.)
- Practical Examinations at Provincial Normal Schools begin. (Subject to appointment.)
- Returning Officers named by resolution of Public School Board [P.S. Act, sec. 57 (2).] (Before 2nd Wednesday in Dec.)  
Last day for Public and Separate School Trustees to fix places for nomination of Trustees. [P.S. Act, sec. 57 (2); S.S. Act, sec. 31 (5).] (Before 2nd Wednesday in Dec.)
- Local Assessment to be paid Separate School Trustees. [S.S. Act, sec. 55.] (Not later than 14th Dec.)  
Written Examinations at Provincial Normal Schools begin. (Subject to appointment.)
- Municipal Council to pay Secretary-Treasurer Public School Boards all sums levied and collected in township. [P.S. Act, sec. 67 (1).] (On or before 15th Dec.)  
County Councils to pay Treasurer High Schools. [H.S. Act, sec. 30.] (On or before 15th Dec.)  
County Model School term ends. Reg. 58. (Close on 15th day of Dec.)

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## The Rotunda

McIntosh, '02 has firmly resolved to burn the midnight oil from now till May.

W. I. McLean, '99, came to the Lit. Friday night to cheer '99 on to victory.

Watson, '00, was a prominent, energetic and earnest supporter of his side of the house last Friday night.

Wainwright, '00, has been sick for the past week, but last reports were that he was coming around all right.

The Keith brothers made themselves famous by their combined assault on the Government at the Mock Parliament.

Addison, '01, who has been confined at the hospital with typhoid since October last, is reported to be recovering rapidly.

M. D. McKicken, '98 is at present studying medicine with the second year. His song is "Anatomy from morn till night."

R. J. Foster, '01, has dropped his course in arts and has thrown in his lot with the Toronto Meds. We wish him every success.

V. E. Henderson travelled to Montreal last week to attend the meeting to arrange for an Intercollegiate Sports day, and "incidentally" to see a few relations.

Hanley, '01, has been making quite a name for himself as a goal keeper for Midland. It is somewhat of a pity that he did not place his services at the disposal of the Varsity Hockey Team.

"Freddie" Hogg, '01, finally fell a victim to grip and was confined to his room in residence for several days. The struggle, however, is over, and he is able to take a little mental nourishment at the library daily now.

"Ernie" Powell is doing his best to follow the obscurities of the physics branch of mathematics in the physical laboratory every day.

Frederick J. Alway, '95, who studied in Germany after graduation, is now Prof. of chemistry and geology at the Western University, Lincoln, Nebraska.

"Billy" Drumgole expects to return to Varsity very soon now, having sufficiently recovered from his severe illness to do so. We will be glad to see him back.

The lady principal of Havergal Hall was At Home on Monday evening, and quite a number of the Varsity boys called to pay their respects, and incidentally to see the girls.

Willings is a new man who has added himself to the ranks of the juniors. He is an *ad eundem* from the Western University, London. The general course and a little theology is his choice.

That lonely look, so noticeable all last week on the faces of the first year mathematical men, has disappeared, and once more the cheerful strains of "Just One Girl," are heard from room 6.

"Percy" Brown, '01, is going around with his head down, evidently in deep thought. Can the parliamentary struggle with the freshmen have anything to do with it? Friday will tell.

George Black, '98, has secured a splendid position as vice-principal of Clarksburg college, Missouri. This has a staff of ten men and George is dealing out science on the instalment plan to his students. His latest field of activity there is the publication of a new journal, "The Clarksburg Review," which is unique in combining college and town news. We wish him every success both as a teacher and with his paper.

"Tommy" Russel reports a quiet but interesting time at Montreal, his amusement being chiefly afforded by an inspection of museums, churches, etc. Fred Anderson, however, was more fortunate and reports a somewhat more interesting time, but no details are forthcoming.



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The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and in addition there is a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such a large proportion of the College course.

Whilst the College is organized on a strictly military basis the cadets receive in addition to their military studies a thoroughly practical, scientific and sound training in all subjects that are essential to a high and general modern education.

The course in mathematics is very complete and a thorough grounding is given in the subjects of Civil Engineering, Civil and Hydrographic Surveying, Physics, Chemistry, French and English.

The object of the College course is thus to give the cadets a training which shall thoroughly equip them for either a military or civil career.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the system. As a result of it young men acquire habits of obedience and self control and consequently of self-reliance and command, as well as experience in controlling and handling their fellows.

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The annual competitive examination for admission to the College will take place at the headquarters of the several military districts in which candidates reside about the middle of June in each year.

For full particulars of this examination or for any other information, application should be made as early as possible to the Deputy Adjutant General of Militia, Ottawa, Ont.

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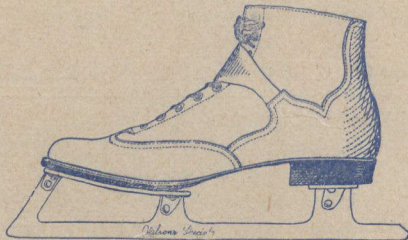


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