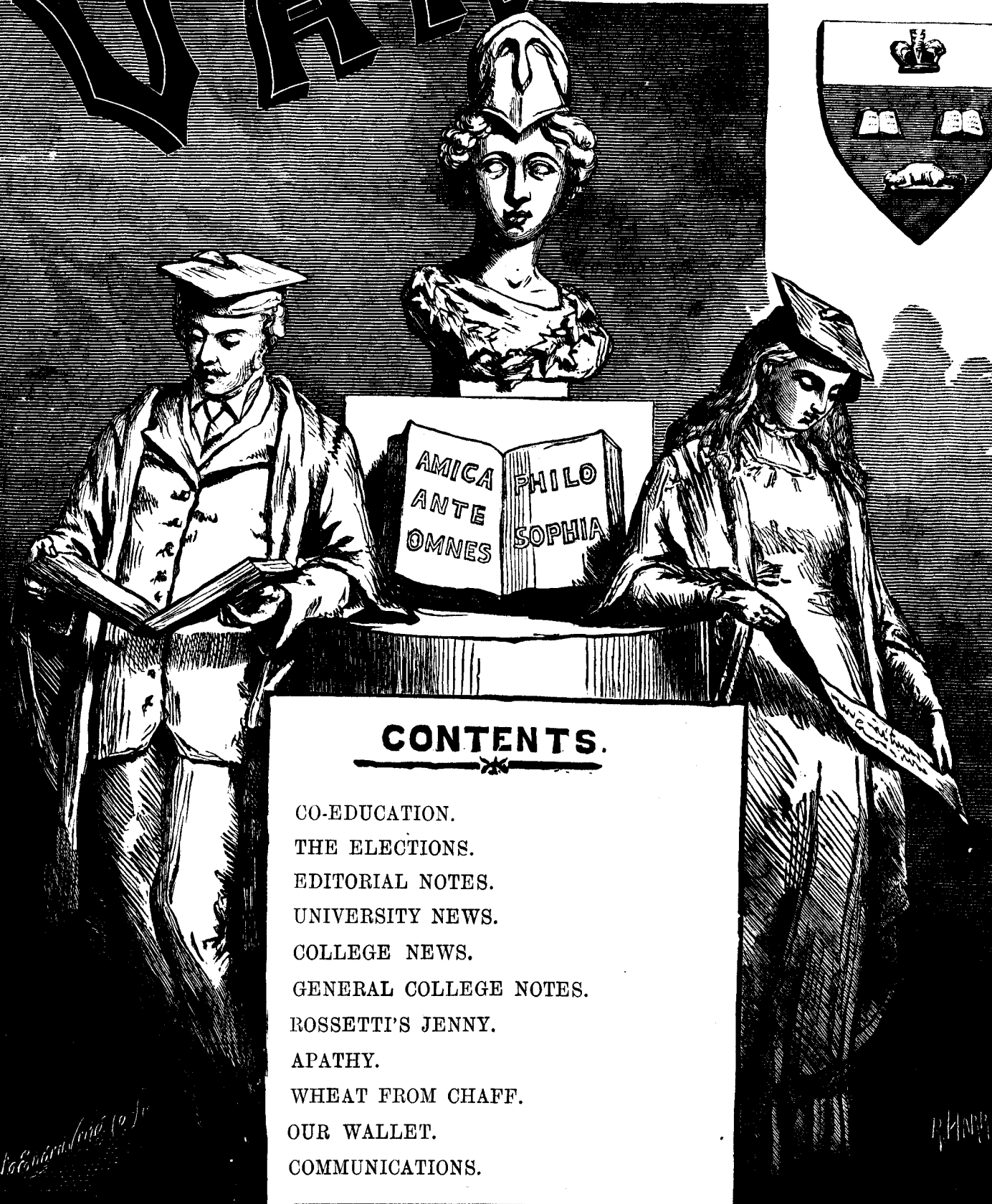


THE WARSTORY



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University of Toronto, March 15, 1884.

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THE ' VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. IV. No. 21.

Mar. 15, 1884.

Price 10 cents.

CO-EDUCATION.

The movement in favour of co-education in University College has taken definite shape in the form of Provincial legislation. When the question had once come before the Local Legislature for a final determination, the result of the debate was a foregone conclusion. One side of this vexed subject was heard fully, even to surfeit; on the other, though a few insinuations were thrown out by one or two members with doubt and hesitation, nothing definite was urged. Those members known to be opposed to the desired innovation, kept silent, doubtless foreseeing the result of the debate, and also possible freedom from responsibility in the experiment.

We are opposed, in the abstract, to any system of co-education in college training. We long ago stated our position in this regard; and, though we have since seen many colleges of good standing adopt such a system, and have heard the lengthened and by no means always calm discussions of educationists in all parts of the Collegiate world, and have seen and heard of some conversions to the co-educationists' position, we have seen no reason to change our mind. The question has been so long and so often discussed by those who have made a special study of it, that there is now no hearing for any new presentation of the old arguments. But of late, when among us special motives have offered for the broadest avowal and upholding of co-education views, arguments have been advanced which, though bad, have been tacitly adopted as oracularly infallible. To one or two of these only shall we refer; they have, we believe, a most fundamental bearing upon the whole question.

Co-educationists have, to a large extent, abandoned abstraction, and taken to statistics. In this we believe they are unfortunate. Statistics, to be reliable, must have a rational principle underlying their accumulation. To rely upon them, merely as such, without examining into their formation and their character, is unfair and misleading. And no statistics that we can conceive of could be more misleading than those that have been collected to show the beneficent results of the introduction of co-education in Colleges. These have mainly been taken from, or founded upon, the reports of the presidents and faculties of American and Canadian Colleges. Now, in all the bearings the consideration of this question, and the practical adoption of such a system, can have upon either the intellectual or moral character of the students, we believe nobody is in a more unfavorable or more unsatisfactory position to judge than those very officials whose opinions are so approvingly received. Apart from the suspicion which must necessarily attach to the decided protestations of those who have become committed to, and responsible for, the co-education experiment, there always remains the doubt as to whether such prejudiced inferences may not also be founded upon ignorance. In many cases that have come under our notice, we are assured that they are so. We have heard the varied, unprejudiced, consistent and verified reports of some of the best students of those colleges which boast to have shown, by the introduction of co-education, their adaptability to the growing liberality and growing requirements of the age; and the conclusions to be drawn from them, and the state of facts they indicate, are not such as some of our warm upholders of woman's rights in this direction would picture for our admiration. Intellectual demoralization has often been the result; and the proximity and competition of the 'softer sex' is rarely a spur to intellectual activity. In the moral sphere, the considerations in-

involved are of so delicate a nature as to almost preclude their public discussion. The fact that they are of such a nature, is (as was pointed out in our Legislature the other day), a reason against relying too much upon denials in public of the doubtful moral results. The fallacy which seems to underlie the beautiful fabrications of some enthusiasts in this direction, is the assumption that the advance from the lower stages of educational training to the higher sphere of a varied College life, is always accompanied by a corresponding rise in morality. That such is by no means necessarily the case is a proposition which, to the mind of any University man, needs no support.

