

THE UNIVERSITY



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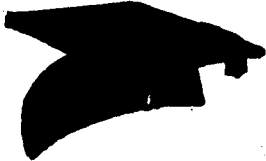
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THE ' VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. 2. No. 22.

March 17, 1882.

Price 5 cts.

THE CANADIAN ACADEMY.

A project, which has been mooted for some years, has at length taken definite shape, and by the grace of our Governor-General we are given a Canadian Academy, already officered, and with its functions already defined. We must acknowledge the excellence of the intentions of the Marquis of Lorne. During his residence here he has made praiseworthy attempts to encourage literature and art. But it is fairly open to question if the proposed academy, so far, at any rate, as literature is concerned, is not instituted with illusory hopes.

In pointing out the general objections to such an institution, there is no need to use any other than the trenchant arguments of MACAULAY. Obviously the power of such institutions to ignore genius and worth is as great as their power to recognize and encourage. The history of the French Academy furnishes it a long list of illustrious men from CORNELLE to ARSENE, HOUSSAYE and DUMAS, who have unsuccessfully sought from it recognition of their merits. The canons of taste and criticism are so flexible and various that even well-intentioned censors are easily led into the most erroneous opinions. When the difficulties of just criticism are thus naturally so great (a difficulty increased by the disinclination of the public to form opinions of its own), it would seem hopeless to expect it at the hands of a mixed tribunal, which is liable to be swayed by the baser passions of mankind. For experience shows that the evil spirits of envy and malice are no strangers in the assemblies of scholars and critics, and that the atmosphere of a literary parliament, far from being undisturbed and serene, is sometimes tainted with pernicious vices. More than once in our own history has intolerance sought to blast the influence of genius. What is there to prevent a literary clique becoming the tool of an unscrupulous party of government? It would certainly afford another means by which the partizan could work upon the weaknesses of a democracy for party ends.

Like its French analogue our Canadian academy will probably attempt to encourage literature by a system of competition and prizes. Whatever effect this may have in the department of sciences, nothing can be more certain than that in literature it will be productive of nothing valuable. MACAULAY presses his point home by quoting an instance where the French academy "gave a poetical prize, for which VOLTAIRE was a candidate, to a fellow who wrote some verses about *the frozen and burning pole*." In fine, to use the language of *The Bystander*, (February, 1880), "Such institutions, though formed by celestial minds, are not always free from cliquishness, jealousy or intrigue, and if they often stimulate, they sometimes stunt."

MATTHEW ARNOLD, in a half-hearted way, does countenance such an institution as an Academy, solely, however, on the ground that it raises the standard of what he aptly calls the "*journeyman work of literature*." It is to the exercise of this function of regularizing and regulating the language and the mechanical work of literature that he attributes the correctness, propriety and ex-

pressiveness of French authors. The lack of some such standard, he considers, has caused the harshness and frequent provincialisms of English writers. He does not, however, weigh this advantage (which he, perhaps, overrates) against the many defects of academies, which he recognizes and appreciates. Clearly, however, granting his argument to be of the greatest force, we must have a literature of far more luxuriant growth than at present, before we can in any way afford to prune it. The laurels of the French Academy were won under the Monarchy and the Empire; it could call to its aid the patronage of a Court and the influence of an aristocracy. We cannot expect to transplant an institution possible, with a peculiar people, and under such circumstances, to an ultra-democracy, with its swiftly changing conditions, its demand for novelty, and disregard for tradition.

It is to be presumed that the headquarters of the new academy are to be at the Federal capital. This, on the surface, is merely ludicrous, though there is a latent possibility of incurable mischief being done. The French Academy owes, to a great extent, its influence to the fact that it was a committee of the scholars and *litterateurs* of Paris, the great commercial and political metropolis and literary centre of France. If, from political reasons, the Canadian Parliament is forced to meet at a town on the confines of civilization, we should not attempt to compel our literature to seek a scanty subsistence on the sterile banks of the Upper Ottawa. It is far too tender a plant, and of too slow a growth with us, to subject it to such unnatural treatment.

C.

CO-OPERATION.

