

THE VARSITY

VOL XVI. No. 15.

University of Toronto.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 10TH, 1897.

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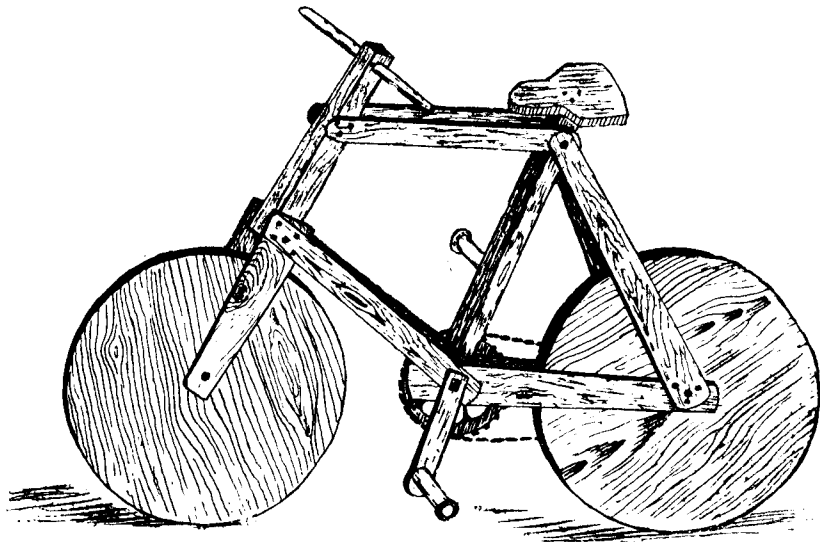
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THE VARSITY.

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XVI.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, FEBRUARY 10, 1897.

No. 15.

LOVE'S LAMENT.

Virgil, Georgics IV., v. 446

I.

As o'er the mountains rosy-fingered morn
Tripped her light way and shed auroral glow
On rugged peak of mystic Chaos born,
On rapid torrent roaring far below,
When Vesper trailed her habiliments of woe
Across the darkling sky, and lulled to rest
With whispering zephyrs, from the night that blow,
The souls of men upon her gentle breast,
Beasts in their horrid lairs and birdlings in the nest,—

II.

Wandering alone in deserts bleak and bare,
There did he sing, entuned his lyre for thee,
And, thrilled with raptures of a sweet despair,
Smote from the strings celestial melody,
The charmèd earth responsive sighed, the sea
Howled loud in narrow strait and rock-bound bay
Assonant while he mourned, Eurydice,
And in the dawning and the fading day
Sobbed his great poet-soul in sombre grief away.

W. H. ALEXANDER, '99.

OF THE MEETING OF TWO CELEBRITIES.

BY "MELCION."

It was the middle of July in the year 1901, and everything about the region of Orcus was simply sizzling. Old Charon had had a hard day's work paddling his crazy canoe-full of fault-finding Yankees and grumbling John Bulls across the river, and was pretty mad. It was his last trip for the day, and just as he pushed off a long, lanky, ugly-looking animal of about thirty-five, came rushing along the bank, clad in a pair of purple-colored trunks, a pair of boxing-gloves and wearing a fountain-pen behind his ear. "Hold on old boy—wait for me," howled the new vision. The old boatman's beard jerked about savagely in the murky atmosphere, but he waited till the newcomer got a seat—the gaiety girl screamed as he sat down beside her—and then plied his weary way across.

The last in was the first out—trust your Yankee friend for that—and he swung away up the bank perfectly oblivious of the ferryman's frantic demand for "fare," and the first person he met was Goliath of Gath.

"Where are you going, my pretty man?" queried the Philistine, good-naturedly, as he noted the scant attire and sinewy proportions of the visitor.

"Mind your own business, you bloke," answered Robert politely.

"I'm Goliath of Gath," roared the man of war, "and if you don't mind your p's and q's I'll smash your blooming head!"

"Smash ahead," punned the latest arrival.

"I'll punch your physiognomy in a second!" yapped the huge entertainer, rolling up his sleeves.

"Look here!—if you'd only been born about 5,000 years later than you were, you'd have held the belt by your

vocabulary, but I'm Robert Fitz-Corbett, champion prize-fighter of the world—see?"

"Oh! ah! Yes, I've heard of you. Only yesterday Homer's shade was talking about you. He said he had been praying that Jupiter would lend him your knack of saying the same thing over in as many different ways as you can, and he would re-write his 'Iliad' and sell it for a new work—call it the 'Hell-ad,' for instance—he needs cash badly, you know. Glad to make your acquaintance! Shake!" They shook and wandered around together for a while, talking about things.

"Say, Golly," said Fitz, "Where's the saloon?"

"In there," said Golly, and nodded toward the gate where Brianus, Scylla, and a few other celebrated characters were amusing themselves.

"Come on in"

"Can't! They forgot to bury me, and I can't get in. I've tried it."

"Waal, I'd have you know there ain't no such word as 'can't.' Keep your eagle eye on me," and Fitz walked up to the gate. "Me and my friend here wants a drink. Let's in!"

"Git out," growled Brianus, and got up concealing his hundred hands about his clothes.

"Try my left hook!" said Fitz, and led.

B. ducked and led a few rights and lefts—fifty or so of each.

"Where are I?" sighed Robert, as he executed a difficult parabolic double-back somersault, and landed over against the Tree of Dreams.

"Come on in," said Goliath.

"Shut up your antediluvian conglomeration of patched up idiosyncracies," graciously snarled the champion. "Golly, its hot! I wish I hadn't come to this forsaken place."

"Say," said he, after a while, when the Philistine kept quiet, "what did you carry the gates of-of-of—oh, I forget the place—up that hill for?"

"I didn't"

"You did, and why in the name of all that's knocked out did you let David trim your hair, you old curiosity shop you? Didn't you know they wouldn't let you play in their team after that. Didn't the captain say you'd make the best centre rush in the business if you let it grow, and warn you not to cut it?"

"No, he didn't. He told me to go out and challenge anybody in Israel to fight me to a finish."

"Who sat on the umpire?"

"You're rattled."

"I ain't."

"Yar"—and Goliath rolled himself up beneath the Tree of Dreams, and slept and dreamed about a big, round cannon-ball and a baby boy at home.

Throughout the cold snap of the past week the rink upon the campus has been largely patronized. As a result of the prohibition of hockey during the afternoon hours, a large proportion of the skaters have been of the fair sex.

EDUCATION VS. LEARNING.

Mr. Parkin, Principal of Upper Canada College, in his speech at the University College banquet, said: "You think that you in Canada have the best educational system in the world. I tell you, gentlemen, that you have not the best educational system in the world." As examples of better systems, Mr. Parkin cited those of England and Italy, and said that what we lacked in Canada was "culture." "Culture" is a difficult word for anyone to define, but especially so for one who has received his education wholly in Canada, where, we hear on such high authority, all that the word "culture" indicates is not properly understood. But even a Canadian can see some defects in our methods of educating. Some of these, which exist even in the University of Toronto, the keystone as it is called, of the Provincial system, will here be considered.