We are told of the improving effect the introduction of co-education would have upon College life and College feeling. We believe that effect would be pernicious. Genuine college feeling, rightly understood, has always been one of the grandest elements in University life. It is a feeling that can grow up in freedom and perfection only among men alone, and could not be participated in or understood by women. Those who ridicule this feeling, call it by what name they will, as a thing too airy and too valueless to deserve serious attention, ignore, or are wilfully blind to that element in the character and mental direction of all true University men, which marks them out as a class distinct by themselves, with sympathies and sentiments into which the generality of people cannot enter. We repeat that this can be preserved and fostered only among men, and add that the introduction of women to a full participation with men in College life will, in our opinion, cause, not the refinement of College feeling so much referred to, but the extinction of a genuine College feeling altogether.

A similar *esprit de corps* might be built up among women. Though similar in some respects, it would show points of radical difference, and would have to grow up among women alone. This is one benefit to women of annex colleges, the best solution of the difficulties involved in the satisfaction of the claim for an equal higher education. But it is a mistaken iconoclasm to infringe upon the distinctive character of the University, which has belonged to it from time immemorial, and has lain at the foundation of its world-wide power.

With us, there exist additional practical difficulties. When our Senate and Council are unable, through financial straightness, to supply improvements now absolutely necessary, it is scarcely to be expected that immediate attention can be given to a new feature in the college working which would involve a large additional expenditure. We presume the views of the Local Legislature will be adopted by the College Council and the University Senate, and will be acted upon as soon as possible. Before their being acted upon, there is a possibility that means may arise through which the primary object of the Legislature may be carried out, without the abandonment by the College authorities of the position they have hitherto held on the question of co-education, since it was first mooted as a possible practical solution of a difficult problem.

THE ELECTIONS.

Once more the spirit of party and elections is abroad. Caucuses, lobbying, canvassing and election talk relieve the monotony of the student's toil and dispel for the present the unpleasant thoughts of approaching examinations. There are several pleasing features in the coming contest. In the first

place the Rev. Father Teefy has been unanimously chosen by both parties as the President of the Literary Society for the coming year. We need scarcely say that we heartily congratulate the members of the Society on the wisdom of their choice, and considering our present successful and hopeful condition we augur for Father Teefy and the Society in general a most profitable and enjoyable year. Again, from present appearances both parties seem animated by a healthful and good-natured rivalry, so that, whilst the contest for the minor offices will certainly be a keen one, all will soon forget their party difference and look back with pleasure and satisfaction on the events that necessarily cluster around an election. Another feature of the present election is that by which those only who take an active interest in the Society to the extent of attending four meetings during the year, will be allowed to exercise their franchise. This we deem a wise and long-needed change in our constitution, since no man should be allowed to have a voice in the selection of the undergraduate officers unless he knows something of the Society itself and the candidates for office. This change will ensure less excitement and more order than has hitherto been the case on election-night.

One more feature claims special attention, viz., that both caucuses have almost unanimously decided to dispense with intoxicating drink in their respective refreshment booths. This certainly speaks well for our College and shows that the principles of temperance are gaining a firm footing in our midst.

Whatever may be said against parties and party contests, no one will deny that they are productive of immense good, especially to University students. Elections draw together men who have never met before around the College, and foster an enthusiasm which cannot fail to produce good results. Let each party then spare no pains to secure the election of their respective candidates, and whilst so doing let only the fairest and most honorable means be employed to gain the day, because the history of parties in general teaches us that a pure and honest policy is the strongest possible means to permanent success.

Editorial Notes.

This number of the 'VARSITY contains three letters on the Modern Language Department, based on our editorial of last week. Two of the writers are much agitated over the personalities which it is claimed the article contains, and one of them expresses his disapproval by indulging in personalities much stronger than those which had been charged on us. Now, for a moment, waiving all questions of the correctness or incorrectness of our statement, it must be allowed that personal questions can only be discussed in a personal manner, *e. g.*, lectures are delivered by lecturers, and the efficiency of the one cannot be called in question without canvassing the merits of the other. The personality which the 'VARSITY has always endeavoured to repress is a very different matter. Gratuitous disrespect for those in authority, sneers unsupported by facts and malicious allusions, we have censured and intend to censure. But the 'VARSITY will never hesitate to make any attack or bestow any criticism when and where attack or criticism seem necessary, and whether they may fall on *curricula*, lectures or men. For the subject matter of these letters, all agree that changes in the Department are urgently required, but differ as to the manner in which this should be effected. 'Grad' pleads for Anglo-Saxon. His plea seems valid as far as the absolute importance of the subject, though whether, relatively considered, it has claims to stand before Italian and Spanish, is another question. Mr. MacMechan insists that examinations and not education are the end and object of the training afforded in a university. It is, of course, unnecessary to say how diametrically different to his are our views on this question, as also they are to the opinions expressed further on, that we should read *about*, rather than peruse an author's own words. All our correspondents agree, then, that change is necessary, that somewhere in the

mechanism of the Department a screw is loose, and this acknowledgment shows an amply sufficient excuse for the remarks in our last issue. Further, let us have more open criticism of the Department and its work. If this is satisfactory in every particular, criticism will be easily repelled; if not, respect for institutions will hardly be a valid excuse for withholding it.

Since going to press we have received another communication bearing on the Modern Language question. The ideas of E. J. differ materially from those elsewhere commented on, in that he deems the system little short of perfection, and finds it impossible to criticize save in a few unimportant points. As to the objects with which the course was founded, and the kind of reading which should be pursued to gain them, we venture still to hold the views expressed in our article. E. J. is very persistent in his assertions that we have been entirely misinformed in our facts; it is our earnest hope, for the sake of the College, that he is correct.

Mr. Sykes, in his communication, goes a long way towards making clear the difference which has been debated of late on the possibility of applying the term 'didactic' to poetry. The discussion turns mainly on the vagueness with which the terms 'poetry' and 'didactic' are used. That poetry of the highest kind may convey moral truths cannot, of course, be for a moment doubted, and to prove this we need not go beyond American poetry, but have only to turn to the pages of Whittier, whose noblest efforts had slavery for their text, and its abolition for their avowed object. If the word 'didactic' be taken in its commoner sense—that which has teaching for its only end, to which end all else is sacrificed, it is, on the other hand, clear that imagination, and with it poetry, must vanish. The difficulty, therefore, seems to us a purely verbal one, and rests on nothing more than a looseness of application of words.