The Students' Union, after a great deal of negotiation and discussion, has accepted the favorable offer of MR. SMITH; and the members of the Union will immediately be able to avail themselves of the benefits of co-operation, in so far as enthusiasm and business ability can make that system a success. The many and long discussions which have taken place over this question, though making some sceptical with regard to the success of the undertaking, have done much good by showing clearly the difficulties to be contended with, and the best modes of clearing them away. MR. SMITH now sees plainly that he has undertaken an agency which will require business tact and careful attention; and the Union sees as plainly that success can follow upon only one condition, a well filled order-book. This the members should see to obtaining, and, as much depends on a good beginning, as soon as possible. It is plain that the plan will succeed better, the more nearly it approaches to pure co-operation. And this will be its character, at least for the present. One not-inconsiderable advantage that MR. SMITH will have, is that there will be no necessity for keeping on hand a large amount of dead-stock, which has of late proved the cause of ruin to more than one Toronto bookseller. So that he is assured that, even if there may accrue to his customers no marked financial benefit, he him-

self can be in no danger of financial failure. But there appears to be little reason why his customers should not gain, if only they are willing to make the business sufficiently large. It is well known that the larger the orders of a bookseller to wholesale houses, the more advantageous are the terms on which he is able to purchase. This shows us the turning point of the chances of success. Books can now be obtained from England, where most of our books are published, or from New York or Philadelphia, in so short a time that the delay in obtaining them can cause but little inconvenience. And it must be remembered that already very many of our books have to be procured by special order, and that it is almost impossible to find on the shelves of a Toronto bookseller a book of any importance, which is not specified in some college curriculum. And, moreover, even if a slight inconvenience were anticipated, it is expected that very many would be willing to bear that inconvenience, upon consideration that the existence of the Union itself as an important active institution may to a certain extent depend upon the successful carrying-out of co-operation. It is most desirable that the Union should be kept up; and kept up it will be. And the best way to increase the number and the interest of the members, is that which benefits them materially. This is the advantage of co-operation. Students, as a rule, have not an unlimited bank account; and a saving, however small, on every book or student's apparatus purchased, would be very acceptable.

Now, is MR. SMITH'S co-operative business likely to increase to the necessary and desired extent? Present indications are very favorable. The students of several institutions belonging to the Union have shown themselves desirous of abandoning the booksellers at present dealt with, almost entirely. Those colleges in which scientific apparatus is extensively used expect to gain materially by the change. Several prominent physicians in this city have fallen in heartily with the scheme, and are willing to patronize co-operation extensively; and they express their conviction that it will recommend itself to the medical fraternity throughout Ontario. And another cause for gratification is, that the students of several provincial colleges outside of Toronto have expressed a desire to enter the Union, particularly in consideration of the benefits expected from co-operative purchasing of books. These things lead us to believe that the scheme can be made a financial success. As we have shown, all that is required is a little enthusiasm in this direction among the various student bodies of the Union, and a determination to deal with the Union emporium at the expense of the booksellers; and the monopoly of the latter will suffer.

Students have been too long and too extensively swindled by retail dealers, not to understand the desirability there is of a breaking-up of the monopoly we at present labor under. Let any one but compare the price-lists of publishers and of retail booksellers, and he will recognize, if he has not before, the magnitude of the extortion we suffer from. We have before us a means of freeing ourselves to some extent from this monopoly and extortion. To what extent, depends upon the support we are prepared to give to the scheme. Let this fact be carefully considered by all, and the result will be the assured success of co-operation.

W. C.

The hum of election is filling the land. Mr. T. G. Blackstock, who was earliest spoken of as a candidate for the Presidency of the Literary Society, does not, it would seem, intend to run. Mr. J. D. Cameron, the popularity of whose college days bade fair to return him at the head of the poll, will be unable to stand for election on account of his necessary absence next year from the city. The two candidates now in the field are Mr. George Acheson, a young graduate of '80, the hope of Knox College and the science men; and Father Teefy, the nominee of

the Residence and outside parties. The undergraduates have been canvassed, and so keen does the contest bid to become, that subscriptions are beginning to fill up a good round sum for importing the outlying grads for the occasion. The medicals are all going to vote both ways, from report; possibly the nature of the inducement offered will materially affect their views. From the present aspect of the case, it does not seem probable that any third man will be in the field, nor that the party lines will be other than the existing ones.

