

THE VARSITY



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THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, FEBRUARY 21, 1900.

No. 16

EVENING.

Past the toil and sweat of day,
Evening's mellow twilight fading,
Deepest stillness all pervading;
Now we put our cares away.

NIGHT.

Lonely Cynthia's pallid face
Through the heavens softly sweeping—
Myriad golden starlets peeping—
Smiles upon our weary race.

MORNING.

Darkness fled beyond the hills,
Birds their morning chorus swelling;
Fogs and twilight fast dispelling,
Flooding light the valley fills.

W. H. T., '00.

A CHILD'S ADVENTURE IN PARIS.

Paris, in the last years of the reign of Louis Philippe, when the people were rapidly becoming disgusted with their avaricious monarch, was a constant scene of uproar. During the day there were continual skirmishes with the gendarmes from behind barricades hastily built of omnibuses, coster carts, or whatever was available at the time; during the night the dark corners of the dimly-lighted streets sheltered innumerable ruffians waiting to rob and if necessary to murder the unwary passer-by. Every night some foolhardy person would attempt to cross the river over one of the bridges, and every morning the river patrol would bring to light a corpse which had been thrown over the parapet in the hope that the waters of the Seine would cover the evidence of another crime.

This is a story told me by a lady who was then at school in Paris, and who saw many of those exciting scenes which preceded the establishment of the second republic. As far as possible it is told in her own words, as its interest lies not so much in the actual experience as in its suggestiveness of the terror and excitement of those years of upheaval.

In those turbulent days the rue de Chaillot was a long, narrow street, looked down upon by the dirty windows of interminable rows of rickety tenements. An unpleasant place to pass by day, a veritable valley of the shadow by night. At one end near the city barrier was my school, at the other was the heart of the city.

One evening I was visiting at a friend's house with my brother and was detained longer than usual. When we hailed a fiacre, we were told that we could be taken to our destination, but my brother would have to walk back, as the driver lived outside the walls of the city and the time was rapidly approaching midnight, when the city gates were locked. Just then an omnibus driver whom we both knew came up and offered to take me back on his way home. This offer was accepted and I was soon being rapidly driven towards the school.

The rue de Chaillot was reached and the dingy houses closed in upon us. I could dimly make out their high gables, looming up dark and indistinct against the overcast sky. The street was apparently deserted. The inhabitants when they sallied forth by night did not walk along the sidewalk, but skulked from shadow to shadow, hoping to meet someone whose wallet might help them to keep the wolf from the door for the next few days.

"Mademoiselle must descend," said the driver, as the horses came to a sudden halt. I had been thinking that the unpleasant trip was almost over, when this new difficulty arose. The road was being repaired, and the red lantern before us warned us that it was impassable. I expostulated with the driver, but unsuccessfully. He must hurry home another way. If he lost any more time he would be locked in the city. Besides mademoiselle had not far to walk, and the street was eminently respectable and perfectly safe. And so he left me, alone at midnight in Paris at her worst.

There was no one in sight. The day workmen had just left, and the night shift had not yet arrived. There were no lights in the street, and I had almost to grope my way from house to house. I passed the grim old church with its dark portico and its windows, blazoned by day with the portraits of the holy martyrs and the Madonna, but looking dark and frowning now.

As I approached one of the streets which led to a still more dismal part of the city, I heard the sound of hurried footsteps. I had to pass that street before the men I heard reached the rue de Chaillot, and I lost no time about it. Just as I crossed the road and passed the corner the disturbance increased. I heard voices in excited conversation, but I did not stop to hear what they said, but hurried on with redoubled speed. And now that I was thoroughly frightened, every shadow startled me. I increased my speed and ran on till I breathlessly turned the corner of the rue des Batailles and in a few moments was at the door of the school.

The old concierge roused out of a comfortable doze, noticed nothing unusual in my appearance and made no remark. In a few minutes I was laughing at myself for my unnecessary fright, and soon fell asleep.

When I came down to breakfast next morning there was some new and exciting topic of conversation among the girls. I was asked about my return the previous night, but as I had not noticed the time when I returned, nothing more was said about it. Then I learned of a murder that had been committed on the rue de Chaillot, not very far from the school. When the night workmen had come to work on the road they found the still warm but inanimate body of a man lying on the steps of the old church. It was not there when the previous gang of workmen had left, and the murder must have been committed in the short time during which there were no workmen on the road.

Then my adventure of the night before assumed a different aspect. I knew now what the disturbance in front of the church meant, and had come closer to the terror that walked by night than ever before in my short experience.

W. HARVEY McNAIRN.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A BOARDING-HOUSE CLOCK.

There was a time when I was ensconced in the peaceful retirement of the back parlor, where I ticked out the hours and days in dreamy monotony. It was a very quiet and pleasant existence in many ways; true, I had not the wide field of observation of the tower-clock out in the square, nor the varied experience and bustling activity of my sometime neighbor the alarm-clock, but in a way I was contented with my lot, having never had the expectation of a change; just as many men, I have learned since in my wider experience, are contented with their surroundings, simply because the possibility has never occurred to them of arriving at better ones.

One day, however, I was taken down and carried up, up, up, and around, till my head grew dizzy and I almost fainted outright. Finally I was set down on a small mantle between an ink-stand and a match-safe, and left to my own reflections. The match safe was a very surly fellow, who steadily resisted all friendly advances, but I soon struck up friendship with the ink-stand; he informed me that the room was rented by a student, who would doubtless be in before long. In the meantime, as I ticked sedately on, I took a survey of the room. The most conspicuous object was a book-case in the corner, in which was a collection of books that overflowed on to the table standing near. Otherwise, save for a picture or two on the walls and a couple of straight-backed chairs, the room was bare and forlorn looking.