It is questionable whether such an important matter as the report of the House Committee should have been brought up at such a large and enthusiastic meeting as that of last Friday. In the uproar only those within a few feet of the secretary could hear what he said, or the names of the papers to be voted on; nothing was commoner than to hear questions to one's nearest neighbor as to the name and nature of the periodical. The voting under such circumstances could hardly be called intelligent. Some odd things happened in consequence. The Boston *Literary World*, which is devoted to exactly what the 'VARSITY has been advocating, the reviewing of current literature, was rejected. The coarsely got-up and vilely-coloured *Judge* was retained, while *Puck*, who, whatever may be said of his morals or politics, can at least draw and colour decently, was voted down. The putting on of the *War-Cry* was a joke, of course, but this was carried too far when sporting papers and *Frank Leslie's* were chosen instead of *Our Continent* or the *Saturday* for the reading-room of a University. This is a serious reflection on the good taste of the undergraduates, and makes one ask, Should the greatest ignorance of the greatest number decide such questions? But apart from this it is a matter of dollars and cents. Notwithstanding the statement by a member of the House Committee that the bill for periodicals was much in advance of former years, large additions were made to the present list; one example, *Truth*, the London society paper, which costs ten dollars per annum, and out of which all possible interest has vanished by the time it reaches Canada. It will be quite in order to reconsider the report, and perhaps it would be as well for the Society to do so before they are called upon to pay the bill.

University News.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

A French meeting was held in Moss Hall last Tuesday evening, with the Vice-President, Mr. Sykes, in the chair. Essays were read by Messrs. Rowan and Shearer. The former gentleman

gave a very 'Craikish' description of George Eliot, while that of the latter—an account of a stage drive along the Gatineau—was quite pleasing. These were followed by readings from Hugo and Beranger, rendered by Messrs. Sykes and T. E. Elliott. After this, nominations for officers for the ensuing year were in order. It seemed as if every member of the Club was animated by a desire to nominate every other. Next Tuesday an opportunity will be given of distributing these official honors.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The last Public Debate of this year was held in Convocation Hall last evening, and proved to be eminently successful in numbers of attendance, interest in the proceedings and quality of the programme. The subject for debate was 'The admission of ladies to University College would be advisable.'

The Glee Club rendered fairly well 'The Wanderers,' after which W. P. McKenzie read an essay on 'Tact.' W. A. Frost received an encore after reading 'Eugene Aram,' and Hood's 'Faithless Nelly Gray.' Mr. Mercer's solo was also encored, and the response as well as the first selection was received with much applause.

Mr. McGillivray opened the debate in a vigorous speech. His first argument dealt with what is one of the most important features of College life. In schools and primary Colleges pupils are subject to all manner of rules, while here there are scarcely any, so that students may learn to guide and rule themselves. Now, were ladies admitted, there would need to be a code of rules so strict that the grand training received in College halls under the present arrangement would be lost. Not only would rules have to be put in force, but also our present curriculum would need a change, since it is adopted to the requirements of men. Another thing to be noticed is the risk which attaches to an experiment of this nature, which the President of Oberlin College confesses to exist. To bring this issue to our own College, co-education is a doubtful undertaking, for its introduction would delay the establishment of separate Colleges for ladies, and he briefly showed that higher education could be better secured by these institutions than by the proposed scheme. Mr. McGillivray's speech was characterized by logical clearness in the delivery of his arguments, and by close adherence to the question at issue.

Mr. J. W. Roswell opened his remarks by defending the Western Colleges against the charge of being inferior seats of learning. Although the affirmative might deem them unworthy of imitation, he considered their example valuable. Ladies, however, are admitted on equal terms with men at Cornell, and were allowed by Professors of Oxford and Cambridge to attend their ordinary lectures. It had been said that the curriculum would need to be revised. He could not see this necessity, for he held that University education should be liberal. He maintained that there was an anomaly in the University's not recognizing equality of the sexes, when the whole social system of Canada, and the educational system of our High and Public Schools, was based on it. He cited, in his behalf, records of experiments to show that Co-education was not purely theoretical, but practicable. Mr. Roswell delivered his statements fluently, and in a manner free from all constraint.

Mr. J. Ross believed in high education for women, but claimed that it should be different from that intended to fit a man for his profession. Co-education went on the principle that the work of women should lie in the same sphere as man's. This principle he carried to its conclusion, illustrating its absurdity. The country was not alive to the fact that higher education was a necessity; if it were, the people would obtain a separate institution instead of knocking at the door of University College. This gentleman possesses an able command of language, and made his remarks interesting to the audience.

Mr. G. A. B. Aylesworth began by the quotation, 'It is not good for man to be alone.' The affirmative had enlarged on the fact of there being but nine applicants. He maintained that the proportion of nine to four hundred could not long continue, and that the number of lady students would continue to increase. His main argument was, that women wanted admittance and that it was never wise to oppose them. After dealing with the matrimonial question, he prophesied a social revolution. He treated the question in a different manner from the preceding speaker, and dealt with the subject in a humorous manner.

Mr. McGillivray, in concluding, showed that ladies' Colleges were always more largely attended than co-educational institutions. Opening our College to ladies would benefit but a few.

Dr. Goldwin Smith, in summing up the debate, complimented the speakers on their delicacy and judgment in the treatment of the subject. For himself, he was not averse to innovation; however, there was ground for serious hesitation in adopting a system of Co-education in University College, and he believed Dr. Wilson justified in refusing admittance to young ladies. Cornell's case might be cited for both affirmative and negative, yet it almost conclusively proved that Co-education was not likely to be generally adopted. Ardent advocates would say that all barriers between the sexes should be swept away. If so, ladies should go to male Universities; but if education should be conformed to their sphere in life, they should not. He had never seen the improvement in the manners and behavior of male students which was so often claimed from Co-education. The general opinion was that a social experiment was being tried, and must be conducted with all precautions. He refrained from giving a decision.

The meeting terminated after the singing by the Glee Club of the new local production, in the shape of a cleverly arranged quasi-medley 'College Song of Songs,' composed by Mr. Fred. B. Hodgins, of the First Year.

It is a source of wonder that our poetical talent has not of tenor been directed to replenishing our scanty store of college glees and choruses, and we hope that many will emulate the successful efforts of this gentleman.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The usual afternoon meeting of this Association was held in Moss Hall on Wednesday. The attendance, compared with the two preceding meetings, was small. After opening exercises, Mr. I. M. Duncan selected as the basis of his remarks the 6th verse of the 14th of St. John's Gospel, 'Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.' He remarked that in epitome this contained the great truths expounded in the teaching of Christ. Man had fallen from his high estate, and as God cannot tolerate sin, in what way can access be obtained by sinful man to the presence of the most high God? Christ is the *Way*, for His office is mediator between God and man. He is also the teacher, and He tells us to come through an exercise of Faith in Him. He is the *Truth*. If we faithfully follow the way, He will lead us to everlasting life, for we read He is also the *Life*. And this we receive in its very noblest sense. We must here consider the quality, so to speak, as well as the quantity of life.

Mr. J. M. Baldwin drew attention to the fact that man seeks for other ways, and prefers his own, yet Christ is the only Way. We, as students, are searching after truth, but Christ is the very embodiment of Truth.

Mr. W. P. McKenzie remarked that in very early ages there was a 'feeling after God.' He can be reached only through Jesus Christ. It was a characteristic of ancient philosophers when they discovered any great truth to communicate it to others. So should we, if earnest in the matter, endeavor to communicate the great Truth we have now a knowledge of.