Nearly nine years have elapsed since the last number of the *College Times* went to press. It was doomed to this interval of suppression because of the publication of a few articles which savoured strongly of reform. Their aims were fair and legitimate, but were construed into an attack upon the tutorial staff. Some of these gentlemen feeling how insecurely they could fortify their position against any further publications of the same nature, squelched the paper. There is more room for reform now than then, and there are many legitimate suggestions one would like to see made by the revived journal of Upper Canada College. They can be fearlessly made now, as the new Principal is not at all likely to yield to the freezing-out-policy of his associates. The liberty of the press should be permitted at Upper Canada College just as far as in other colleges, where the editorial staff does not come so directly under the control of the authorities. Many reforms could be made with all fairness, touching the masters themselves. There is one there now of bulky proportions who, after many years of patient struggling, undaunted by an odd plucking or two, made his appearance in the prayer-room one afternoon enrobed with the academics of an eastern college, in whom time could never instil the instincts that should be in a public school-master. The renaissance of the old paper we hail with gladness. The first number of Vol. IV., is very creditable, and contains a very good biography of the late Samuel Arthur Marling, by the Principal.

We clip the following favourable notice from *The Athenæum* in reference to the latest work of Mr. Pearman, late Classical Tutor at University College:

Cicero: De Legibus, Lib. III. By W. D. Pearman, M. A. (Cambridge, Hall & Son; London, Simpkin, Marshall & Co.)—This treatise decidedly deserved to be edited in English alike for its literary and antiquarian interest. The task of presenting it to English students in a worthy shape has fallen into very good hands. Mr. Pearman has exhibited great care and sound judgment in his inevitable appropriation of the labours of Bake, Feldhügel, Vahlen, and other German authorities, and has, besides, made some valuable contributions of his own. We may cite his admirable emendation, iv. § 7, "*Vim habere ad recte facta vocandi et a peccatis avocandi quæ tamen vis*," &c., for MS. *avocandique (quinte, v.l., for que) tuis*. The MS. *tamen* would be *t* with a line above it. The commentary is, as it should be, in foot-notes. Perhaps the etymology of the old legal terms and forms might have been treated more fully. *Hermæ* (§ 65) are not always, by the way, "busts of Hermes." This is the only slip we have noticed, the notes being very correct and kept within reasonable bounds. The type, arrangement, and general get-up of the little volume are excellent. It is to be hoped that Mr. Pearman will give us more editorial work in the same style.

Those of our Classical men who have this work to read will no doubt appreciate the value of Mr. Pearman's work in supplying a want long felt in connection with any attempt to satisfactorily interpret this, perhaps the most difficult of Cicero's many dissertations.

TRUST.

As children by an old shore wall
Look out half timid at the sea,
We peer into Eternity,
To see but darkness over all.

Cause not one simple flower to fade,
Pluck not one leaf, that being ta'en,
May cause the weakest being pain;
For all is good that He hath made.

We were not here for woe and pain,
Our own dark lives but make us so;
The very waters backward flow,
Returning upward from the rain.

We make our good or our own ill,
He teacheth us that all is fair,
We are but only what we were,
Subduing all our weaker will.

The sweet, fair wild flowers by the way,
 Know no dark, bitter human strife;
 They show their heaven in their life,
 And why not we from day to day!

What is this life we feel around,
 All nature-teeming 'neath the sky!
 We murmur, and an answer why
 Comes to us from above the ground.

A silent growth that knows no strife,
 The sweet balm of an unseen breath,
 Pulsating from decay and death
 Into a holier, fairer life.

We feel Him in the sweet child laugh,
 We see Him in the rainbow's hue,
 He shows us that all good is true,
 And leads us gently up His path.

We know not why we wander on,
 Through the dull pulses of the night;
 From the hot fever to the light
 And cool airs of a better dawn.