Toronto University does not hall-mark a man, as Oxford does and the Scotch universities are said to do. Many of her alumni are not to be distinguished from men who have spent all their lives in business in a country town. This, of course, cannot be said of all, for probably the elite of the youth of Ontario come up to the University. But what I contend is that a training here has but little effect upon a man one way or another. It is generally true that if he comes here to Toronto University a boor, he generally goes away a boor, and if he comes here a gentleman, he goes away a gentleman. He neither gains nor suffers in his manners during his four years' stay at the Provincial seat of higher learning. "Learning" is here used advisedly, for the University can hardly be said to be a seat of higher education, since it is learning, not education which we here acquire. No man can be said to be educated or cultured whose grammar is defective, yet there are University graduates, now nearly connected with their *alma mater*, who cannot say many words without murdering the Queen's English, and there are many students of whom the same statement may be truly made. These graduates may be and doubtless are very learned, but they are not educated or cultured. It may be said that a man's manners are of little consequence, that he is neither a better nor a worse man because he does not know how to behave himself in whatever company he may be thrown, though this, of course, does not constitute the whole of manners, which is something much more clearly recognized than defined. When William of Wykeham built New College, Oxford, that was not his theory, for he put up over its gates, and over those of Winchester School, the words: "Manners makyth man." If this is true, and if it is also true that Toronto University does not give men manners, it may logically be argued that Toronto University does not make men. In that case there is something radically wrong. The fault seems to me to lie to some extent with the system, and also to a less extent with the men—both the students and the teaching staff.

In the system there are two most obvious defects—one connected with the curriculum, and the other with a large number of students who have, by the accident of sex, and through no fault of their own, a bad effect upon the rest. But with them I have no desire to enter upon a quarrel. For these reasons this topic will be left untouched.

The curriculum prescribes too much work. After January most of the undergraduates grudge every evening which is not spent upon examination work. After February this applies equally to the afternoons, while the mornings are always spent at lectures or in the Library. Thus for five months out of the eight which constitute the college year a man has no time to take thought for anything beyond the books he is required to read before May. Not only he has no time to pass away in discussing interesting subjects with his fellow-students, but he cannot spare a single hour to read any book other than those prescribed. Now no man is examined in even a tithe of the subjects

taught at the University, *nor* upon a tithe of the books set down in the curriculum; these subjects and these books form not one-hundredth part of the world's wisdom, yet for five-eighths of his college course a man must do nothing but read in this infinitely small department of knowledge.

The question arises, "Is it for this that we come up to the University?" It is the old question, "Do we want learning, or an education?"

To a small section of the undergraduates who intend to become teachers, learning is doubtless the primary object; but even in regard to them it is questionable whether this system does not involve a loss of human sympathy which will tend to unfit them for their work in the world.

But what of the very much larger number who have no intention of adopting teaching as their life work, but have in view simply an education, or aim perhaps at one of the liberal professions—for instance, law? It must be evident that these men do not take a university course simply to get a more or less inaccurate knowledge of the Theory of Value or the French and German dictionaries by going daily from the lecture rooms to the Library, from the Library to their studies at home and thence to bed.

It may be said, and with truth, that in some courses enough work is set down for eight months to occupy profitably two years of study. By doing some of this work partially and superficially one may obtain specialist standing in some department, but it is not specialist standing for which we come up to the University. We come to get an education, to acquire manners, to gain some small knowledge of men and of the world; and if with these we may secure a smattering of learning, *tant mieux*. But there is so much work prescribed, and it is so generally the fashion to devote oneself to it, that the narrow specialist standing is the almost universal result.

The second great source of weakness in the present system is the want of personal, individual interest on the part of the teaching staff in the men and of the men themselves in their fellows. The professors care little whether undergraduates attend their lectures or not, beyond the natural desire to see them succeed as students. The success or failure of these students as men is, to them, a matter of small or no importance.

It may not be, and probably is not, possible to introduce into Toronto the tutorial system of the English universities; but some small approach to it would be of inestimable benefit both to students and teachers. Had some such system been in vogue two years ago, the people of Ontario would not have been scandalized by the spectacle of Toronto University students in open rebellion against their duly appointed masters. At Oxford the undergraduates are invited by their tutors to breakfasts, where they meet the most prominent men in England. These men enjoyed talking to the students, thus finding out the trend of thought in the University, and the sort of men she is turning out. There was a professor in Toronto not so long ago—"but that," as Mr. Kipling says, "is another story." To-day there is no vital interest between men and professors. The undergraduates never discuss professors as men, but only as relatively good and bad teachers; and when the professors do discuss individual undergraduates, it is as to their capacity for obtaining marks at the May examinations, and never as men from whom something may be expected after they leave the University.

The same want of personal interest exists, though perhaps to a less degree, as between the undergraduates themselves, and is again partly attributable to the want of time, caused by the immense amount of work prescribed. But it cannot be so altogether.

Mr. Parkin told us in his lecture on Oxford, that after his first speech at the "Union," half a dozen men whom he had never seen before gave him their cards and invited

him to breakfast. Such a thing, or anything like it, is unheard of here. Of course there are extenuating circumstances, such as the fact that so many of us live in boarding-houses, and that most of us have very little cash to spare. Probably the character of Canadian young men has also something to do with it.

I shall try to show later how some of these difficulties may be avoided, and they ought to be avoided, for nothing could have such a beneficial effect in improving men's manners than this constant playing of guest and host by men comparatively unknown to one another. The fact remains that in Toronto, beyond their personal friends, most of the undergraduates take no further interest in their fellows than to observe that such a one is a "plug," and will probably beat them in the class-lists, and that another is a "sport" who will probably get plucked. Some men even go through the University without making any permanent friendships. I know one graduate of about '85 who wishes that he had ordered his course differently, for he has now no old University friends and he was certainly by no means a "plug."

We have had Class dinners, and we have the immensely superior Arts dinner, but these functions do not, and cannot, take the place of ordinary, everyday, social intercourse. We have the *Conversazione*, patronized by some of the undergraduates, and the Class Socials which owe their existence to a body of students already mentioned. But it is not this kind of social life which we require. We want the daily mental contact of men at the age when they are fullest of their own ideas and readiest to adopt those of others. The object of a University should be to afford an opportunity for these men, overflowing with high ideals and high aspirations, to discuss, with others like them, subjects which occupy the attention of every man at some stage of his existence, and come to him in most cases when he first enters the world and goes up to the University. It is because the English universities afford this opportunity that they are centres of the most advanced thought of the time; and it is because Toronto University—perhaps all Canadian and American universities—do not afford it, that they are centres of nothing except, perhaps, football, which, though a very excellent thing in its way, can scarcely be said to constitute a University education.

The difficulties mentioned up to this point are to some extent avoidable, but before I go on to discuss remedies it may be well at least to mention an unavoidable evil, one which must ever impair the usefulness of the University:—I mean its location in Toronto. Situated in the capital of Ontario and a great business centre, it can never make its home a distinctively University town. Yet this is necessary to give the beneficial forces of a University their full play. We shall always be too much involved in and dominated by the political and industrial movements of the place to make possible that perfect centralization of thought, which alone can make a University a power in the land. A concrete example of this may be seen in the ever-to-be regretted lapse of the old rule about wearing gowns, which is, I believe, still on the statute books, but has become a dead letter. It is next to impossible for the undergraduates, who form so small a fraction of the city's population, to go about in a distinctive garb, and there are apparently insurmountable difficulties in the way of every other scheme to enforce this best of provisions for maintaining a proper spirit in the University.