Mr. A. C. Miles said that the Jesus-way, as the Japanese say, is the way to that place the world knows nothing of. Our course, too, will be all the more pleasant if we hearken to His voice and cast all our burdens upon Him.

The meeting was very interesting, and it is hoped there will be a much larger attendance next Wednesday afternoon.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

The second open meeting of this League was attended by more than a hundred students from all the Colleges, Prof. Wright being in the chair. A letter from Prof. Young was read, in which he expressed sorrow that his health would not allow him to be present, but he desired to state his entire sympathy in the object of the League. The speakers were Dr. Aikens, the Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, and Mr. Henry O'Brien. All of these gentlemen gave admirable addresses, each treating the subject of temperance from his own peculiar standpoint. Dr. Aikens discussed the question from a medical point of view. Mr. Ross dwelt upon prohibition, while Mr. O'Brien pointed out how, through being temperate ourselves, we might help others to become so. The President of the League, Mr. A. C. Miles, in a brief address, stated that there were now about two hundred members in the League, including members of both the football teams, Q. O. R. men, members of the Literary Society committee and graduates.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Association Football Club was held in Moss Hall, on Tuesday, March the 11th, at 5 p.m., and

the large attendance of the members, and the active interest shown in the proceedings augur well for the prospects of the Club next year.

The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and adopted.

During the present season the Committee thought that in order to place an efficient team on the field, two days of each week should be set aside as practice days, on which teams chosen by the Committee alone should practice; this was accordingly put into effect and the result was the placing of an efficient team on the field.

On this point some very lively discussion took place. One member wished to know what the real object of the Club was and whether it was desirable that the majority of the members should sacrifice their own interests for the maintenance of a 'professional' team, as he was pleased to designate those who strove to uphold the honour of the University in many a stubborn contest. Another member thought that the 'professional' team should practice on the prairie at the back of the University and leave the beautiful lawn to the rest of the members.

After the question had been thoroughly ventilated, the following was moved by Mr. G. Hunter, seconded by Mr. L. P. Duff, and carried—'That inasmuch as there is some misunderstanding regarding the interests of the Club as a whole, and the team, about the practice on the field, and, while the existence of such a team is to be desired, nevertheless it is respectfully suggested to the Committee that means be provided for the simultaneous practice of the team and of the members of the Club.'

The annual fee was raised to fifty cents, (50c.) which is a step in the right direction, as the Club heretofore has not had a too plentiful supply of money.

The question as to the formation of an Inter-Collegiate Association was brought up, and the opinion of the Club unanimously was that 'Such an Association be formed, if possible, to consist of Queen's College, Kingston; Victoria College, Cobourg; Knox and University Colleges, Toronto. It is desirable that such an Association should be formed, as the number of clubs in the Central Association is much too large, and these Colleges have shown that their teams are entirely superior to the rest of the Clubs forming the Association.'

The Club has lost an active and esteemed member in the death of Mr. E. M. Hughes, and embodies its feelings in the following resolution, which was moved by Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Miles and adopted: 'That whereas since the last meeting of this Association it has pleased Providence to remove from among us our esteemed member and fellow-student Edgar M. Hughes, be it resolved that we, the members of the University College Football Association, take advantage of this opportunity to give public expression to our high appreciation of his many manly qualities and to place on record our deep sense of the loss we have sustained in the death of one, on whose energy and interest the success of the Association was mainly dependent; and that the Secretary be instructed to forward an engrossed copy of this resolution to the bereaved parents, and to express our heartfelt sympathy for them in their affliction.'

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Knox College F. B. C., in which the members of that Club expressed their heartfelt sorrow at the loss of our esteemed member, Edgar N. Hughes.

The following officers were chosen to represent the Association for the ensuing year:—

President,—W. H. Irving.
Vice-President,—G. H. Hogarth.
Recording Secretary,—J. N. McKendrick.
Corresponding Secretary,—Fraser.
Treasurer,—R. Shiell.

Committee:—4th Year, W. C. Chisholm, J. Short; 3rd Year, W. Graham, W. Morrin; 2nd Year, W. H. L. Mahood, A. McCulloch.

The following is a record of the matches played during the season:—

	GOALS LOST.	GOALS WON.	RESULT.
Oct. 12, Knox College.....	2	1	Lost.
Oct. 20, Victorias (cup tie).....	0	2	Won.
Oct. 27, Eglintons (cup tie).....	0	1	Won.
Nov. 1, East Toronto (cup tie)...	1	2	Won.
Eglintons forfeited 2d cup tie.			
Nov. 9, Queen's Coll., Kingston...	0	0	Draw.
Nov. 13, East Toronto (cup tie)...	1	1	Draw.
Nov. 17, Knox College (cup tie)...	0	0	Draw.
Nov. 21, Knox College (cup tie)...	1	1	Draw.
Nov. 25, Knox College (cup tie)...	2	2	Draw.

Nov. 27, Knox College (cup tie).

Matches, 10.....
{ Matches won, 4.
{ Matches lost, 1.
{ Ties, 5.

Goals won, 13.
Goals lost, 7.

After a vote of thanks to the retiring committee, the meeting adjourned.

QUICQUID AGUNT.

The Queen's Own resumed drill Wednesday evening at the Drill Shed, under command of Major Miller. As the Drill Shed is too small, and the roads will not yet allow marching, K Company will drill on the lawn till the snow clears away.

The Fourth year Metaphysical Class had their picture taken yesterday at Bruce's.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. Torrington's other engagements compel him to give up the Glee Club. This will be a severe loss to the Club, as under Mr. Torrington's superintendence everything connected with the Club has turned out well.

Elections are booming. Both inside and outside parties held a caucus Thursday night.

Nine candidates presented themselves for Corporal's certificates last Saturday, before Major Allan, and of these seven were successful. The examination for Sergeant's certificates takes place to-day.

The hat and coat that were reported stolen from the corridor in the College a few weeks ago, have been found in one of the ante-rooms.

We clip the following from the *Evening News*: 'Oxford University has decided to grant women the same examinations as men. Now let Toronto University grant all the privileges of the University to women.'

By a mistake in last week's issue, it was stated that Professor Wilson was unable to lecture on Wednesday, through indisposition. We now hasten to correct the error, as our worthy President is enjoying the best of health, and lectured on that day as usual.

The meeting of the Literary Society, held on the 7th inst., was prolonged so late that we were unable to give a full account of the proceedings in our last issue. Mr. R. J. Duff was elected second prize-reader, and the following committee was chosen to examine the prize essays: Messrs. J. M. Buchan, M. A., D. R. Keys, B. A., and W. Houston, M. A.

PERSONAL.

We are pained to record the sad and early death of a distinguished graduate, Hon. A. M. Sutherland, Provincial Secretary of Manitoba. After a course of training at St. John's College, Winnipeg, Mr. Sutherland attended lectures at University College, graduating in '78. In 1882 he received the portfolio of Attorney-General, and in the following year that which he held at the time of his death.