After about half an hour of silence unbroken save by my voice, the door opened and my future master entered. I could not help remarking that he had a pale and careworn look, as if some heavy responsibility were resting on his mind; in a few moments he sat down by the table and was soon buried in a book. This, my friend the ink-stand informed me in a whisper, was because he was a Plug, whom the voice of duty kept chained to his desk day and night. Many a weary hour have I ticked away since then, holding my very breath lest I should disturb him, as he sat surrounded by his books and lost to all around him. No recreation would he take, for he had no time; no pleasure, for he had neither time nor inclination. One evening, I remember, when a fellow student came in, he sat immersed in his books as usual. His friend had called to lure him out for the evening to a college debate; but with a sigh the Plug turned to his work again. What was a paltry debate or two compared to a few more facts safely lodged in his capacious brain? Why should he waste his precious time in a life that was all too short, for the doubtful pleasure of witnessing a wordy combat, even though it did involve the victory or defeat of his *Alma Mater*? One other night an old acquaintance came in for a friendly call; for two hours they sat and chatted pleasantly together, till I began to think the spell had been dissolved for once. But the street door had scarcely closed on the visitor, when our hero turned with a look of guilt toward me, and with a few muttered words about Aristophanes and the Apology of Socrates, returned to the attack.—Poor fellow, leave him to his fate! For rescue is impossible.

The stay of our next inmate was brief but stirring. None of your dry text books and evenings of solitary study for him; he was going through the world but once, and meant to do it handsomely. His rollicking companions evidently shared his views, and when he was not out with them they were in with him. There was no danger of the books overflowing the book-case this time; the difficulty was to find them when required. Sometimes when he came in late at night he did not seem to be himself, and acted strangely; once he sat upon his hat, and did not

observe it till next morning. At such times as these I pitied him, for he was evidently unwell. One night in particular I have reason to remember, when some companions were with him all the evening. They drank frequently from a jug upon the table, which was taken out several times to be replenished. As the evening wore on they seemed strangely exhilarated, and at last high words arose, which resulted in a general set-to. I can hardly tell how it happened, but in the melee something struck me a heavy blow; I fell forward on my face with a crash * * * When I came to myself I was in a large room with many other clocks of all sizes and descriptions, all going helter-skelter, with a regular babel of ticking. The next day I was carried home and set up in my old place, to find that our student had disappeared.

For some time the room remained unoccupied, and having no wish to repeat my former experience, I prayed that it might be so till doomsday. But my next acquaintance was a distinct improvement, and I grew to know and like him well. Among his books—those first criteria of a student's character—I soon discovered some hitherto unfamiliar ones, different in appearance from those which held the mysterious secrets of his vocation; these, I learned later, were editions of the English poets. The walls he decorated with dainty pictures and photographs of friends, hiding a tear in the paper here and a discolored spot there, till the old room looked actually pretty. The place of honor he gave to the picture of a young girl with expressive eyes and a wandering ringlet or two of brown hair. Of visitors he had many, and whenever a friend dropped in he was sure of a hearty welcome. There was always time for a friendly chat or a game of cribbage; or sometimes they would go out together for a walk or to the Lit.

When he studied, too, it was different. Not that he did not throw his whole soul into the work, but that blank, lifeless expression never came into his face. It was always alight with varying expressions. The look of doubt and perplexity as some hard problem stared him in the face; the deepening frown of concentration as difficulties multiplied around, and the air seemed charged with Quaternions and Elliptic Functions; the calm smile of triumph after the victory won; all these, and a thousand other things, spoke of power, and the inherent qualities that make a man. What a contrast to my old acquaintance the Plug! Poor fellow! I often pitied him from my heart. As for my latest friend, I can do no better than leave him to his destiny, with the words of a class-mate ringing in my ears, "It is men like him that have made old Varsity famous."

R. M. STEWART.

PARTYISM IN STUDENT AFFAIRS.

The rather exciting developments of the last week in matters political must have been sufficient to convince the most sceptical observer that there exists in the hearts of the great majority of Varsity collegians an inborn love of politics, which even the threatening apparition of a May exam. cannot obliterate. Of course all this excitement must not be taken for genuine enthusiasm for those broad and deep principles which should, and usually do form the basis for opposing political parties.

For from it we must deduct the bogus enthusiasm of the office-seekers, and of those men (or boys even) who have become imbued with the idea that they are born leaders of men and predestined for greatness; the legend of 'Mahomet and the mountain' they have ever before them—if the crowd will not come as followers to them, then will they go forth and put themselves at the head of the crowd.

However, despite the fact that such spurious poli-

ticians are by no means an unknown quantity, even in the small sphere of University politics, it cannot be denied that there exists a strong instinctive liking for political affairs amongst the great majority of the collegians. Nor is this a fact to be at all deplored, even apart from its serving as a financial aid to the Literary Society.

Politics and political methods are deserving of a more thorough study, if they are ever to undergo that improvement of which it is generally recognized they stand in need. A number of causes may be assigned for the apparent degeneration of a class which in the course of things should be one of the most honorable, the chief among which has been the prominence of the "professional" politician who has a firm belief that the "end always justifies the means," at least in matters political.

But another and not unimportant factor in explaining the degeneration of politics is the repugnance which the literary or even the moderately educated man has for political methods. It might be better expressed by saying "the unfitness they have for politics," for it is a fact that such is the real cause of their disdain of the methods of political grand-masters. They have for so long been steeped in theories—whether political or otherwise—that they have not the energy or tact to compete with men whose training and education has been along more practical lines. College graduates—those in law possibly excepted—do not attain the position in Canadian politics which one would imagine they are entitled to after their years of study.

The cause of this must be looked for in the exclusive attention paid to literature and science proper. Even at the only place (Literary Society) where the students assemble as a body, they are as a rule served with purely literary programmes. No wonder its meetings are but poorly attended. Surely it might be adapted to more useful aims. Though its present tendency, as seen in the frequent impromptu debates, mock parliaments and the oration contest, seems to be towards the cultivation of those arts in which a successful politician should excel, yet it does not go far enough in this direction.