This, however, is not the only evil which the location causes. It is only an outward and visible sign of many others. This paragraph is, however, only an ineffectual wail against fate, which, I hope, the rest of the article will not be considered to be.

Remedies for all but the last difficulty are to be found, and are, perhaps, not altogether visionary. The evil con-

nected with the curriculum can be done away, and doubtless will be when the Senate comes to realize that the mission of a University is to educate rather than to teach. But the Senate will never realize it until the undergraduates do, as they do not do to-day. Possibly a very large section, if not a majority of the students, prefer the curriculum as it stands, to one which would give some room for real education and not tie us down to mere learning, out of which we get little more culture than out of our early struggles with the alphabet and the multiplication table.

The remedy for the second defect in the existing state of affairs—the want of personal interest of the teachers in the taught—lies, of course, wholly under the control of the professors and lecturers. But it may be confidently said that the undergraduates would be most happy to aid any efforts toward a closer sympathy between them and their instructors. There are many of our professors whom we know (by report) to be men of broad culture and men whom it would be a pleasure for anyone to meet. To meet them would be especially interesting for the students who only know them as they appear in the lecture room, and have, unfortunately, no chance of making their acquaintance in any other capacity than that of sections of a peripatetic encyclopedia.

But the remedy for the want of interest of undergraduates in their fellows lies to a certain extent in their own power. Apparently the simplest way to obviate the difficulty is the extension of the residential system into a number of colleges, in each of which from one to two hundred students could live. The expense of such a plan is in the way, but this difficulty is not, to my mind, insuperable. As every undergraduate knows, the present Residence is the source of all the more important movements which take place, and is, in fact, the soul and centre of University life and spirit. Even it is not all that might be desired, apart from its size, which is ridiculous, considering the number of students attending the University. The general feeling that Residence is not all it might be, is evidenced by the fact that it is not full. This is not to be attributed to the cost of living there, for there must be hundreds of men who could easily afford it. The difficulty is the want of privacy. The value of a Residence turns on a very small matter, quite unconnected with the work of the University. This is whether all three meals are taken in the common dining-room or not. The system here in vogue transforms Residence into a mere boarding-house, with all the attendant objections on that class of home. The practice at Oxford is that a man has two meals in his rooms, and dines in hall, where he has to put in an appearance so many times a week. It is this system which should be adopted here. Even at our sister university, Trinity (so much despised by Toronto undergraduates), a man's room in the college is his castle. There he has his breakfast if he likes, and, if he wants to read or talk without interruption, he hangs out a universally-respected sign to that effect by "sporting his oak." In our Residence there is no such thing, and it is this want of privacy, not the expenses of living in Residence, that is the reason why there is not a larger demand for rooms in the historic building. The unpopularity of the present Residence has been attributed to the cost of living there, and the fact that it is seldom or never full has, therefore, been urged against the extension of the residential system. Granting the premiss, the conclusion is, perhaps, unavoidable. But if the other reason is accepted, the argument against the extension of the system falls to the ground, since the want of privacy is an easily curable evil, as witness the experience of other Universities.

The only way in which further residences can be procured and the curriculum shortened is by organized agita-

tion on the part of the undergraduates. Owing to the amount of work now on our hands such an agitation could not be extended this year beyond the columns of VARSITY, but perhaps this article may be of use in beginning a beneficial discussion. Such a discussion, in the way of approval of, or objection to, the statements here made, would go far to wake up the spirit of Alma Mater, which doubtless exists in the heart of every undergraduate, although it may not always be apparent. O. MOWAT BIGGAR.

VARSAITY OF OLD.

II.

CIRCITER, A.D. 1852-53.

It is "a long while between drinks," as His Excellency of North Carolina is reported to have casually remarked to His Excellency of South Carolina, on a memorable occasion; and so your invitation for some reminiscences of University days, makes a graduate of nearly half a century ago draw a long breath when making an attempt to recall even vaguely these long-gone years.

The deep shadow of old departed friends covers these imperfect lines, I mourn, and the review occasions, naturally, feelings of sadness as I think of the many youthful friends of college years, vanished to the ranks of the "majority." My old friend William T. Boyd, M.A., barrister, of Toronto, is yet actively to the fore—professionally, and as a good useful citizen at all times. Ever of regular habits and temperament, he was always punctual at his lectures; rarely known to vex his serene soul with the strifes and ambitions that tortured the college existence of some vainly ambitious spirits. He, nevertheless, managed to guide and drive his scholastic chariot over the course, both at old Upper Canada College and at the University, with pronounced skill and success. "*Metaque fervidis evitata rotis.*" He passed all his examinations without anguish of body or mind, and continues an example of the wisdom of preferring a "*mens sana in corpore sano*" rather than, as is too often the case, shattered health and shortened years, with only the faded chaplets of victories won, to compensate for the overtaxed mind and body. Of course it is difficult to restrain the fervid genius of youth, but this must be remembered to ensure happy fruition of a collegian's student days.

The most brilliant intellect, in our times, universally recognized, was John Thompson Huggard, commonly nicknamed "Pat." He was an Irish lad, who had been "head boy" of U. C. College in 1849, which position Edward Blake had in 1850—*vide* the College Rolls and the gilded record in the College Hall. The artist who did this decorative work was Mr. Marsh, whom all old Torontonians will recollect. Huggard's financial resources were small and he had to do certain tutoring as a result, and so he always was "under the lash," poor fellow! The duty, besides, of supporting aged parents, and the responsibility cast on him of keeping a brother and sister, made his life a struggle indeed. How few there had any such anxieties! Yet, though thus handicapped, none ever saw Huggard in any but fine spirit and excellent health, rollicking in humor and ever ready with native Irish wit. On one occasion, on our way to morning lectures, Boyd, Mendell and I called at his humble abode on Terauley street, then not a very fashionable city quarter, to take him along: but he was yet bed-fast, to our own surprise, in a smoky little apartment, reading one of his many splendid prizes, a volume of Milton's Paradise Lost. In explanation we were informed that his only pair of "breeches" were at the tailor's, undergoing necessary reparation, which was certainly regrettable though unavoidable. "Pat," who, at times, was somewhat of a

Bohemian, procrastinated his book-work dangerously, and so was occasionally a second horse in the academic race. I succeeded in getting ahead of him once in classics, but he deservedly won the gold medal on graduation. He was the type of true honor and generosity, disdaining to take any advantages such as were not uncommonly taken by competitors for college distinctions. He was equally at home in mathematics as in classics, though in those days the latter was more affected by ambitious scholars. Dr. McCaul's splendid talents attracted the majority, and his appreciation was always shown of such as were emulous in his classes. Prof. Cherriman recognized his singularly original mathematical genius, and offered to promote his advancement if he would consent to go to Cambridge. But poor Huggard could not quit Canada. The "*res angustæ domi*" was the difficulty, of which probably the kindly-intentioned professor was unaware. Huggard entered law and then went to New York, where he died in 1868, in narrow circumstances. Possessed of the most brilliant abilities and of one of the truest open hearts that ever old U. C. College or Toronto University knew, alas! Huggard's light seemed to have gone out suddenly before it had the chance of becoming known in life's history.