College News.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR 'VARSITY:—The Lent boat-races begin this afternoon, and, as it is expected that a good many 'bumps' will be made, they have excited a good deal of interest, which will no doubt be kept up until Saturday, when the races come to an end. The weather seems most promising.

The University Eight have been practising on the Cam for a few days, so we have had an opportunity of seeing them. The change is, however, only temporary, and the crew will shortly return to the Ely course.

The last Rugby Union Football match of the season was played on Saturday, when the University defeated the Old Cheltonians. An Inter-'Varsity Association match, which was played yesterday, resulted in a victory for Cambridge by two goals to none. The Inter-'Varsity sports have been fixed to take place on the 29th of March.

The result of a debate at Gonville and Caius College on Wednesday last was rather amusing. The motion was a protest against the license allowed to the Press, and at the close of the debate the following division was recorded: for the motion, the Proposer; against it, the rest of the meeting.

The death is announced of a well-known former Fellow of

Christ's College, Mr. C. S. Calverley, who will be long remembered as the author of two volumes of poems, entitled 'Verses and Translations,' and 'Fly-Leaves,' as well as of a verse translation of Theocritus.

I will conclude by quoting the following item, which concerns one of Toronto's most prominent residents. It is from the Oxford Letter in the *Cambridge Review* for this week: 'The Professorship has not been filled up yet, but a rumour has got afloat, which may be taken for what it is worth, that Mr. Gladstone is going to try and induce Mr. Goldwin Smith to return to England, and to resume the same post that he formerly held.'

Yours very truly,

Cambridge, Feb. 27th, 1884.

T. C. S. M.

DEAR 'VARSITY,—The past week has been so very quiet that I am afraid there is not much news to give you. With the exception of several football matches, which did not excite much interest, there has been little to vary the monotony except the annual sports of St. Catherines, Sydney, and Cavendish Colleges, which came off on Wednesday, Friday and Monday last. The weather was fine and the different events were fairly well contested. Most of the Colleges have their sports in the Michaelmas term, but as the men are rather surfeited with amusements at that time of year some of them wisely wait until the monotony of the Lent time makes their sports more acceptable.

The University crew is still undecided, and the coaches seem quite unable to make up their minds as to the respective merits of several of the trial men. Yesterday a new man was introduced, but as yet it remains to be seen whether he will be retained or not. The crew practise on the river at Ely every day, but while these changes continue they cannot of course do their work very satisfactorily.

The Lent races are to be rowed next week and there seems every prospect of the racing being better this year than usual. To-day and during the remainder of the week there are preliminary races to decide what new boats shall get 'on the river.' There are two vacant places to be filled and nine crews to compete for them.

The members of the Selwyn College Musical Society gave a most successful concert in the Guildhall last Saturday. These concerts are known as the 'University Penny Popular Concerts,' and at last Saturday's entertainment the chairman gave an account of their institution. They had their origin in Oxford, where one of the Colleges decided to give a popular concert. 'When they got to the Town Hall,' said the chairman, 'there they found their audience assembled, which consisted of one old woman who was warming herself at the fire. Notwithstanding that they all got on the platform and gave that old lady a better concert than she had ever heard in her life before.' The result was that before long the difficulty was, not to find an audience to fill the room, but to find a room that would hold the audience. Cambridge soon followed suit with equal success, but without having such adverse circumstances to contend against at the beginning.

Yours very truly,

Cambridge, Feb. 20th, 1884.

T. C. S. M.

ROSSETTI'S JENNY.

"Vengeance of Jenny's case! Fie on her! Never name her, child!"

The world widens in sympathy as it grows older. Humanity of to-day does not mean the same as humanity of the days of ancient Greece and Rome. The play of human interest is far greater now than then, and consequently the range of poetry has become much more extensive. An illustration of this is Rossetti's Jenny.

Lazy, laughing, languid Jenny,
Fond of a kiss and fond of a guinea,
Whose eyes are as blue as skies, whose hair
Is countless gold incomparable.

The poet had accompanied her home from a dancing-garden, and there, tired out, she had thrown herself at his feet and with her head upon his knee, had fallen asleep. The poem is a reverie. It is a bold subject, but the nobility of the writer stood the test. He has infused an infinite pity far removed from puritanism, for the frail lost girl.

For all your wealth of loosened hair,
Your silk ungirdled and unlac'd,
And warm sweets open to the waist,
All golden in the lamplight's gleam.

What are you? Only

A cipher of man's changeless sum
Of lust, past, present, and to come.

There she is asleep,

So young and soft and tired; so fair,
With chin thus nestled in your hair,
Mouth quiet, eyelids almost blue,
As if some sky of dreams shone through!

She sleeps just as another woman sleeps and the thought comes of the unfathomable mysteries that surround our life, of what is

Enough to throw one's thoughts in heaps
Of doubt and horror,—what to say
Or think,—this awful secret sway,
The potter's power over the clay!
Of the same lump (it has been said)
For honor and dishonor made,
Two sister vessels.

How little of man's relation to woman and to God do we really know! How soon we come to the barrier that bounds our narrow sphere! How much we must leave to Him who sees "with larger, other eyes than ours, to make allowance for us all!"

Shall no man hold his pride forewarn'd,
Till in the end, the Day of Days,
At Judgment, one of his own race,
As frail and lost as you, shall rise—
His daughter, with his mother's eyes?

Yet there is no attempt to overlook the ruin into which her life has fallen, only the sad deep consciousness of the part man has played. The face that, painted by the hand of a Raphael, might stand through ages

For preachings of what God can do,
Will become blotted and defiled. Poor shameful Jenny!

How atone,
Great God, for this which man has done?
And for the body and soul which by
Man's pitiless doom must now comply
With life-long hell, what lullaby
Of sweet forgetful second birth
Remains? All dark. No sign on earth
What increase of God's rest endows
The many mansions of his house.

Then the morning steals upon them, the one sitting, the other still asleep, dreaming herself among all

The acknowledged belle
Apparelled beyond parallel.

And the poet, placing cushions under her head and gold coins in her hair, departs. Noble is the close of the poem.

Jenny, my love rang true! for still
Love at first sight is vague, until
That tinkling makes him audible.
And must I mock you to the last,
Ashamed of my own shame,—aghast
Because some thoughts not born amiss
Rose at a poor fair face like this?
Well, of such thoughts as much I know:
In my life, as in hers, they show,
By a far gleam which I may near,
A dark path I can strive to clear.

—F. H. SYKES.

APATHY.

The word is not used now so much in its literal sense as metaphorically; for it is not applied to those who are heartless and unfeeling so much as to men who want energy, or neglect to show it when they should. Such beings make us think of some mass of animal matter so nerveless that it scarcely responds to any stimulus: some zoophyte, some jelly-fish, whose whole occupation is absorbing food which comes to it, and floating on the waves.

Apathy is the great enemy of reform, far worse than open opposition, for that stimulates to energy men who but for it might be weak and indifferent. It is to be feared the more because it is a negative, just as it is not a fierce enemy but faint-hearted soldiers that a general fears. History shows us how almost any-

thing is possible to earnest, eager troops, and how numbers give no encouragement when there is carelessness, indifference or dispiritedness.