So mole-like we will work and pray,
 The years will bring us light from God,
 Into that holier, better road,
 Up to the nobler, fairer clay.

HURON.

A GARDEN SONG.

Come into the garden, Maud;
 In the night has the brickbat flown;
 Yea, the big Thomas cat, that yelled and clawed,
 I have smote with a raw, red stone;
 And your father, who always my suit haw-hawed,
 Has gone to the Club all alone.

All night have the murmuring cedars heard
 Me under the porch like a loon;
 And every time that I coughed or stirred,
 The bull-pup growled "Too soon"
 In a guttural tone like a creditor's word,
 Or the note of a hoarse bassoon—
 Yah! he's fastened his fangs like the claw of a bird
 In the calf of my left pantaloons.

SONNET.

TO THE PLENILUNE.

I pity thee, thy grief when far above
 Thy paling brilliancy, thy meekest maid
 Unwittingly will shine. Soon must thou fade;
 Cold, silent Queen, too soon for frightened Love
 To lose all fear of thine austerity.
 But if excessive beauty thou should'st screen
 Beneath diaphanous veils of softest sheen,
 What will Love say of thy humility?
 Then Love, grown soft because a single ray
 Is hidden from his gaze, will soon forgive
 Thy haughty mien, delighted thou should'st deign
 To stoop to him. "'Tis only," Love will say,
 "That she may cheer the pale, wan stars, and give
 Them rest e'er they shall wait on her again."

H.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

"GENTLEMEN, there is one toast."—*Extract from the Unpublished Speeches of Residence Men.*

A CHEMICAL genius at the School of Science has been trying to invent a face powder that does not contain lead, and that tastes nice. The young men are all dying of lead-poisoning, and kissing is rapidly going out of fashion.

THE imp received instructions to sweep the floor of the Firm's den once a day, Sundays excepted. Consequences: (1) Each corner of said den has its little heaps of ashes and crumbs of "hard tack;" (2) mice; (3) had to get a cat. When a cat serenades us from the top of the wall, it is not the animal we are charmed with. Oh, dear no; it's the waul.

Queen's College Journal is a godly paper, every issue containing a sermon. When there's a still greater want of 'copy,' the staff hold a prayer-meeting and report the proceedings. When our chief is in a like 'fix,' he prays, and so hard! And it's wonderful the amount of movement the orison sets agoing.

CRITICS are all linguists. The review of a book translated from any foreign language always winds up with the remark that the translator has preserved all the varied charms of the original.

MEN like to see themselves in print. Men are modest. Women like to see themselves in silk or velvet.

THE other morning Spot asked me to breakfast with him. After breakfast, more because of the lateness of his hour of retiring the night before than for any other reason, the said Spot concluded to conclude his morning nap, and stretched his well-shaped limbs on the sofa. Spot has a habit of talking in his sleep, and having heard that people of this sort might be drawn into conversation, I was naturally pleased when a sentence from the sofa gave me the opportunity of experimenting. I succeeded in finding out that he anticipated a plucking in May, and received an invitation to a week's shooting on his Scottish preserves, County G——, Ontario East, this coming vacation. Here conversation ceased; and falling back in my chair, puffing away at a cig., I began to wonder whether my old age could with impunity be trusted to a week's outing. My mind was made up and I would risk it; but where? I wondered on, and arrived at the conclusion that the Spot's Scottish preserves consisted of the balance of the pot of Dundee marmalade we had partly devoured at breakfast. Poor fellow; his imagination often carries him into the realms of delight.

It is hard lines when you have been laid up for a month with influenza and rheumatism, and sore throat, and other delicacies of the season, to be surrounded by sympathizing friends on your reappearance at lectures, and asked on all sides what the living is like in Residence.

AN advertiser in a French paper wishes to hear of a young man accustomed to brewing and the manufacture of wine (*la fabrication du vin*). Here's check-mate for the phylloxera. The Residence steward can 'go one better,' being accustomed to *la fabrication* of tea and coffee and milk and butter, and so on to the end of the menu. Checkmate for the exhausted nerves of 'The Forty.'

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

HARVARD. A co-operative society such as exists here has been established at Harvard for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of second-hand books, etc., and also securing other text books at lower rates for the students connected with it.