William T. Mendell was a gentle-hearted soul, with fine instincts and of an ingenuous disposition, with a forte for mathematics. He was the only one who took much interest in that branch of study, with the exception of Huggard, at least until Prof. Cherriman came, when at once his fine scholarship, precept, and example popularized those hitherto rather unpopular and neglected branches—the genial Scottish Professor, previously Rev. R. Murray, being of a nature too kind and tolerant. The disparity of the physique of the latter, as compared with the true academic elegance of the Cambridge wrangler, was the subject of unfair advantages to the students of those days.

A well-remembered collegian of my years was Edward Jameson Alma, from Niagara, highly intellectual and indefatigable in his work, and with a peculiar ability for the study of logic, rhetoric, and history. He was of slight physique, and, I think, overworked himself. After entering law, he died after a brief illness. I chanced to pass through the venerable Niagara Episcopal Cemetery about 1857, and there to my pain read on a newly-erected monument the name of our fellow-student, with whom we all exchanged kindly adieux in 1853 in the old University structure in Queen's Park, on the site of the present Parliament buildings. What a change of style and architecture!

I would recall an old friend and classmate, naturally poetical, Samuel J. Bull, a Belleville youth—now a barrister—who had always the wisdom of moderating his pace at college and university, and was, I think, probably all the better for this in being hale and hearty, and successful in life. In 1853 he won a prize for English verse and I for English poetry and prose. I am afraid, however, that the "poetry" was rather of the machine made order than the result of genuine inspiration. Bull, I recollect, in our boarding quarters wrestled heroically with Byron's poems during the parturition—and I confess to great pangs before "Jerusalem" saw the light of day.

William L. Lawrason, of London, in old college days was a source of considerable envy to the ordinary collegian. His fashionable necktie, turned-down collar, and curled locks (very Byronic) gave him decidedly the advantage when Madame Poetter's Young Ladies' School were encountered on King street. 'Bill's anxieties were more over the lasses than his classes,' but he graduated B.A. all right. His future life I could not follow, but I think that he died many years ago.

On the 19th of April, 1853, Lawrason, Bull, Alma, Mendell, Huggard, Boyd, and I, together as classmates during our University life, received our B.A. degree

Boyd and I alone survive. Wm. Bettridge and Wm. Woodruff also graduated, but they were medical students. Brown, Marling, Bayley, and Edward Blake were junior sophisters. I well recollect Samuel Marling, brother of Alexander Marling, who for many years was one of the chiefs in the Education Department, a genial gentleman and efficient official. Brown was a solid-headed scholar, most unassuming and reserved, but of a kind heart. He was mathematical master at U. C. College for many years. Richard Bayley is a prominent barrister of London, Ont.

As Edward Blake's name is above recalled, I may say that he was an old U. C. College mate of mine in the Fifth Form. In those days he never appeared solicitous about the petty strifes and struggles of securing place, but rather naturally timid, reserved and shy. Some haggard form-mates would trespass unduly on this disposition, to irritate or tease him. Those who have since seen and heard him at the Bar, in the legislature or on the political platform, would think this, at any period of his life, incredible of Blake. But whatever he did was always finely wrought. His translations and college themes were always superior to those of the rest of the class, I thought, showing then the sterling quality of mind he has since so conspicuously exhibited everywhere as a master of language. Yet in those early days he preferred, I recollect, brevity of expression, rather than copiousness. He never seemed to care much for the drudgery or routine of class work; frequently absent or late, and acting as if his heart was not in it, as a rule. On one occasion, dear old Dr. Scadding gave us as the subject for Latin verse "The Crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in Nine Days." This was in 1849, in consequence of the short passage for that period of the "Great Western," then a record-breaker. Blake brought on a small slip of paper about six or seven lines, and the last not complete—hexameters. Others of the class drawing on their imaginations, few having ever seen the ocean itself, and much less knowing what the trip across to England meant, produced their labored productions. But they were, though far distancing Blake's for lines in quantity, utterly lacking in quality when read and scanned. Dr. Scadding complimented him, but was benevolently non-committal as to the others. Refined, dear, gentle Dr. Scadding, even-tempered always, always encouraging, whose venerable age and well-preserved faculties make him one of the most remarkable men of the day in Canada! How many hundreds of college and university boys link his name and memory with some of their tenderest feelings! A more charming life and character cannot well be imagined, beloved as he is by all, and honored amongst men everywhere!

With these hurriedly written pages, I close; observing that I, in my college days, have enjoyed many warm personal friendships, which, I think, have always been remembered in life—certainly on my part always cherished amidst many vicissitudes. The passing away of so many is a source of constant regret; one of the latest, a few weeks ago, being that of John McKeown, of St. Catharines, a brother county attorney, throughout life a sincere and liberal-minded gentleman, whose fidelity of faith, though different from my own, never allowed our friendship to weaken, showing how unwise it is to quarrel about religious questions when each is equally conscientious. Religion need never separate if the heart is sound.

George S. Herod, M.D., of Guelph, an old King's College graduate of 1847, my old friend and physician, to whom I mentioned some of these reminiscences, reminds me that we are fast becoming old. Not a professor of his time or mine still survives, unless Mr. Cherriman or Mr. Hirschfelder still live. Yet we are both in active life in our respective professions—with much to be thankful for, despite the many slings and arrows of outrageous fortune of the past fifty years,

HENRY WM. PETERSON.

GUELPH, 30th Jan., A. D. 1897.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

Precisely at twenty-one minutes past eight o'clock last Friday evening, when about thirty students, most of them from the School of Practical Science, had assembled in the Reading Room, somebody concluded that it was time for the meeting to commence. Accordingly, with considerable noise, they made their way up stairs, and in due time the President, Mr. McLennan, took the chair. After the reading of the minutes there was some discussion as to whether they should be accepted, because some report of the Conversazione Committee was not contained therein. Mr. Dingman contended that as the Society two weeks ago had requested a report from the aforesaid Committee, and since the Society had accepted this report as read at the last meeting, the said report should appear in full in the minutes. Several gentlemen tried to enlighten him upon this subject, and Mr. Hancock moved that the minutes as read be adopted. Mr. Dingman moved in amendment that this report be inserted in the minutes, but he was ruled out of order and the motion was carried. Mr. D. A. Ross, the Treasurer, then announced that the treasury was empty, and called on the fourth-year men to pay their fees, which was vigorously applauded by the other years.

As this was all the business on hand, the chairman called upon Mr. Hinch for the first item on the literary programme. That gentleman responded with a very pathetic recitation about a mining incident in Wales.