Apathy is the *bete noir* in the religious, the social, and the workaday worlds. The club-haunter to whom languidness and its expression is one of the ends of life; who eats a good dinner and lounges till it is dinner time again, is useless as a reformer of society, for he has not even energy enough to work for himself, but exists upon the store laid up by his ancestors or wrung from the poor.

The fashionable Christian whose whole stock of energy is used up in making calls of ceremony or receiving them, in attending balls and routs and the theatre, and in doing the necessary eating and sleeping, and perhaps more than is necessary of both, is not one to whom earnest men look for assistance. He has little energy and all is used up in the effort to kill time, so that he has no desire to enter into the fight for the moral advancement of the masses of men his brethren.

The indolent worker who is satisfied if he only earn his wages, who works not for promotion, but to escape being discharged: who as a teacher is satisfied if the necessary quantum of knowledge is absorbed by his pupils, even though the progress in mental training or spiritual development be nothing: who as a servant neglects duty when his master is absent; who as a workman loiters and does scheming work when the foreman is away; who as a pastor makes 'slim' preparation and does not care if his flock starve if only they do not call for his resignation—who in any walk of life serves with eye-service, and is utterly limp and indifferent when the eye of man is not regarding him, or when his own immediate advantage is not at stake, illustrates what we mean by apathy.

Wherein lies this defect—is it want of capacity or of development? We would say, Of both, chiefly of the latter. Men cultivate the habit of day-dreaming instead of earnestly working; they imagine these dreams fulfilled, and act as if such were the case, hence they are characterized in all they do by unearnestness—their work is sleepily done, as if they were always in the world of dreams; and it is thus very much in a man's own hands whether he shall be apathetic or not.

As we said before, apathetic is not so much a synonym of 'unfeeling' as of the word 'unenergetic,' and it finds its exact application to men who are selfishly indolent, too much so to move in any matters not for their own particular benefit. Willingly such place themselves under the spell of the magician, and live in a chosen 'Castle of Indolence,' built in a land of selfish drowsiness.

'A pleasing land of drowsy-head it was,
Of dreams that wave before the half-shut eye;
And of gay castles in the clouds that pass,
For ever flushing round a summer sky.'

Yet though it is pleasant for some to live in such a land of delicious rest, it is not healthy, for we are told the season

'A listless climate made, where, sooth to say,
No living wight could work, ne cared even for play.'

And indifference to work and play marks disease, since one evidence of a healthy organism is its rightly directed activity. Let such as are under the spell invite the good knight Industry to come and break it, and set them free from the overbearing weight of drowsy indifference which is crushing every thought that arises in their heart of doing honest helpful work for others and themselves. Then will they experience the joy of freedom and power when they have cast away apathy as a racer does an impeding garment.

W. P. M.

WHEAT FROM CHAFF.

I.

'Thus we may gather honey from the weed.'

—K. Henry V., Act IV. Sc. 1.

This somewhat singular title, expressing an apparently paradoxical statement, will perhaps need a word of explanation. In the agricultural world the wheat is the substance which is accounted of practical importance, and the chaff is either blown away and scattered or else burned up and destroyed. In the literary world the serious element corresponds to the wheat of the agricultural world; and the humorous or purely comic element is, too often, and by too many, regarded as mere chaff—not worthy of attention or even a passing notice. This view, I submit, is an entirely erroneous one. Its acceptance with a certain class of people is either the result of a narrow-minded prejudice against anything which deals with the affairs of life in a satiric or humorous manner; or from ignorance, arising

from a want of acquaintance with the writings and sayings of those authors whom we call humorists, or else from a lack of appreciation of comic scenes and situations—perhaps a natural or inherited defect. Scotchmen have been accused—I shall not say with too much truth—of extreme dullness of comprehension when anything of a humorous nature was related. Some have even gone so far as to say that it required a surgical operation to enable a Scotchman to see and enjoy a joke. An instance, I believe, is well authenticated where a Scotchman had been dining with some friends, when some joke had been told and richly enjoyed by the rest of the party, our Gaelic friend joined feebly in the general laugh, not being able to see the point, even after the most elaborate explanations had been given. And it was not till late the next day that the Scotchman startled his friends by exploding in a violent fit of laughter, and on being asked the cause of his unusual merriment, replied, amid the paroxysms of his mirth: 'Oh! I hae it noo!' Nevertheless the fact remains that there are some people—be they of Scotch or other nationality—who either will not, or can not, enjoy humor. If there be any such among those who may peruse this paper, I hope I may be successful in demonstrating that paradoxical proposition—of obtaining wheat from so-called chaff—or in other words, of showing that in the humor of to-day there are sentiments, opinions and ideas not unworthy of attention, and which, though they be not set in the diadems which adorn the highest rank of literary effort, are none the less 'precious stones and pearls of thought.'

The object of humorous writings may be either: to amuse, simply and solely; to instruct, under a garb of high fancy; or to correct abuses, and alter opinions which could not be remedied or changed so successfully, or with less friction otherwise. There is a vast difference between humorous and comic writings. Humorous poetry is often satirical. It even usually loses its purely comic element.

The poetical writings of James Russell Lowell—and in alluding to him I do not intend to forestall Mr. Stevenson—are largely satirical. They are, however, classed—and correctly so—under the department humorous. Yet who can doubt the marvellous effect of the sentiments of Hosea Biglow in stirring up public feeling in regard to the great questions involved in, and causing the great American rebellion? A few quotations may not be out of place. In the 'Pious Editor's Creed' the following lines occur:

I du believe wutever trash
'll keep the people in blindness,
That we the Mexicans can thrash
Right inter brotherly kindness.
Thet bombshells, grape, an' powder, n' ball
Air good will's strongest magnets;
Thet peace, to make it stick at all,
Must be druv' in with bagnets.

In another place Hosea Biglow sagely remarks:

'Wut's the use o' meetin' goin'
Every Sabbath wet or dry,
Ef it's right to go a-mowin'
Feller-men like oats an rye?
I dunno but wut it's pooty
Farmin' rounl in bob-tail coats,
But it's curus Christian dooty
This 'ere cuttin' folks' throats.'

Which sentiment is respectfully dedicated to the members of 'K' Company.

Then, rising to a higher pitch of eloquence than Hosea was capable of, the poet sings:

'My, it's jest ez clear ez figgers,
Clear ez one an' one make two,
Chaps that make black slaves o' niggers
Want to make white slaves o' you.
Laborin' man an' laborin' woman
Hev' one glory an' one shame,
Every thin' thet's done inhuman
Injers all on 'em the same!'

Who can deny the force of such eloquence or the sound practical wisdom contained in these rough dialectic verses? Indeed we may well say:

'Tis true, and pity 'tis, 'tis true!

Mr. Lowell puts into the mouth of Jeff Davis the following amusing words:

'We've ail 'o the elerments this very hour
That make up a first-class self-governing power;
We've a war, and a debt, and a flag; and of this
Ain't to be independent, why, what on airth is?'

I would specially commend the foregoing verse to my 'Independence' friends.