Of Harvard's 56 Professors, 43 are graduates of the College.

AMHERST. The billiard match between Williston and Amherst was won by Amherst by a score of 200 to 199.

A new gymnasium, to cost \$50,000, is to be built.

MCGILL. The following gentlemen were appointed last week a committee to make arrangements for the Annual Graduating Dinner: Messrs. Greenshields, Porter, McKay, and Lockhead. On the motion of Mr. J. R. Murray, the committee were empowered to communicate with the faculty of Applied Science, with the view of having a combined dinner of the two faculties.

On Thursday the 8th, the Reading Room Committee had their usual meeting, and on the same evening the Foot-ball Committee met for the first time, Mr. George Rogers presiding. It was decided to challenge several clubs, including the Montreal F. C., the Britannias, and others. We believe that the team hope to play Harvard on their own ground this fall.

Professor Bovey gave the last of his "At Home's" for the season on Friday evening. The entertainments which he has given continuously during the winter have been much appreciated by the students in Applied Science. Dr. Scott, too, the popular Professor of Anatomy, has given several entertainments this winter for the benefit of the medicals.

Talking of Dr. Scott, I may mention that it is rumoured that his aversion to ordering champagne for his patients has disappeared, and that his warmth on the teetotal question has somewhat abated.

The *Presbyterian Journal* this month is slightly exercised, to use a rather cant expression, over the coolness of a suggestion made by me some time since in your columns, that if the *McGill Gazette* were received the *Journal* might be induced to amalgamate. The suggestion was certainly a rather rash one, and implied an utter ignorance on my part as to the *Journal*. It is quite unnecessary to observe that your correspondent had never perused the pages of that monthly, which provides intellectual food for so many of the Presbyterian clergy. On reflection I quite agree with the *Journal*, that the Gaelic article, and the wittily-concocted small talk of the local column, would hardly be adapted to a University paper, and if the Local Editor could not find some other field in which to develop his genius, I for one should abstain from becoming a subscriber. The writer further remarks that your correspondent is probably not the "Patriarch Student." I am happy to say that I am not a Patriarch, but if I should ever aspire to that eminence, I should certainly know where to look for the musty fusty style befitting the position. The plan I probably had in my head when I made the suggestion was that the Presbyterian College should pay the whole cost of the paper and be content with a small column at the end.

At the Undergraduates Literary Society on Friday 10th, Mr. Turner's motion with regard to the revival of the College Paper was carried, and the following appointed a committee for the furtherance of that object: Messrs. J. R. Murray, R. A. G. Greenshields, Turner, A. Scrimger, and Maclean.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. A full rehearsal of the *Antigone* was held in the Convocation Hall on Saturday last, and it is a pleasure to report that a vast improvement is recognizable in the Chorus as well as in other departments. There is no doubt that determination will do wonders in a short time, and if the spirit exhibited last Saturday be fostered, there seems to be no good reason why the musical part of the play should not be as well given as any other. Professor Wright's kindly energy in holding practices for the Glee Club at his residence every Saturday evening is producing its inevitable effect, viz., knowledge of the score, and consequently vast improvement. But although the improvement is marked, still there is weakness apparent in places, owing to uncertainty about the notes, and on this account it is mooted to bring in outside aid; which disgrace, Oh! ye men of the Glee Club, strive to avert! There are still instances of the example of the young man, who promised to go and work in the vineyard but afterwards repented, being followed; but it is to be hoped that this back-sliding feature will have been eradicated by next Saturday, and that those gentlemen who have set their hands to the plough and have looked back will once more set their faces towards the enemy, and take as their motto "*En avant*." The dresses are rapidly approaching completion, and will in their grandeur surpass the fondest expectations of all the Youth and Beauty whom they are to adorn. The Box Plan is now open, as will be seen by a reference to the advertisement in these columns, to Graduates and Undergraduates, who applied for seats prior to February 28th. There is not a doubt but that the seats which may be placed at the disposal of the public will be eagerly taken.