Then followed the annual S.P.S. debate, the subject being: *Resolved*, That Government ownership of railways is advisable. The affirmative was supported by Mr. J. A. Bow and Mr. E. Andrews, of the S.P.S., and the negative by Mr. D. A. Ross and Mr. H. M. Little, the last debater having been substituted for Mr. T. I. McNeece.

Mr. Bow, the leader of the affirmative, held that as railroads are useful, and, in fact, necessary for commerce and civilization, they should be maintained for the public benefit and not for private interest. If the Government owned the railroads the profits would go to the state. Moreover, there would not be, as at present, two or more different lines running to one town. In the midst of his peroration the chairman called time, and Mr. Bow stopped immediately amid great applause. Mr. Ross, the leader of the negative, spoke of the great expense necessary to buy the railroads, and also to keep them running on account of the many officials, usually employed in government works. He gave several points in succession, but so quickly, that it was impossible to note them down.

During Mr. Andrew's speech the S.P.S. men applauded vigorously. He made use of the analogy of the post office and said that, as it was run successfully under government control, there was no reason why the railroads should not be. Mr. Little opened his speech by remarking that Mr. Andrews was off the track, but whether it was a railroad track or not he did not say. He attacked the argument about the post office, which, he said, always contributed a deficit to the finances of the country. He told a story of Chauncey M. Depew. Some person laughed and the chairman requested order. Mr. Bow then gave a five minutes' reply, and the chairman arose to give his decision. Before doing so, however, he mentioned the fact that the speakers referred to each other by name. He said it was not a good practice and he wished it to be stopped, as it is much better to use such terms as "the leader of the negative," etc. He then told a humorous story about his own experience with government railroads in Europe last summer. Had it not been for this story it is doubtful whether anyone would have been awake when he gave his decision, which was in favor of the affirmative. Indeed, so dry was the meeting that when the audience went out into the damp, dark world many of them caught cold.

N. R.

The Varsity

TORONTO, February 10th, 1897.

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THE CONVERSAZIONE.

GAIN has come around to us the week of the Conversazione, that week of all the year of a transcending interest to the undergraduate, with social inclinations. This notable institution, for so long a time such a prominent feature with us, seems to have quite recovered that old-time vigor, which, with a great deal else, perished in the celebrated fire which afflicted us some seven years ago. After a period, during which the practice of holding such an event fell into desuetude, two years ago it was revived, and since then has, with the greater experience of those who have been annually placed in charge of its arrangements, and of those whose good fortune it has been to enjoy the splendid evening's entertainment which it affords, steadily grown in capable management and popular favor. From the information which the various committees for this year have already given forth to the public, no one can doubt that their efforts will result in a Conversat, far exceeding in its general results those of the last two years, and rivalling those brilliant affairs of a decade or more ago, which still linger in the memory of Toronto society, and which the present generation have so frequently been pointed to as evidencing that success which they should strive to attain.

The question has been often asked, of late, if we are not having too many events of this nature in University circles. We think that at least the query is justified. Considering the trouble which is entailed upon those who are given the task of looking after the various arrangements, and the general disturbance of the routine of every-day life, which the ordinary undergraduate experiences before and after such occasions, however enjoyable and beneficial they may be in moderation, there is certainly great danger in their being carried too far. There are, without doubt, certain needs in a person's nature, in an undergraduate no

less than an ordinary citizen of the world, to which such events minister. Poets have sung, and practical observers of human life have borne them out, that there is nothing half so sweet in life than the pleasures of youth, entered into with all the buoyancy of one's youthful nature. The man or woman to whom pure sentiment does not appeal, who is unable to enter into the pure enjoyment which contact with persons and things affords, is far from the realization of a complete and happy life. But here, as everywhere, the one great thing to be guarded against, is the habit of going to extremes. Our college life is not for the purpose of cultivating that less serious side of our nature, which appears on such occasions as conversazioni, class receptions, and the like. This is cultivated as well, perhaps better, outside our college halls.

Yet there is a different kind of social life, one which cannot be fostered so well in any other place we believe, as in a university, the lack of which is considered at length in an article which appears in another column. We can quite agree with most of the conclusions at which our contributor arrives in emphasizing the need of a closer contact of undergraduates with one another, and with the general profesariate body, in their life from day to day. It is this rather than the other, we think, that is most important to us just now, and the one that is in the most danger of being neglected.

As to what we may call the less serious kind of social life, that of which the conversazione is the chiefest evidence, we do not think that with the general conditions of university life remaining as they now are, it will ever need special fostering care, with respect to certain classes of undergraduates. The great danger will always be that it is thought too much of. With us we do not think that so far there is any room for complaint on this ground, though there may be in other universities. We have, on the other hand, in our midst a large number whose interest in such things might much increase to their own good. They are certainly as much to be blamed as those who go to the other extreme. But leaving such considerations aside, we think that there is a need of a word of warning, though not of reproof. The number and variety of our social affairs have, without doubt, been increasing in quite recent times. It will be to the true interests of the University if we see that the movement does not go too far.

But we hope that nothing which we have said in this connection will be taken as a reason for discouraging the Conversazione. There will always be room for one great social event in the college year, one occasion on which to throw open our doors to our friends among the outside public. Every smaller affair of the kind should always give place to this, in order that it may ever be worthy of the institution and the student body, which is responsible for it. There need be no fear that the enthusiasm for this will ever grow too great. This year we have the advantage of having at the head of affairs a most capable and enthusiastic committee, the members of which have spared no efforts in making the most complete preparations. The least that those, whom these have relieved from their share of the labor, the results of which will

We have been in business JUST FOUR MONTHS in Toronto, and it has come to this:—Ask any student where

redound to the glory of our students as a whole, will be to give them the most conclusive evidence of appreciation of the work done by their hearty support, in bringing the event to a happy outcome, financially and otherwise. If this is given them there is no doubt but that the Conversation of 1897 will go down as one of the most successful in the whole course of University history.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is the earnest desire of the Business Board of this journal to be able to close their financial year with the academic. To do so, it will be necessary that the subscribers among the undergraduates should pay in their yearly subscriptions as soon as possible. If this is done, it will save much trouble to all concerned, and will enable next year's management to start with the business of the previous year completely disposed of. Members of the Board are to be found in the Varsity office in the afternoon for the receipt of subscriptions. We sincerely hope that this intimation is acted upon, as a college journal does not stand on quite the same footing as an ordinary newspaper or magazine. It is not the property of the management, but of the subscribers, so that it seems a trifle anomalous if the latter have to be dogged about for payment of their just dues. The student, with the paper's interest at heart, should certainly not be backward in this material support.

* *

At present the treasury of the Literary Society is empty, a state of affairs due to the wide functions which the Society is called upon to discharge. Within the last week or so it has been called upon to send three men to Montreal as defenders of our honor, or the medium of assuring McGill of the friendly feelings which exist amongst us towards her. To meet coming obligations, then, it is requested that as few as possible delay in paying off their yearly dues. It is particularly necessary that the members of the fourth year should do this, in order that their names be included in the new list of life-members of the Society which is being compiled.

THE SESAME.