I am of the opinion that all the literary programmes, e.g., readings, recitations, set debates, etc., should be transferred to the different language and scientific clubs, and the whole time devoted to discussions on matters of interest to the student body. The society should be made political in its essence, and be given a more important position in regulating all student functions, and in carrying out general lines of policy connected with the University affairs.

To secure greater unity it might properly be given powers over all the other clubs and associations of the student body. Not that it should interfere in the functions proper of these organizations, but still, by being in a measure united to and above them, it might be of assistance in time of need. All transactions which these clubs or societies have with the outside public might be conducted through this chief society, which also might properly have control of their finances and the right to supervise their general lines of policy.

One can easily conceive of such clubs in times of financial embarrassment begging assistance from the society. This they could hardly expect unless the society had some voice in the management of their affairs.

Again, of late we have heard much of the fact that athletics of every kind do not receive the attention from the student body which they deserve. This may be ascribed partly to the fact that the majority of the students are not intimate with the management of such affairs, nor the purpose for which they are conducted. Often the city newspaper is their only medium of knowledge. Were it not for the street parade many students would hardly know that The Games are held every fall.

I would maintain then that all such matters of general interest be brought before the student body in the society and there discussed before any course of action is decided upon. The Society might very properly act in the capacity of the proposed Athletic Board and as the central body amongst all the college clubs and associations.

The tendency would naturally be to interest the student body more in such matters and the cultivation of a more healthy *esprit de corps* about the college.

Party lines might profitably be maintained throughout the year, and everything be done in the society in the form of legislation so as to approximate as nearly as possible to parliamentary procedure. It might be said in opposition to this cultivation of the spirit of partyism, that the student body would be unable to act as a unit, but this would not likely be the case on any important issue. The party strife which is under the present system crowded into a few weeks, would be scattered over the whole year, and the faction acting at any time against the apparent best interests of the University would soon become so unpopular as to defeat its purposes.

The presence of a good strong party spirit must, in the long run, be of vastly more benefit to the student than the present inane condition of the Literary Society, which is primarily due to lack of interest by the student body, and to the resulting weakness of the society's financial position.

W. J. DONOVAN.

Feb. 12.

A NEGLECTED DUTY.

"Assuredly," says John Stuart Mill, at the close of his little book on Socialism, "assuredly the terrible case which, as we saw in a former chapter, Socialists are able to make out against the present economic order of society demands a full consideration of all means by which the institution may have a chance of being made to work in a manner more beneficial to that large portion of society which, at present, enjoys the least share of its direct benefits."

At the end of three years' intercourse with the students of this University I am convinced that not one in ten of them ever for a moment burdens his brain with a consideration of the many plans set forth by the would-be social reformers of the present day. If you ask the average undergraduate what his opinion of such and such a plan or theory may be, he will probably reply in an uninterested manner that he knows nothing about it, that his work so occupies his time as to leave him no chance of enquiring into such abstract and unpractical matters, or perhaps he may sweepingly assert that he for one is willing to take the word of abler men than himself, and, considering all proposals of social change as injurious nonsense, fevered emanations of intellects certainly erratic and probably slightly unhinged, scout the possibility of improving, by any such reforms, the condition of mankind; all this without having investigated the subject on his own account. And such being the case with the average student, he is indubitably neglecting most wrongfully his duty to the state, to himself and to his fellow-men.

And here the question arises, "What are the obligations with respect to these things of a man who graduates from a university?" In looking for an answer, we should begin by a consideration of the position a graduate holds or should hold, and the influence he should wield among men. The University man must remember that even though at the end of his course he may seem to himself to know little more than when he entered as a freshman, nevertheless, the majority of the community, those who

have never had the advantage of higher education, are prone to look upon him as a learned man and an authority. The influence of one college graduate is, in short, rightly said to be, in some countries, equal to that of twenty uneducated men. It necessarily follows that his responsibility is also twenty times as great. And what shall we say of men who, knowing how great their responsibility and influence may some day be, deliberately neglect to prepare themselves, to the best of their ability, for the assumption of that responsibility and the wisest possible exertion of that influence.

But perhaps the reader may feel inclined to dispute the statement that a University man holds a position either so important or so influential as I have ascribed to him. Practical business men, for instance, have a tendency to look upon a Bachelor of Arts, or a Doctor of Philosophy as a mere "walking encyclopædia" of facts and fancies unsusceptible, in a great measure, of application to every-day life; in fact as anything but a leader of men.

And why? Is it not for this very reason that students neglect to study social and political questions? Let me repeat, I do not believe that one student in ten gives to the subject an attention in any way worthy of it. A thorough knowledge of social problems, and the various solutions proposed for them, is of no less importance to men in Mathematics and Physics or Chemistry and Mineralogy than to those in Political Science.

The quotation at the head of this article is sufficient indication of the living and practical interest of the question of reform. And to whom, if not to us, does it fall to consider all possible plans for the betterment of mankind? We have at our disposal books to read and intelligence trained in reasoning to read them. Is it not then our most binding duty to do our best to gain, every one for himself, such a knowledge of these matters that, able to point out the deception or folly of that which is false or foolish, quick to perceive and eager to espouse the cause of that which is good, we may become standard-bearers in the great struggle for the extinction of error, the overthrow of oppression and the establishment of truth and justice.

E. M. ASHWORTH.

THE FRENCH PEASANT.

The unusually large number who attended the meeting of the Modern Language Club on Monday, 19th inst., showed in advance that an interesting lecture was expected, and no one was disappointed. M. St. Elme de Champ had very kindly consented to fill the programme for the afternoon, and took as his subject: "Le paysan français et sa place dans le roman contemporain."