The practice of the Glee Club held yesterday (Thursday) was a vast improvement on anything achieved before. The Quartette promises to "bring down the house." It would excite wonder in a layman's mind that such magnificent music should not long ago have aroused that enthusiasm which is now beginning to show itself in a gratifying way. Perseverance is all that is required now to make the music and the Play "go" as they should. Stick to it, Ye Gleemen, and success is assured.

The 122nd Public Meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society was held in Lecture Room No. 8, last Friday evening. As Convocation Hall could not be obtained on account of the preparations for *Antigone* no tickets of invitation were sent out; and this accounted for the small attendance. As it was, the room was comfortably filled. Prof. Maurice Hutton occupied the chair. The programme began with an Essay by Mr. E. J. McIntyre, entitled "Ye Olden Times." The Knox College Quintette then rendered a Part Song, "The Soldier's Chorus," and were deservedly encored. Mr. R. U. McPherson's Recitation of "The Red Jacket" was well received. A Piano Solo by Mr. H. M. Field was loudly encored. The Debate was an open one, the first of the kind ever held at a Public Meeting. All speeches but those of the leaders were voluntary. The subject of Debate was: *Resolved*, "That Competition in Higher Education should be encouraged." Mr. A. F. Ames led on the Affirmative, followed by Messrs. G. W. Holmes, Fairclough, and J. M. Clark; and Messrs. H. L. Dunn, G. S. Macdonald, O'Meara, and J. McKay supported the Negative. The Chairman summed up the debate in a forcible and eloquent speech, and gave his decision in favor

of the negative. He declared himself as entirely opposed to medals, scholarship, and such rewards, and gave interesting comparisons of the undergraduates of English Colleges having such rewards, and of those which, like Oxford, allow their students freedom in study without distinctive stimulants. Prof. Hutton's remarks were well received, and no doubt reflect present undergraduate opinion here.

Only twenty-six members of "K" Co. attended battalion drill last Wednesday. It is expected that the Battalion will go to Kingston on May 24th.

Monsieur Pernet, Honorary President of the Glee Club, hospitably entertained the members of the Club on Monday evening, in the Residence Dining-Hall. Several of the Professors and their wives were present, and a most enjoyable musical evening was spent.

The question for debate at the meeting of the Literary Society this (Friday) evening is: *Resolved*, "That the North-West provinces are destined to become the most important part of the Dominion."

The weekly prayer meeting of the University College Y. M. C. A. was, in the absence of Mr. Armitage, addressed by the President, Mr. Miles, the attendance being very fair. An "Address to Students," prepared by the Cleveland Y. M. C. A. Convention, was read by the Corresponding Secretary, and gave very interesting information, as well as some encouragement to prosecute the work with vigor. A business meeting was held immediately after the devotional. Ten new members were proposed and received by the Association. It was decided to send for twenty-five copies of the College Bulletin for the remaining three months. The meeting was then closed by the pronouncing of the benediction.

Some of the members of the Chorus dislike very much the idea of singers from down town being engaged to assist in the *Antigone*, and spoke of handing in their copies if this were done.

The coming elections are the absorbing topic of conversation about the College at present, and at every hour of the day may be seen through the halls little knots of electors and victims. Betting is being slightly indulged in. A leader of one of the parties was last Tuesday attempting to "bluff" a crowd in the Reading-room by offering a good large bet. But when a gentleman, who was quietly reading near by, drew out his "wallet" and remarked that he had no objection to take such bets, the "bluffer" had another engagement and departed, saying he had not the amount with him. Everybody seems sanguine, and a lively election is anticipated.

At battalion drill on Wednesday evening there turned out no less than forty-four officers and men of "K" Company, this being ten more than any other company.

At a meeting of the Rugby Union Foot-ball Club, held on Wednesday last, it was decided that henceforth only Undergraduates of Toronto University who are actually proceeding to a degree, and practising regularly, be eligible to play on the team; the deciding as to the requisite amount of practice to be left to the Committee.

Prof. Pernet entertained the members of the Glee Club in the Dining Hall on Monday evening. The Vice-Chancellor, members of the Faculty, and Mr. Torrington were present. The evening passed with much good feeling, and many complimentary expressions for the genial host.