We are pleased to learn that the *Sesame* will be ready for publication next month, and that the disappointment which was universal on its non appearance last year, will be fully atoned for by the increased number of the contributions from the pens of the best writers. The *personnel* of the editorial board has been considerably changed since last year, and now includes: Miss A. E. Tennant, '97, editor in-chief; Miss Mackenzie, '92, Miss E. E. Scott, '97, Miss MacDonald, '98, and Miss Lawson, '99, assistant editors.

The magazine in its first annual number will contain articles on a variety of interesting topics by the most talented graduates and undergraduates of the University, and promises to be a literary treat of unexcelled merit. Among the contributors to the initial issue are Mrs. Dr. Barker, Edinburgh, Mrs. Watt, Miss Chase of India, and Misses McOnet, Durand and Helliwell, as well as several well-known undergraduates in attendance at present. We are sure that the appearance of the *Sesame* will be awaited with great interest, and that the ladies in charge of the enterprise will feel rewarded by the hearty support it will

receive from the students. The price of the magazine will be thirty five cents.

HERE AND THERE.

Our representatives on the McGill Debate have been the recipients, during the past week, of the most hearty congratulations upon their well-earned success.

The *College Exponent*, * * the paper of the University of Montana, makes an amusing criticism of Poe's lines:

And the raven, never flitting,
Still is sitting, still is sitting,
On the pallid bust of Pallas
Just above my chamber door,
And his eyes have all the seeming
Of a demon's that is dreaming,
And the lamplight o'er him streaming
Throws his shadow on the floor,
And my soul from out that shadow
That lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted

Nevermore.

It asks where the lamp was placed so that the shadow was cast on the floor.

A proposal for the following * * "sliding scale" of prices was rejected by the Executive Committee of the Conversation, for admission to the annual entertainment, including extras:—

Political Science Students unattached, \$1.00 net; attached, \$1.75 net.

General Course Students, unattached, 75c. net; attached, \$1.25 net.

Modern Language and Natural Science students, unattached, 50c. net; attached, \$1.00 net.

Classical and Mathematical students, unattached, 25c. net; attached, 50c. net.

Philosophy and Oriental students, unattached, free; attached, 25c.

CHESS.

A match was played between the University Chess Club and McMaster on Saturday afternoon, with the subjoined result:

VARSITY.		M'MASTER.	
Keys.....	1 0	McKay.....	0 1
Potts.....	1 1	Russell.....	0 0
Shenstone.....	0 1	Ritchie.....	1 0
Keith.....	0 1	Proctor.....	1 0
Jordan.....	1 ..	Matthews.....	0 ..
Hobbs.....	1 0	Shenstone.....	0 1
Boyd.....	0 0	Mode.....	1 1
Armstrong.....	1 ½	Vichert.....	0 ½
Richardson ..	1 1	Grant.....	0 0
Total,	10½.	Total,	6½.

Y. W. C. A.

The only important matter of business discussed at the last weekly meeting of the Y. W. C. A. involves a change in the night of meeting. In compliance with the request of the Primary Medical Association, which cannot hold its meetings on any other night than Wednesday, it was decided to hold all future meetings on Tuesday, at 5 o'clock instead of on Wednesday as hitherto. The topic for the day, The Parable of the Talents, was taken up by Miss Sinclair, in a thoughtful and interesting paper. After an open discussion by the members of the same topic, the meeting adjourned. E. M. SEALEY, Cor. Sec.

to be photographed and we are quite willing to stand by the decision.—Frederick Lyonde, Photographer, 101 King St. W.

Y.M.C.A. NOTES.

Last Thursday Rev. W. R. McIntosh, B.D., of Annandale, addressed the Association. A few years ago Mr. McIntosh was one of the most enthusiastic Association men, and in opening his address, he spoke of the desirability of having in the University an organization which stands pre-eminently for God and His work in the College. He urged the responsibility that rests on students to give loyal support to such an Association. Mr. McIntosh followed this with some pointed and stirring remarks on "What think ye of Christ?" He showed that this is the supreme question in the life of every man. It has the most vital bearing on every other question that will find a place in his life. The paramount significance of the issues at stake demands that as early as possible a halt should be made, the nature of the question apprehended, and an honest and well-defined answer given.

Next Thursday Prof. H. J. Cody will address the Association.

S. P. S. NOTES.

The debate on Friday was one more victory for the School. The subject, "Resolved that the State Ownership and State Control of Railways is Preferable to that by Private Corporations," should have been particularly adaptable to Political Science men; and being left to the choice of the S. P. S., seems to have been chosen with a determination to either lose the day or "beard the lion in his den," which latter has been assuredly done. This is twice in succession that the School has won. One peculiar feature in connection with both debates is that the two representatives from the School on each occasion were mining students. Why miners should have a better grasp of such complicated questions than Political Science men it would be difficult to say. Perhaps it is because they are in the habit of going so deep in all the work with which they are connected.

The true spirit of S. P. S. freshmen is at last manifesting itself. Perhaps it required experience to demonstrate the efficacy of the "tap." Such, now, they at least possess. We do not know where they (the freshmen) got the initiative, but the senior years were reminded vividly of old times when, as they filed into the cloak room one fine day at 5 p.m., recently, they observed a *once* too gay freshman, perched upon the table in the centre of the room, and the walls of the latter lined with a row of relentless accusers. We will not burden the reader with an account of the very wordy trial which was in progress. The defendant's coun-

sel could not save him. So he was submitted to the tender mercies of the "Brute Force Committee." This was the first. On the second occasion affairs took a different turn. Now, it is a strange but a sad fact that there is an intuitive tendency for the first year to divide itself in mechanicals on the one side, and civils and miners on the other. Such a division served the former very well in preceding years, when they were eighty per cent. of the year; but things have changed. On the occasion in question the division was latent but precipitated by a trap into which the civils appear to have led the mechanicals. The unfortunate on trial was a civil, but——a mechanical went under.

The regular meeting of the Engineering Society was held on the 3rd inst. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, Mr. H. C. Carpenter. Two papers were read, the subjects of both of which are at present of considerable interest to people of this country, and particularly of this Province. The first, entitled "Some Notes on the Stamp Mill," by Mr. J. A. Bain, contained a good exposition of ore-dressing and milling, referring particularly to free-milling of gold ores. This department in mining is at present of most importance to Ontario miners; and in the delivery of the paper Mr. Bain showed a very good grasp of the subject. The second paper was entitled "Roads and Streets in Ontario." In the reader of this paper, we were pleased to have with us a gentleman in the person of Mr. A. W. Campbell, Road Commissioner for Ontario. The subject dealt with is one, the importance of which has yet to be appreciated by the people of this country. Mr. Campbell first gave an account of his dealings with various town councils in different parts of the Province in the matter of street improvements. He showed what a mess was usually made of the work when supervised by local officials, who thought they knew all when they knew nothing, and said that his principal difficulty was in persuading them to employ competent engineers. The paper dealt with the subject in a general way. The best materials for and methods of construction of a road depended upon local circumstances and conditions, viz: climate, proximity of good road material, use to which the road is to be put, etc. Drainage is of prime importance. The location of country roads should be carefully chosen. Mr. Campbell dwelt particularly upon the question of putting all such work under the superintendence of good, competent engineers. He said that there were very few men in the country at the present day fitted as such, and hinted strongly at the advisability of students taking it up. Some good discussion followed the reading of the paper. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Campbell by the Society, and the meeting adjourned.