The lecturer divided the modern French novelists who have dealt with the peasant into two great classes. In the first he placed Balzac, Cladel and Zola, those novelists who always give us a dark picture of the peasant, who show us only his bad side; and these, the lecturer pointed out, have been misled by their ignorance of peasant life as a whole, and by taking only exceptions as their models. The other class paints the peasant in a favorable light, and comprises such authors as Ferd, Fabre, Pouvillon, Theuriet, Vigné d'Octon and "Jules de Glouvet." And in dealing with the authors which have been mentioned the lecturer read from their works some very excellent and typical extracts.

But even more interesting than these passages from the contemporary novel were probably the few remarks that M. de Champ made on peasant life from his own observation, for M. de Champ knows the French peasant. He showed that the qualities which were generally attri-

buted to the peasant as blameworthy—avarice, greed of land and ignorance—are, in reality, unavoidable and not to be greatly deplored. The ordinary peasant in France lives on eight, ten, or twelve acres of land, and, with perhaps as many children to provide for, his so-called avarice and greed of land becomes an absolute necessity. If we substituted the word "thrift" for "avarice" we should have a more faithful view of the peasant. Moreover, on account of help being required at home, it is difficult for the children to receive an education, and in many parts of France, this difficulty is increased by the ice and snow which blocked the roads to school. This accounts for the prevailing ignorance, but, after all, is this ignorance as detrimental as at first we are inclined to believe? The lecturer showed that this lack of knowledge and isolation of the peasant from the large cities leaves him with a greater amount of piety. The peasant is also accused of being insensible to the beauties of nature; but how can one expect him to fully appreciate those beauties when nature is his home and he has never known another?

And so, having dealt with the peasant in the novel and in real life, the lecturer closed his most interesting address, leaving his hearers with a clearer and truer view of "le paysan français."

M. de Champ was moved a hearty vote of thanks and the meeting adjourned.

R. M. MILLMAN.

OUR "OUTSIDE" FRIENDS.

Those who were fortunate enough to hear the McGill-Varsity debate on Friday evening last must feel satisfied that the time was well spent. The speeches were lively and instructive, and although our representatives did not win, it was the opinion of all that they sustained the reputation of our University.

However, the speeches of the debaters did not impress many of us as much as the summing up given by Sir W. R. Meredith, who kindly honored the Literary Society by bringing his professional training to do us service in deciding the debate. To describe his summary as masterful gives us but a faint idea of what it really was. Without a note he gave us every point brought out by the four debaters in speeches lasting eighty-five minutes. He laid stress on the important ones, balancing one against another, and handling all in a manner which surprised us. It was not a pleasing feature to notice, that although Sir W. R. Meredith considered the debate worthy of an evening, no member of the faculty put in an appearance.

What I wish to refer to particularly is the presence at our different gatherings of representative men who have no direct connection with our University. This is an advantage to the student body and must be regarded as a step in the right direction. At our dinner this year we were honored with a more representative gathering of leading men, among whom were legislators, professional men, publishers, editors, manufacturers, capitalists, etc., than has hitherto been at any student function.

The Saturday lectures have given us the privilege of hearing several "outside" men who came among us with reputations so attractive that our lecture room could not hold those anxious to hear. The Y.M.C.A. services have been conducted by the leading city clergy, and we have also been glad to hear John R. Mott, President of the World's Christian Student Federation. The Political Science Club thought it advisable to have some of their meetings taken by "Outsiders," and have heard an editor, a preacher, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and are to be favored by the President of the Board of Trade tonight.

Prof. Clark, of Trinity, spoke before the Natural Science Association on "Aims of Young Men." Prof. Geddes, of Edinburgh, was a very pleasing visitor, who spoke in the interests of a women's residence, and also addressed the faculty and students on the following day. In addition to Sir W. R. Meredith, we have heard Mr. D. R. Wilkie, manager of the Imperial Bank, give the decision in a debate; and the Rev. Dr. Milligan give such straightforward advice to contestants and audience at the oratory contest that all went away much enlightened on the question of oratory. In the fall General Hutton addressed us on military matters.

The above survey proves to us that the leading men of our country are not adverse to showing their sympathy with Toronto University. We all enjoy hearing these men and no doubt we derive much profit from their discourses. There are very few, whom the University would consider as desirable, who would not only be willing, but pleased to give an address to any of the departmental societies or other organizations soliciting their services. Apart from the advantage we derive directly, it is in the interest of our University to have such persons interested in our work.

I think it would be to the advantage of the student body if they would look to the Literary Societies to develop their ability in public speaking or reading; and to the departmental meetings to receive instruction, or at least listen to opinions formed outside the class-room by men who are in touch with the world at large.

There is at present a movement started by a member of the Faculty, which is being taken up by the different societies, to see what can be done towards having one, two or more lectures each year from the leading educationalists of this Continent. The students would be highly pleased with any action of the Senate which would give us an opportunity to hear such men as the Presidents of Yale, Harvard, Columbia and other American Universities, and we hope the scheme will be successfully carried out.

J. F. M. STEWART.

VARSIITY-McGILL DEBATE.

The annual debating contest between Toronto and McGill Universities, held last Friday evening in the Conservatory of Music Hall, resulted—as doubtless the undergraduates are by this time aware—in the defeat of our representatives and in a win for McGill. Charles Garvey, '00, and R. A. Cassidy, '01, had the affirmative side of the debate, and endeavored to prove that an Anglo-American alliance, offensive and defensive, would be in the best interests of Great Britain; W. McMaster and E. J. Carlyle ably championed the negative for McGill. Mr. Garvey led off for the affirmative in a forcible and pointed speech. He claimed that such an alliance is necessary in order to enable England to withstand any continental alliance which might be made against her, and which, he contended, probably will be made against her. The United States is England's only possible ally, and such an alliance would, from a military point of view, more than match any possible European coalition, and further, would make for ultimate universal peace. Mr. Carlyle's speech was forceful and well-prepared. Such an alliance, he claimed, would have all the disadvantages and few of the advantages for ordinary business partnership. From a military point of view an Anglo-American alliance would be of no value to England, inasmuch as the army and navy of the United States is of little value. Then again, even if such an alliance was formed it would not last. The large foreign element in the United States, the hereditary hatred of the Yankees for England, and the vacillating