But I have lingered too long with Mr. Lowell, since I promised not to 'trespass on Mr. Stevenson's preserves.'

Josh Billings has acquired quite a reputation for being a philosopher—a reputation perhaps as enviable as that enjoyed by Vennor or Wiggins. A great deal of his notoriety comes from the fact that he uses a comic phonetical style of spelling, which, to my mind, is not half as clever as that adopted by Artemus Ward. Josh Billings has, however, lost caste fully 100 per cent. recently. He has been guilty of an act which I think would stamp him as most unreliable; an act which should forfeit the respect and confidence of every one. Josh Billings has written and published a Testimonial for the Hop Bitters Company! However he occasionally says some very sensible things, as witness the following: 'I du luv a live man. The only thing in Satan's character that saves him from supreme disgust is, that he is always red hot!' And again: 'Trying to live on a pedigree is a good deal like trying to live on dried apples; about the best you can do after you have filled yourself with the apples is, to take a drink and sit down an swell!' Or: 'Young man, don't forget this; Betting \$10 on it, won't prove how far the bull-frog kan jump.'

In his soliloquies on Marriage, amongst other things Josh says: 'Some marry to get rid of themselves, and discover that the game was one that two could play at, and neither win.' 'Some marry rakes to convert them; this is a little risky, and takes a smart missionary to do it.'

I will only quote a few more instances of Josh Billings' rather smart philosophy, and then leave him. He says: 'It ain't no disgrace for a man to fall; but to lay there and grunt, is.' 'One of the laziest things a man can do is to eat soup with a fork.' 'Make yourself necessary young man, and your success is certain.' 'When a man ain't good for anything else, he is just right to set on a jury.' 'I don't bet on precocious children; the huckleberry that ripens the soonest, is always first to decay.' 'I wouldn't give ten cents to hear Bob Ingersoll on "The Mistakes of Moses;" but I'd give \$100 to hear Moses on the Mistakes of Bob Ingersoll.' In many of these trite sayings there is a good deal of common sense—some wheat among a good deal of chaff!

I shall leave Artemus Ward, Bret Hart, John G. Saxe, Mark Twain, Bob Burdette, and a few others for future consideration.

—ERIC.

Our Wallet.

Miss Alpha, though she led her class,
Was yet a most unlovely lass;
She had a little sister θ ,
And she would often bang and β ,
And push, and pinch, and pound and pelt her
And many a heavy blow she δ :
So that the kitten e'en would μ
When θ 's sufferings she ν .
This Alpha was so bad to θ ,
That every time she chanced to meet her
She looked as though she longed to η ;
And oft against the wall she jammed her,
And oft she took a stick and λ ;
And for the pain and tears she brought her
She pitied her not one ι .
Then θ cried with noisy clamour,
And ran and told her grief to γ ,
And γ , with a pitying ψ ,
Would give the little girl some π ,
And say "Now darling mustn't χ ."

* * *
"Julius, seize her!" said Sambo, as Julius was contemplating a fat pullet by moonlight.

* * *
Professor in German: "Mr. W., how would you decline *guter*, *alter*, *rother*, *Wein*?" Mr. W.: "I shouldn't decline it."

* * *
A young man having asked a girl if he might go home with her from singing class, and been refused, said: "You're as full of airs as a music-box." "Perhaps so," she retorted, "but if I am I don't go with a crank."

HORACE: BOOK I., 38

Young man, your Persian finery I hate.
Your linden garlands on my feelings grate;
Care not to search within what garden's close
Alone, but fair, may bloom the late-blown rose.
No garland seek save simply myrtle, boy;
The simple myrtle gives me greatest joy;
Your head it graces, chosen slave of mine.
Me, as I drink beneath the mantling vine.

—MAC.

* * *

Junior translating *nunc ego omnino occidi*, "Now I am all broken up."—*Speculum*.

* * *

Prof.: "Yes, heat expands and cold contracts; but can't you give us an example of the workings of this law?" Bright student (after reflection): "Well in summer the days are long and in winter they are short."—*Ex*.

* * *

"Is Mr. Matthew Arnold lecturing here to-night?" asked a stranger of the ticket seller.

"Yes, sir. Do you want a seat?"

"Yes if you please."

He was handed the ticket, and as he started to go the gentleman at the box office remarked.

"Please go up stairs as quietly as you can, sir; the audience is asleep."—*Philadelphia Call*.

Communications.

THE MODERN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT,

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—Every reader of the 'Varsity who noticed with approval your comments on the letter signed A. Stevenson, will be both surprised and sorry to see our College paper in its last issue commit itself to a course of action which it so justly reprobated. It would be just as well if our dirty linen were washed at home and that University College did not set the example of violent personal attacks upon her professors. While heartily endorsing the remarks upon the curriculum and the needs of the Modern Language course, I cannot too strongly disapprove of those made upon the teaching in the sub-department of German. They are altogether unjustified and uncalled for. Under the present system, examinations not education is the end of College training. When only four lectures a week can be given and so many works are to be read within a certain period, the time must needs be taken up in preparing for examinations. Lectures in literature are quite unnecessary; for this reason, examinations require something very different. All the knowledge of literature they demand is to be gained in reading *about* books, not in reading the books themselves. They require that a student should show his knowledge of 'Faust,' for instance, by his ability to translate any passage and say when Goethe wrote the scene in which it occurs, and by answering references, questions of grammar and derivation, &c., and not by his original thought or appreciation of its literary merits. When such is the case, surely it is the first duty of the lecturer to prepare the student specially with this end in view.

It is just possible, moreover, that there may be reasons for defects in the Modern Language other than those that can be assigned to teaching. They reside in the curriculum itself. The aim of the whole course seems to be anything but to give the student the ability to speak the modern languages. This is the very point in which it fails, as the existence of the Modern Language Club testifies. Its design would rather seem to be simply to give an acquaintance with some of the best or specimen works in each literature. These two objects should be combined. The aim of the course should be: first, a practical knowledge of French and German, *i.e.*, ability to write and speak in them, and second, an acquaintance with the literatures of these two languages. To effect this the course pointed out by your editorial is

undoubtedly the one to be followed. What is required is unquestionably—1st, the separation of History and Ethnology from the course; 2nd, the foundation of a chair in German; 3rd, the establishment of a professorship of Romance Languages; 4th, a different standard of examination—let the honors be given for prose; 5th, the abolition of all authors in the fourth and perhaps also in the third years.

This will require money of course, but until it is done students will have to depend upon themselves for the acquirement of a practical knowledge of French and German outside the College, or following routine, turn themselves into dry accumulators of facts for examinations to be forgotten as soon as they are over, and University College must be content to remain in a state of inefficiency in one of its most important departments.

ARCH. MACMECHAN.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—Your article *re* the Modern Languages is not more remarkable for the disparagement it contains than for the deplorable ignorance shown, of that course. This department should have not only its professors and representative on the Council, but also an equal number of scholarships with the two pampered departments of Classics and Mathematics.