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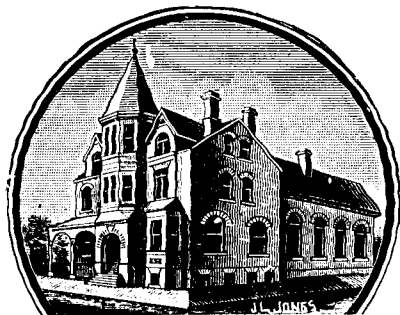
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THE WOMEN'S LIT. "AT HOME."

On Saturday evening last the Gymnasium was the scene of what has come to be one of the most pleasant social functions in connection with our college life—the annual reception given by the Women's Literary Society of University College to the Faculty and students. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, shortly after seven o'clock the guests began to arrive and soon thronged the hall. They were received, as they entered, by the Honorary President, Miss McKenzie, the President, Miss MacMichael, and the Vice-President, Miss Scott. A very efficient Reception Committee, under the direction of the President, then looked after the entertainment of the guests. The members of this committee were all very prettily gowned in fifteenth century costumes, and looked as fair and dainty as did ever the noble maidens of King Henry's Court, when 400 years ago he sent out Sebastian Cabot to discover our fair Canada.

The Decoration Committee, headed by Miss L. K. White, '99, had transformed the usually bare Gymnasium into a very pretty reception hall. Everywhere throughout the building were traces of the work of this committee—in the entrance hall, in the association's committee room, and in the pretty sitting-out corners arranged upstairs.

The Reading Room, which in its ordinary aspect may provide an intellectual feast, but has not a scrap of artistic beauty, was by the energies of the Tea Room Committee, guided by Miss McPhail, '97, also transformed for the occasion. Streamers of blue bunting decorated the walls and ceiling, two large tables decorated with smilax and flowers, and prettily lighted by candles, were fairly laden with good cheer in the shapes of cakes and jellies, and other dainty edibles, for which credit must be given to the Refreshment Committee and its convener, Miss Scott, '97. Two hundred years ago King George III. granted a charter to King's College, the predecessor of our own institution; and as one passed into this room, one's mind instinctively reverted to those by-gone times; for here were maidens, clad in the olden styles with the dainty short-waisted gowns, the powdered hair piled high on their heads, and the quaint patches of our great-great-grandmothers.

The Reception lasted two hours, and during this time hastily improvised programmes for the informal dance that was to follow, were filled out. At nine o'clock the musicians played the first waltz, and in a few minutes the dancing was in full swing. It was a pretty sight to watch, as men of the nineteenth glided through the waltz or deux-temps with girls of the fifteenth, seventeenth, or nineteenth century; the quaintness of the old-time costumes making a pretty contrast with the modern ones.

At a quarter past eleven the strains of "God Save

the Queen" heralded the close of one of the most successful social functions the society has ever held, and for which too much credit cannot be given to the President, Miss MacMichael, and her energetic committee. KAY.

THE VARSITY-STRATFORD GAME.

Stratford had the partial satisfaction of defeating by superior play their conquerors of the week before, but not decisively enough to win the series. The supporters of the blue and white were very much downcast at the lack of combination shown by their team. The forward line of Varsity showed a total loss of combination play, each forward when he got the puck doing his best to keep it from everybody else and to score by his own unaided efforts. Stratford, on the other hand, having been taught the folly of that style of play, passed most unselfishly.

The teams lined up as follows: Varsity—Goal, Waldie; point, Scott; cover, Parry; forwards, Morrison, Snell, Elliott, Shepard. Stratford—Goal, Herne; point, Gibson; cover, Pethick; forwards, Macfadden, Downs, Farquharson, Miller. Referee, E. P. Brown.

From the face Macfadden secured the disc, shot behind, and the puck came out to Farquharson who scored, to the delight of the red and white. Score, 1—0. The next game was a hard-fought one. Time and time again the Stratford line formed and came down, but in vain, Parry Scott and Waldie doing magnificent work. Shepard and Elliott made several very brilliant rushes, but failed to score. At last Shepard got a clean shot, the goal umpire's arm went up, but the game was not allowed. At last, after seventeen minutes of hard hockey, Morrison was sent to the fence for stopping the puck in the air, and with one man the best of it Stratford scored, Downs doing the trick on a pass from Macfadden immediately from the face. Stratford scored 3—0. Varsity pressed Stratford hard for the remainder of the time, but failed to score on account of the admirable defence of Herne, who seemed to be in the way of everything.

Stratford started the second half as though it would make the necessary four to win the series, since they scored in the first 30 seconds. But Varsity from now on had a mortgage on the puck and retained it very persistently. After many vain attempts to storm their opponents' citadel, Snell scored on a pass from Shepard. Score, 4—1. Stratford's heavy-weights were now showing the signs of wear and Varsity's lighter men stood guard over the puck, and it was but seldom that Stratford got away with it. Just before the call of time Parry and Snell made a combined rush. Parry shot, but the puck went wide, Snell took it behind the goal and passed out to Parry, who, with the aid of Herne, scored. 4—2. This final score left Varsity the winners of the round by a total of 11 to 6.



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An Ottawa correspondent sends the following: "The Toronto University Club, of Ottawa, held its annual dinner on Thursday evening, Jan. 28th, at

Mrs. Ritchie's hostelry, Aylmer, Que. The trip to Aylmer, in a special car provided by the Hull Electric Co., was very enjoyable. About forty graduates of Varsity were present, representing the faculties of Arts, Medicine, Science and Dentistry. Mr. Otto J. Klotz occupied the chair, and the sister universities were represented by Mr. R. H. Conroy, of Aylmer, vice president of the McGill Graduates' Society, and Mr. James F. Smellie, secretary of the Queen's Alumni Association. Mr. Thorp Blyth presided at the piano, and Mr. Whiteley, B.A. Sc., sang several capital songs. Letters of regret were read from the Hon. Wm. Mulock, honorary president of the Club, the Hon. Clifford Sifton, and Fred B. Hodgins, of Toronto. Perhaps the best speeches of the evening were those by the only Jim Smellie and William Wilfrid Campbell, the Poet of the Lakes. The latter replied

to the toast of Canadian Literature with an earnest and eloquent address on the cultivation of the ideal in University life. Among those present, who will be remembered by the present undergraduates, were Lorne McDougall and Chas. Pratt, of '93; J. T. Blyth, Dave McLennan and P. A. Lindsay, of '94; Bert Macmillan, '95; F. B. Proctor, Jack Osborne and J. McLeish, '96; Art. Campbell '97, and Dr. W. R. Greene, a recent graduate of the Dental College. The journey home was enlivened by jolly college songs, which seemed to be enjoyed quite as much by the gray-bearded graduates of the sixties as by the boys of the nineties."

The members of the Heating and Lighting Committee of the Conversat have been wearing a most wearied look during the past days, as a result of the arduous duties which have been imposed upon them.