character of the American, such circumstances would compel the United States Government to back away from any alliance with England. Mr. Cassidy, at the outset of his speech, endeavored to refute the arguments of the preceding speaker. His success in this was not at all decided. Next he showed the economic and trade benefits which would accrue to England from such an alliance, and in the connection maintained that the United States is the only country which can supply the sum of food supplies required in Great Britain. Mr. McMaster closed the debate with a humorous and taking speech. He devoted most of his time to endeavoring to throw out the arguments of the affirmative, and concluded with the argument that, as England in the past has struggled and battled against European coalitions and alliances, and has come out on top so far, hence, in the light of history Great Britain is able to do so again independent of any such alliance with the United States.

Chief Justice Sir William R. Meredith summed up the arguments in a brief speech, and in awarding McGill the debate said that the affirmative suffered defeat not so much from lack of ability in presenting their case, as from the weakness of their cause. This is undoubtedly true; Varsity had the most deficient side of the question and that is the reason they lost.

F. Lucas, '01, and Mr. Darling, '03, rendered several instrumental solos during the evening. The medals won by Varsity at the McGill-Queen's-Varsity Athletic Contest were presented by Mrs. Hutton to the successful competitors.

H. M. S., '00.

School of Practical Science

There, that gas has gone out again!

That last meeting of the Engineering Society was something like a meeting. And did you see the main street, Hamilton, and Forbes' family? And did you "note the shape—the design of that boat"?

On Saturday last Mr. Bain and a party of second and third year students paid a visit to the works of the Hamilton Blast Furnace Co. The party left Toronto by the G. T. R. at nine, arriving in Hamilton three-quarters of an hour later, and took car for the smelter, where Mr. Fox kindly granted leave to roam all over. After duly inspecting the works, a tour was made over the building in course of erection for the Hamilton Iron and Steel Co., and then back to the town by the Radial railway. In the afternoon Mr. Bell, of the Hamilton Bridge Co., conducted us through their works, explaining their methods in a manner fully appreciated by all. (Two grads. of the School are in the draughting office there). The official tour then ended with a short visit to the Iron and Steel works just at shutting down time.

"Would any of you gentlemen like to see the Wide World Magazine?"

Chace forgot the name of the engineer who was building the works. It was Smith.

The Civils' "Stars" have been defeated at hockey again, this time by the Rotary Transformers, score 6—1. The Transformers, although victorious, got the worst of the game, and as a result have retired for the season.

POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB NOMINATIONS.

The nominations for the officers of the Political Science Club Executive for 1900-01 will be made after Mr. Kemp's address. It will take good men to fill the places vacated by the executive of 1899-00.

The Varsity

EDITORIAL NOTES.

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TORONTO, February 21st, 1900.

The Vice-Chancellor's Resignation Soon after the announcement of Chancellor Blake's resignation came that of Vice-Chancellor Mulock. The wish was expressed that Mr. Mulock would be a candidate for the chancellorship, and it was with regret that it was learned that his reasons for vacating the vice-chancellorship were even stronger for not accepting the higher office. Had Mr. Mulock been allowed by his numerous other duties to retain his connection with the University, the University would have gained much. The interest of Mr. Mulock has been shown in very many ways, not only in a munificent endowment of scholarships, but also in the waiving for some years past of all claim to the remuneration from his office.

The University Question. The movement which has just come to light for the reorganization of the University as a whole and especially of University College has aroused great interest not only among the educationalists of the country, but also among the student body. The proposed plan, if carried out, would, by placing University College in a more independent position, allow that institution to develop at its own rate. The University as a whole would be more closely knit together and better able to compete with the other Universities of the continent. An equitable arrangement arrived at among all the city colleges regarding finances, should kill forever those petty jealousies which are bound to exist so long as the claims of each are not satisfactorily defined. The President of the University should not be handicapped by professorial work, but should be able to devote his whole time to University management—this is to be brought about by the proposed separation of University College and the University of Toronto.

The drawback is financial. The University has for years been laboring under a financial stringency, and it has only been by the most careful management that the University's success has been as great as it has. It is only by most liberal treatment from the Government that the proposal can be carried out. The impetus which would be given to the University and the increased value to the country of our resulting higher educational system would be ample return.

One idea which the writers of "Partyism in Student Affairs," and of "Neglected Duty," seem to hold, is that politics should be a subject of study for *all* college men, and that political questions, if not considered during college days, will not be considered in later life. We cannot agree with them on this point. The study of politics should be optional to the average student as a secondary branch of study, just as philosophy is to many a Natural Science or a Moderns man. We admit, however, that some do well to study politics and political questions. It is said of Bismarck that as a young man he was more interested in farming as a business than in questions of social rank or political theory. He is said to have lived the life of a Pomeranian squire—working hard, playing hard, reading hard and drinking hard—and not to have appeared publicly until '47. It would not do to hold him up as a model, but the fact that he did not study political theories as a college student does not seem to have militated against his success as a statesman.

The letter by "Undergrad." calls us back to an oft mentioned question—a question which has been discussed and apparently solved many times in the past. A special chair of oratory in the University would be of inestimable advantage not only to those pursuing legal, but also those pursuing academic professions. Those students who strive to make the most of the opportunities offered by the literary societies for public speaking, do certainly reap benefits, but they are apt to cultivate a style or a mode of reasoning which is not always the best. This would to a great extent be obviated by a systematic course of instruction. We trust that the day is not far distant when there will be a chair of oratory in the University of Toronto.