In what way has this department always 'presented a sorry spectacle'? It is the broadest and most liberal course in the College to-day, and, when we consider that lectures are no criterion of the work done, it is certainly incorrect to assume that the work is neglected because 'the teaching has been wretched' (?)

Philology is neglected, is it? Had you to get up German, French and Italian Philology, perhaps you would change your tune about its being neglected. And Literature—did you never hear a modern man complaining of the quantity of English, German and Italian Literature he has read?

Perhaps you will be surprised to learn that teaching to speak the languages has not been the aim, except, perhaps, as regards French; and something higher has been aimed at.

What beneficial re-organization would you make in the curriculum? Perhaps you would replace Milton by Swinburne and Molière by Jules Verne. What are the books you would sweep away? I know but one that is at all worthy of your censure; and I claim to be somewhat acquainted with the course.

To abolish specified literary works in the final year, and demand a knowledge of the 'chief productions of the two nations' is as absurd as it would be impossible to accomplish the latter. To those who have time and pleasure to read the hundred and one authors, good and bad alike, Craik and Demogeot may seem tame, but to ordinary mortals they are valuable, as pointing out what is good, and in giving some knowledge of a host of men, whose works one cannot hope to read.

I would be, for one, sorry to see History separated from the Languages, to the study of which it is such a valuable companion, and bears such a close connection. In reading Dante or Milton, it is not out of place to become acquainted with Mediæval Florence or the Puritans. Still, a less quantity of History would undoubtedly be acceptable to the over-burdened Modern man.

One would imagine in reading your article that the whole Modern Department is rotten and not of much account, whereas it is well arranged, and vastly superior to the same course in other colleges, not only in the selection of authors, but also in the degree of excellence required to be attained by those taking the course.

E. J.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

The assertions in your last issue regarding the Department of Modern Languages, appear to me to be too sweeping, and to some extent contradictory. You speak in general as if all the lecturers in this department were neglecting their work, while at the same time in one short sentence you except two of them. Now it seems to me very unfair that the two gentlemen who are admittedly doing good work, should be made to bear by implication the blame which justly falls on others. Your intention may be by such a procedure to make your censures so general as not to injure the feelings of those who have merited them. But the use of general terms in such cases is a clear injustice. Let every individual stand or fall on his own merits.

Again you say that philology is entirely neglected. Now I have merely to say that in one of the departments at least this is not a fact. I do not understand your reasons for making a misstatement.

I am in entire sympathy with your statement that 'the claims of professors to consideration depend only on their doing their work well.' It is a folly to take it for granted that a professor is *ex officio*

entitled to respect. If he deserves the respect of the students they will voluntarily and readily yield to him; if he does not deserve it, then he should not get it, and it is an injustice to those who are deserving to give it to him. A lecturer has no right to rely for respect on the possession of abilities which he has long since ceased to exercise, at least if the cause of the cessation is indolence and not physical infirmity. Virtues in the plu-perfect tense are negative quantities and valueless.

If a lecturer frequently does not come into his class-room until fifteen or twenty minutes after the proper time, and goes over his work in the most perfunctory and listless manner after he does come in, he must not expect from his students innate stupidity enough to respect him to any great degree.

If this state of things actually exists, it will not avail anything for those interested to rail at the persons exposed to it. The sensible course under the circumstances is to inaugurate a reform and to be quick about it. *Verbum sap.*

Yours, etc.,

REFORM.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—The 'Varsity claims to be the representative of undergraduate and graduate opinion and feeling. Allow me to point out that if it wishes to justify that claim it must manifest more care for the honor and dignity of our professors and lecturers. The insolent and otherwise purposeless howl of 'A Stevenson' should never have found a place in our college paper, even under protest. But where will this Vandalism end if the staff allow editorials even more insulting in their remarks to appear? The Modern Language course undoubtedly needs reform, but, if we cannot discuss these changes without indulging in personalities, it would be better both for the undergraduates and the College that it remain as it is. And why select the lectures of one sub-department for special denunciation? Is it because their comparative excellence allows some hope of the wished-for improvement if the lecturer in German be well-stimulated? Otherwise, those familiar with the department will have difficulty in understanding why criticism should be severest where least merited. If this movement reaches the Senate of the University, as I hope it may, it will be then seen that the responsibility for the character of the course does not rest entirely upon the shoulders of the lecturers. Neither will our course be aided by disparaging men who justly possess the confidence of that body. My object in writing, however, is not to regulate the 'Varsity, but to call attention to one point in the editorial in question, and give to it a greater and I think deserved prominence. Anglo-Saxon is passed over with a mere reference. The restoration of Spanish and extension of Italian is seemingly considered of more importance. Those, however, who have enjoyed the advantage of a training in English based on a knowledge of Anglo-Saxon will be far from admitting this. Some of our graduates, to their credit be it said, have mastered the language, and, convinced of its advantage and indeed necessity from their own experience as teachers of English, have sought to place the subject before the Senate through Convocation. The instrument at that time was worthless, but now that it is properly organized, thanks to the medium and influence of our College paper, we may hope for better results.

Might I suggest that the undergraduates lay the whole question of reform in the Modern Language course before Convocation. They would certainly receive from it sympathy and assistance in agitating the question, and pressing it upon the Senate.

I shall leave the discussion of the advantages of Anglo-Saxon to those whose experience better qualifies them for the task, and I sincerely hope that the matter will not be dropped until this subject receives a place on the curriculum.

GRAD.

'DIDACTIC POETRY.'

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

SIR,—In the last number of the 'Varsity, your esteemed contributor, Mr. Stevenson, did me the honor of referring to a word or two about the impropriety of the term *didactic poetry*, contained in a brief paper on the 'Tempest,' and somewhat mis-conceived my position when he stated that Mr. Lowell at any rate did not believe that *didactic poetry is a contradiction in terms*. There is a wide difference between expressions of philosophic truth and of poetic thought, and we must be careful lest while we are applauding the one, when it is accompanied by good versification, we think we have gained the other. Do not many of the quotations given by Mr. S. show this difference most distinctly? Still more is our position upheld when we consider the attitude of the poet himself. All poetry

is the offspring of emotion, and is capable of producing emotion ; but the writer who purposes producing what is ordinarily known as a didactic poem, by placing before his view a certain lesson to be taught, thereby prevents or dissipates the emotion and leaves no recourse but to call in the dialectic. It is, however, quite possible that the moral aspect of certain things may so work upon the poet's mind as to produce the necessary feelings, which he is able to re-produce in the minds of his readers. In this case he would no more be writing a didactic poem than one who was picturing the beauty of wild-flowers. Some poems, it must be admitted, are a greater moral stimulus than others, but it is quite another thing to say they are more or less didactic on that account. All great poetry elevates our nature because it deals with the emotions that are called forth by the noblest thoughts. But the state of the mind when it tries to teach, and the state when it contemplates, for example, the grandeur of the cataract, are mutually exclusive. If virtue does not disappear when she is forced to jog along in a rhymed heroic, poetry is not likely to linger when she is not courted on her own account.

Yours, &c.,
F. H. SYKES.

March 18th.

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