Shorthand Class

One of the members of the Class lately concluded is taking copious notes of lectures, beautifully written, and one of the lady pupils of the same Class writes to a pupil in the present one that she has attained a speed of 120 words a minute.

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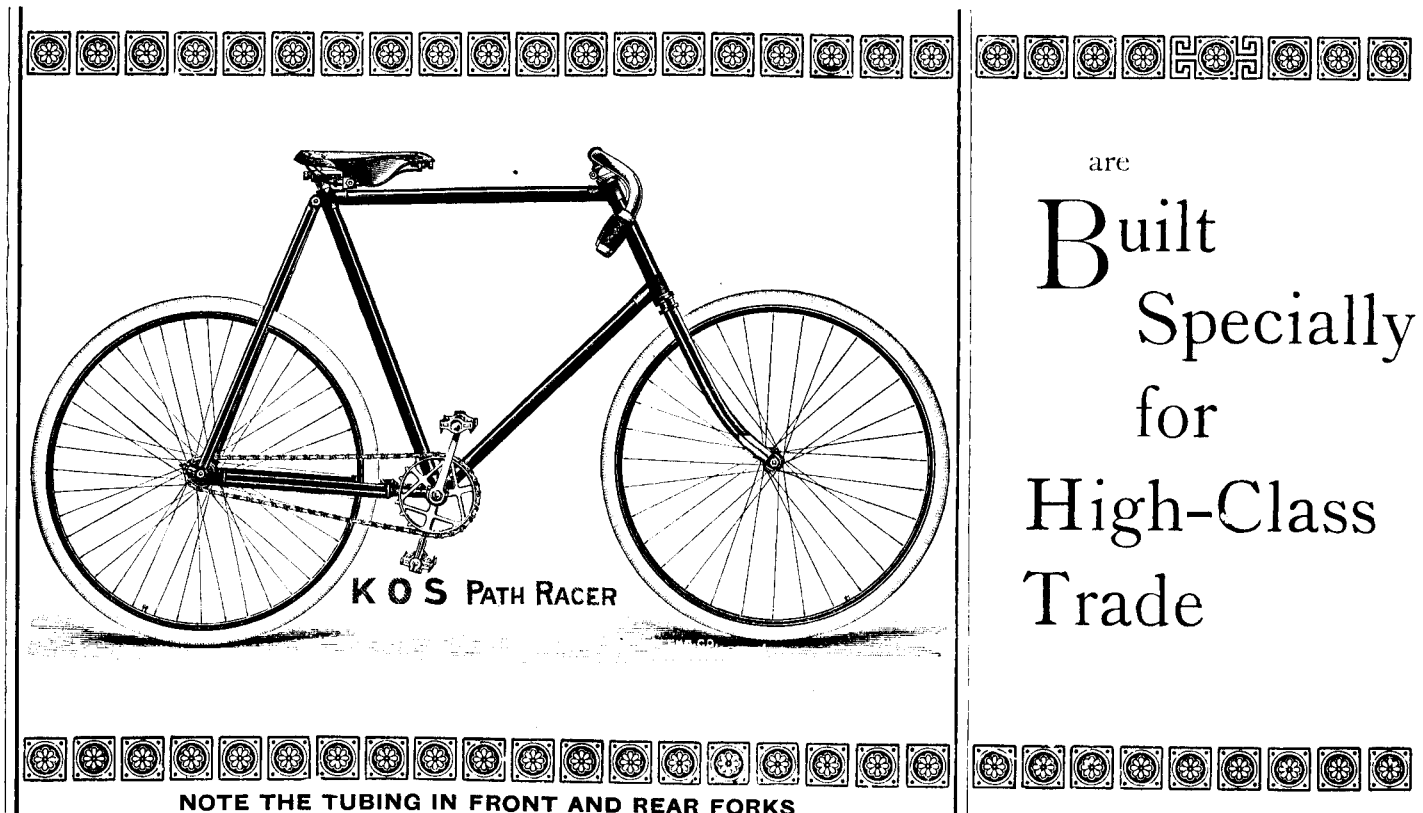
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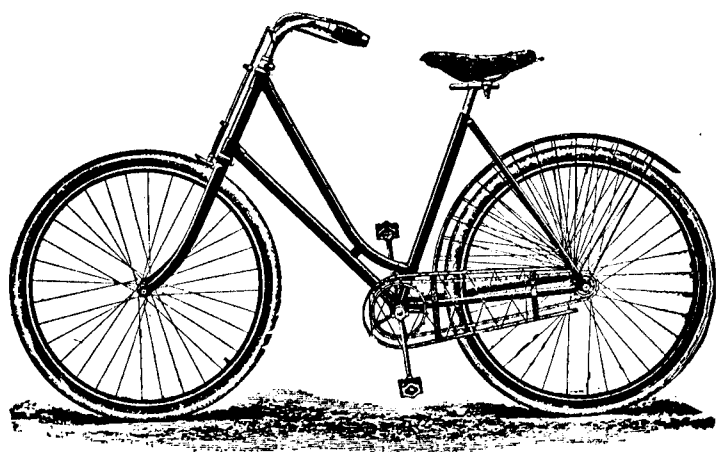
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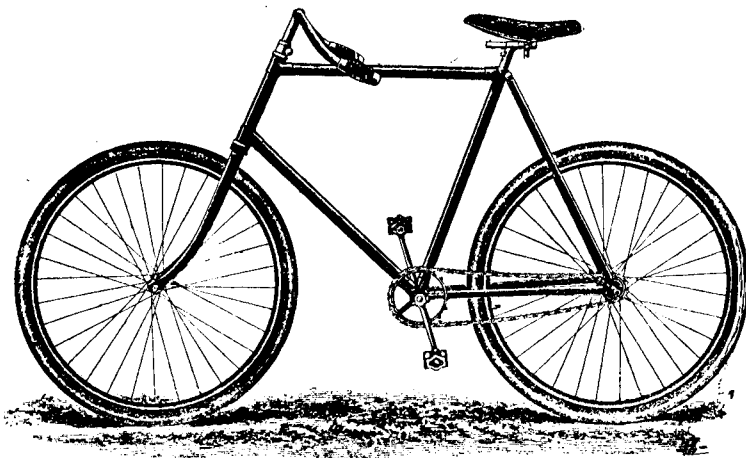
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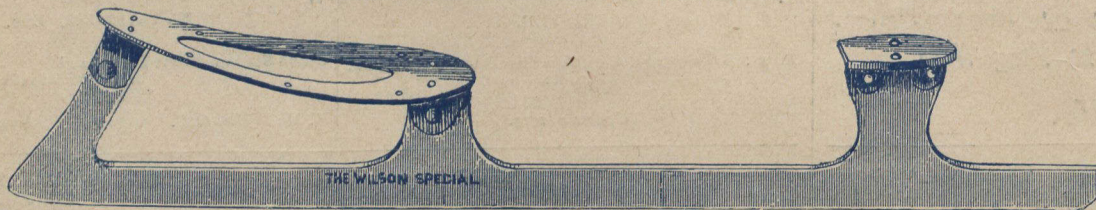
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