Not long since at a meeting of students we listened to some remarks by a certain member of the meeting, upon business men—and upon one or two business men in particular—in which he characterized them as "block-heads" because they did not hold and express such and such views on an occasion when they came before a section of the student body. The speaker while admitting that the term was strong, stated that he felt strongly on the matter, and therefore it was to be inferred that he but expressed what he thought. The statements were surprising, coming as they did from one who says what he thinks, and one who, moreover, does some thinking. Two points are to be noted—first, the gentleman who spoke was more implicit than explicit in his charge, and secondly he did not allow sufficiently for the undoubted experience of men who have lived a good few years and that successfully.

We are pleased to hear of the election of S. M. Wickett, B.A., Ph.D., to the directorate of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. This marks the commencement of a connection between the University and the business worlds that cannot fail to result in good to both. Mr. Wickett has given considerable time to problems connected with Canadian mercantile life, especially to the questions of bonusing and transportation, and so is well fitted for his new position.

Now that the Lit. election is apparently in full swing it might not be amiss to refer to the point made not long since by a couple of speakers at the joint caucus of the parties. It would be well to remember that personalities should not be introduced. What is said in a private conversation should be considered sacred and should not be repeated except by the express permission of those concerned. No man has a right to follow the example set at times even by some of our country's leaders and violate a personal trust.

The address by Mr. C. C. James, M.A., last Thursday, before the Political Science Club, on "The Origin and Growth of Municipal Government in Ontario," was much enjoyed. It is exceedingly gratifying to find that some of the occupants of Government offices are adding directly to the history of Canadian institutions and are able and willing at times to distribute valuable information on such.

We regret that the reporter or quasi-reporter of the McGill debate to the *World* should characterize the result as "an easy win for McGill." Sir W. R. Meredith, who decided the debate, did not so judge it, but said rather that the Toronto debaters put up a hard and close fight. No doubt the *World* reporter aspires after judicial honors—these would seem to suit him about as ill as his present vocation.

Some students when abroad do some very amusing things—things which cause many a sad smile to their fellows. Not long since several members from an affiliated college, while going in a body to attend a *conversazione* in a neighboring town, saw fit to declare their presence to the occupants of the five railway coaches in the most approved fashion (according to their estimation.) They paraded in a body through the cars, giving vent to sounds which at first gave the impression that they were prescribing one of the latest patent remedies on the market to the other occupants of the carriages, but afterwards declared them to be proclaiming abroad the name of their *Alma Mater*. It is sincerely to be hoped that they were only freshmen who had escaped the "Bob."

The College Girl

"Let's talk of graves and worms and *epitaphs!*" is the prevailing cry that now mingles with election talk, and ever bids fair to divide the interest in that absorbing subject, owing to the energy and enthusiasm of the Year Book Committee. We would fain go down to posterity—all of us—with something of a halo round our heads, and there is a consequent sigh of satisfaction and relief when it is announced that our best friend is to "write us up," and when the details of our four years of undergraduate life are unearthed to become a matter of history—perhaps a solemn warning, who knows?—for our successors, they are few perhaps who would not gladly change a chapter of the record, or at least tear out a page or two. Four years' daily intercourse with almost the same people may mean so much—or so little! And how many strange and unsuspected things come to light in this general research into past history, many little unchronicled acts of kindness, whose only monument—and perhaps their worthiest—is in the heart of the recipient, and as one of our modern authors says: "To have seen once the heart of a pure, loyal and noble nature is to have gained an unperishable possession."

But does anyone ever consider the other side of the question, and cast a glance of sympathetic commiseration on those whose task it is to "write up" the victims, and give them decent burial, with a fitting epitaph to recall them to posterity? One might well feel hopeless of doing justice to one's subject—a "*mauvais sujet?*" when one considers the present graduating year; but the hope returns of rising to the demands of such a subject, through the help of sympathetic friends, who have made numerous suggestions for suitable epitaphs, which, unfortunately, the restrictions of limited space restrain us from submitting to the public.

From time immemorial, that is to say for the last four years at least, Varsity has had its rink, but never until the present season has it boasted all the latest improvements.

The directors of previous years considered that if they supplied their patrons with ice the skating public had nothing to complain of. Therefore, when it was announced this season that the University Rink was to have a real live band, tickets began to sell at an unprecedented rate. The one "rift within the lute," so far, has been the unfeeling conduct of the weather prophet, but special arrangements have been made with him by which he has guaranteed the best of skating weather for the next six weeks, and there is every prospect of a good ending, if not a good beginning, to the skating season, which we should enjoy to the full.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—In his preliminary remarks as judge of the annual debate between the representatives of McGill and University College, Sir W. R. Meredith stated that it was a deplorable fact that in our University there were no means provided for giving the undergraduates a training in oratory. He said that the only opportunities a student had of developing any natural oratorical ability which might be in him were given by the functions of the Literary Society, such as that of last Friday evening.

Now, I have spoken with many graduates of American Universities (such as Cornell, Harvard and Yale), and they tell me that in these universities there are courses of instruction in this most important branch of education. I think that the absence of such a course from the curriculum of the University of Toronto is most lamentable. It is true that the art of being able to speak in public is to a great extent innate; but results on the other side of the line have shown conclusively that, to a considerable extent, it can be taught students by a systematic course of instruction. The University of Toronto has never been satisfied with taking a back seat amongst the universities of America; its professors in every department are equal to those of any University on this continent; but you must admit that we are allowing our American cousins to pull away from us if we do not follow their example.

In the Political Science department especially, there are many young men who intend embarking upon a legal career; but unless they have an inborn faculty of being able to address an assembly, to speak what they mean, and to speak it in such a way as to impress it on other minds, they are to some extent at least going to make a failure. You know how painful it is to listen to a poor speaker haranguing in a debate, who, although he may be exceedingly clever and may have his points well selected, must certainly weary one and fail to make his points tell. No one, I think, will disagree with me when I say that instruction in this department is necessary.

Why is it, then, that the matter is not agitated? Has it been already agitated and been allowed to drop? I scarcely see how it could meet with anything but hearty approbation from the Senate of the University. It is a matter which is of vital importance and one which should not be allowed to die out until the result at which it aims shall have been achieved.

I have noticed how eagerly both factions of the Literary Society have grasped at "planks" with which to construct their "platform"; but I think they have missed an exceedingly substantial one. If one party would put itself on record as being in favor of the inauguration of an oratorical training in the University, and as being willing to do its best in furthering this project, I think they would show more wisdom than they have thus far, in the choosing of their "planks."

Toronto, Feb. 19, 1900.

UNDERGRAD.

A THESIS ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

The latest number in the History Series of University of Toronto Studies, edited by Prof. G. M. Wrong, is from the pen of H. M. Bowman, B.A., and is entitled "Preliminary Stages of the Peace of Amiens," being an account of the diplomatic relations of Great Britain and France from the fall of the Directorate to the death of Emperor Paul, of Russia, Nov., 1799—March, 1801. The thesis is a most lucid and readable account of the diplomatic relations of Napoleon Bonaparte and the Pitt-Grenville administration. The writer sets himself the task of combating the general opinion that Napoleon's real object in his peace overtures was not so much to accomplish peace as to throw the odium of the continued war upon his enemies. The mode of argument throughout is logical and concise. In order to get his material the writer has investigated many documents as well as much critical literature on the subject. The dissertation although treating the subject exhaustively and with much detail is one which is interesting by no means to the specialist alone. In it will be found much which will interest and instruct those who study even slightly the period covered. Not the least valuable point in it is the light which it throws on diplomatic overtures in general.

It is published by the Librarian of the University, in paper covers at seventy-five cents.

NEWS

TORONTO AND THE CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM.

What will doubtless prove one of the most interesting addresses before the Political Science Club, will be delivered this Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m., in Room 2, by Mr. A. E. Kemp, President Toronto Board of Trade. As this is a question which should interest a majority of the students, and as Mr. Kemp is thoroughly conversant with his subject, the lecture should be very well attended.

CENTURY YEAR BOOK.

Students intending to contribute literary productions to *Torontonensis*, Vol. III., should have their matter in the hands of the editor-in-chief, E. H. Cooper, next week. He says that good material will be welcomed. The work on the book is progressing favorably, and the Managing Committee predict that the production will outclass any year book that has been issued by students of Toronto University. Heavy coated paper will be used, and much of it will be decorated with sketches by one of Toronto's leading artists. The book will, of course, be much after the style of the '98 and '99 works, but many new features will be introduced.

Miss L. M. Mason has been appointed on the Century Year-Book Committee in place of Miss E. M. Fleming.

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

The regular meeting of the Philosophical Society will be held on Friday of this week at 4 p.m., in Class Room No. 3. A paper will be read before the Society on "Spinoza," by W. K. Allen, '00. A discussion will follow the reading of the paper. All students interested are cordially invited.

LIT.

A special meeting was held on Tuesday evening at five o'clock. Messrs. A. N. Mitchell and J. F. M. Stewart were appointed debaters to Queen's, W. G. Harrison representative to Osgoode At-Home, and A. C. Campbell to the Harmonic Club concert. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the society on March 2nd, at which the

Nominating Board of VARSITY would be appointed. This will also be constitution night. All changes in constitution must be posted on the notice board by Monday, February 26th.

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH.

The closing literary meeting of the Modern Language Club for this season will be held in the Theatre of the Chemical Building, on Monday, 26th inst., at 4.15 p.m. Mr. D. R. Keys, M.A., will give a lecture on "Sophomore English," and a very interesting meeting is expected. All are welcome.

Y.M.C.A. NOTES.

Dr. Morgan Wood gave one of his characteristic addresses on Sunday afternoon before an audience of students rather smaller than usual.

Mr. W. Simpson, '01, introduced the topic of the Morning Watch last Thursday at the Y.M.C.A. meeting. The association were glad to hear Mr. Frank Yeigh in the helpful discussion that followed.

Don't forget the Thursday meeting at 5 p.m. sharp.

Mr. F. W. Anderson, B.A., travelling secretary for the Student Volunteer Union, hopes to wind up his tour of the colleges this week.

SPORTS

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

With the Literary Society elections on hand, everything is coming in for a share of criticism, and the Athletic Association and its directorate is no exception. It would, however, not be out of place here to mention that the Athletic Association is not a body within the sphere of Literary Society politics, and as an organization of the University of Toronto should not be made the subject of political intrigue in one of the departments of that University. The proper place to bring forward views respecting athletic management is at the meeting of the association held for the discussion of affairs in the interests of athletics. A meeting of the association will be held Monday afternoon in the Students' Union, when the proposed plan for the reorganization of athletics at the University will be fully discussed. Any proposals respecting athletic affairs will be gladly received and discussed, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance of students.

THE ASSAULT AT ARMS.

The gymnasium is now busier than ever, for preparations are going on for the Assault-at-Arms. This will probably take place about the middle of March, and some of the contests promise to be of special interest. The fencing tournament, which takes place soon, will bring out some good material from the lower years, and this will strengthen our hands in the Intercollege contest which will take place at the Assault.

INTER-COLLEGE ATHLETIC MEET.

Those who were present at the McGill-Varsity debate on Friday night should have an ambition to raise the standard of our athletics next year. Only three men lined up to receive the handsome medals provided by the Inter-College Athletic Committee. Percy Biggs won two firsts, John J. Gibson one first and one second, J. W. Gray two seconds, M. H. Gander one second, and W. Elwell one second. Varsity boys, if you consider that your athletic prowess is not beneath that of the men of old McGill, see to it that you have more representatives on the honor roll next year.

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S. P. S. VS. '03 ARTS.

The finals in the Jennings' Cup series of hockey matches was played on Tuesday between S. P. S. and '03 Arts. The game was the best of the series in that it was neck and neck all the way and belonged to anybody right up to the call of time. The Arts freshmen were small but they possessed the gingery quality in large quantities and throughout the whole game chased their bulkier opponents around the ice at a gait that took every ounce of wind the school possessed.

The game opened with an assault on '03 sticks and for the first ten minutes McDougal in goal was working overtime trying to persuade the puck to go elsewhere. However, a combined rush by the school forwards did the trick and Thorne scored first blood for school. This aroused the freshies, who woke up to the situation and commenced to besiege the school goal until George Biggs had tied the score by a long shot from in front. A few moments afterwards the same player caught the puck on a rebound from the fence and again the cylinder eluded Lang who was playing a great game for School and relieved repeatedly in good style. Then just before half-time Reggie McArthur decided that the School mustn't go to the shanty with the score against them, so brushing aside

the midgets he went down the ice, and after a couple of unsuccessful attempts, scored again for the Scientists.

The second half was hard, fast hockey from whistle to whistle, and School secured one more tally, which was the only scoring done. During this half Caulfield, Biggs and Lang decorated the fence at various stages of the game. Just before the whistle Biggs came down with the puck and shot a couple of times unsuccessfully, then deciding that there was no virtue in that method of scoring, dropped his stick and kicked the puck clear around the goal posts two or three times. There is no room for place kicks in hockey, and Referee Doc. Wright very properly refused to allow the goal. The game closed without further scoring, and School won 3—2. The freshmen, though beaten and probably by a somewhat stronger team, nevertheless have no reason to feel downhearted, for they put up the pluckiest kind of a fight and demonstrated that they are at least a good second for the championship. Caulfield, Biggs and O'Flynn were the pick of the Arts' aggregation, while Lang, McArthur and Morley did the best work for School. The teams: '03 Arts—MacDougal, Foy, Wilson, O'Flynn, Biggs, Caulfield, Livingstone; S.P.S.—Morley, Benson, Lang, McArthur, Thorne, McDonald, Isbester.

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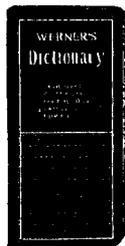
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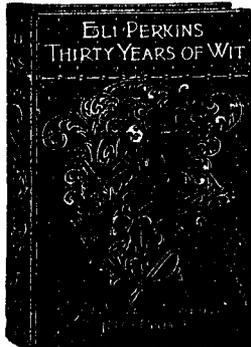


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Education Department Calendar

- APR. 17.—Annual meeting of the Ontario Educational Association at Toronto. (During Easter vacation).
- 23.—Last day for receiving applications for examination of candidates not in attendance at Ontario Normal College.
- 26.—Art School Examinations begin.
- MAY 1.—Notice by candidates for the High School Entrance Examination, to Inspectors due.
- 23.—Notice by candidates for the Public School Leaving, Junior Leaving, Senior Leaving, University Matriculation, Commercial Specialist, Commercial Diploma, and Kindergarten Examinations, to Inspectors due.
- Empire Day (first school day before 24th May).
- 25.—Examination at Ontario Normal College, Hamilton, begins. (At close of session).
- 26.—Inspectors to report number of candidates for the Public School Leaving, High School Leaving, University Matriculation, Commercial Diploma, Commercial Specialists, and Kindergarten Examinations to Department.
- JUNE 21.—Kindergarten Examinations at Hamilton, London, Ottawa and Toronto, begin.
- 27.—High School Entrance Examinations begin.
- JULY 3.—Public School Leaving, High School Leaving, University Matriculation, and Domestic Science Examinations begin.
- 4.—Commercial Specialists Examinations begin.

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ROTUNDA.

A few of the Century pins can be got from the janitor at reduced prices.

Kelso Cairns, '02, injured his arm so badly in a game on Victoria Rink that it had to be put in a sling.

H. J. Symington, '02, returned to lectures this week after a long illness. He was welcomed by his classmates.

The Century Class of Victoria University are holding a "Farewell" Reception on February 22nd. Some have been wondering if it were for the special benefit of the editor of that g. f. j. called "Acta."

At a meeting of the committee from the three lower years, on Monday last, it was decided to prepare a petition to be presented to the University Council, asking that lockers be provided for gowns. The petition will be open for signatures shortly.

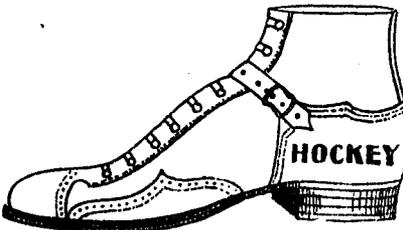
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The Senior Fencing Tournament will take place in the Fencing Hall on Thursday, 22nd, and Saturday, 24th. Contestants must be on hand between 4 and 6 p. m.

HARMONIC CLUB CONCERT.

The annual concert will be held in the Normal School Theatre on Friday, February 23rd. Besides the University Glee and Banjo and Mandolin Clubs there will take part Mr. Smedley's Conservatory Mandolin and Guitar Club and other artists. The concert promises to be one of the most enjoyable of the season and should receive the hearty support of the students. Tickets 50 cents and 25 cents.

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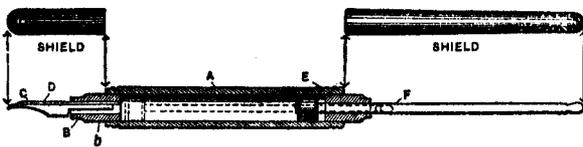
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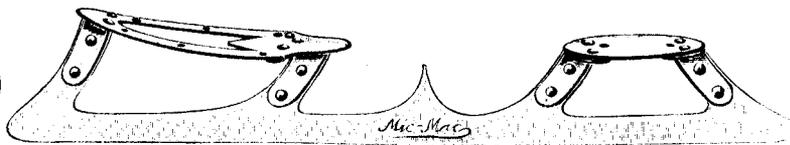
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