French lectures next year will be increased in some respects. There will be four lectures per week in the Fourth Year, three lectures per week in the Third Year, three pass lectures per week in the Second Year, and one additional pass lecture in the First Year for beginners. This increase will entail much personal sacrifice on the part of the zealous Professor in this department.

TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. The first annual meeting of the T. S. M. Medical Society was held on Friday, 10th inst.—the President, Dr. Adam Wright, in the chair. The report of the General Committee showed the Society to be in a flourishing condition. The number of members on the roll is 104, and had the Society consented to allow ladies to become members, this number might have been increased. The Treasurer's Report showed a considerable balance on hand, which was ordered to be spent in the purchase of books for the Library. The Curator's Report showed that the Library and Reading Room were well patronized. The former is as yet a mere nucleus, but the latter is well supplied with leading newspapers and medical and scientific magazines. After the adoption of the various reports the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with in a quiet, orderly manner, characteristic of medical students. Although the contests were keen, there was none of that extensive preparation or expenditure of money said to be imminent in a similar connection in another affiliated institution. This was probably owing to the fact that the available constituency is as yet comparatively small, and almost wholly within the city. The officers elect are as follows: President, Adam H. Wright, B.A., M.B.

(re-elected by acclamation); 1st Vice-President, J. A. Meldrum; 2nd Vice-President, J. W. Patterson, M.A.; Recording Secretary, J. Spence; Treasurer, A. T. Rice; Corresponding Secretary, F. P. Drake; Curator, H. A. Wright; Councillors, F. J. Dolsen, B.A., W. J. Robinson, W. J. Lepper, G. S. Wattam, B.A., and H. N. Marten.

The annual meeting of the School was held on Saturday, 4th inst. After hearing the Report of the Sessional Committee, which showed that the Freshmen's fees had been assiduously spent, and the waiting room well supplied with various means of amusement, Mr. W. J. Robinson was elected by acclamation Secretary of the School for the ensuing year. Having passed a vote of thanks to Mr. G. S. Cleland, the retiring Secretary, the meeting adjourned.

Miss McCutcheon and Mr. Waugh Lauder intend giving a grand concert in the Pavilion in the Horticultural Gardens, when they will perform Liszt's grand symphonic poem "Tasso's Lament and Triumph," and Reinecke's "Improvisata," both compositions for two pianos. Mr. Lauder a few years ago left Upper Canada College, and has since been studying music in Germany. He is an artist of whom any school might be proud, for his execution on the piano is admired by everyone.—*College Times.*

'**VARSITY MEN.** Mr. F. F. Manley, M.A., has been elected President of the Toronto Military Rifle Association.

Mr. T. A. O'Rourke, B.A., recently delivered a lecture on accentuation and pronunciation of French to the pupils of the F. Trenton High School. His rules—few, simple and original—are the result of many years' close observation, and make his subject very much easier than the best books now in use.

All pallid was my noble brow,
The night was waning late;
My mother cried, "Pray tell me how
Much sweetstuff have you ate?"

I heard my father's soft "Why, you
Young fool!"—it seemed so far—
I knew he knew, I knew he knew
I'd smoked my first cigar.

HERBIE.

THE EPISTLES OF PLINY.

VI.

"Why should I play the Roman fool, and die
On mine own sword?"

says Macbeth in his last great anguish. Cato Uticensis was probably in Shakspeare's mind when he penned these lines, and in a suicide such as his we are reminded that "what Cato did and Addison approved cannot be wrong." But there was another way in which the Romans looked at suicide. They considered that a man's life was his own, and if he were tired of existence, it was quite open to him to shorten it. Sometimes it was done under pressure of the fear of death from other causes, such as the known ill-will of the reigning Tyrant—for instance, under Tiberius, Fulcinus Trio who avenged himself by making a will in which he abused Tiberius to his heart's content. L. Arruntius committed suicide because he knew that Caligula was so infamous that if he succeeded to power life would be worthless. The name of Arria, who lived in the reign of Claudius, has come down to us as that of a woman who shewed her doubting husband how to die. Pliny himself (iii., 16) gives a full account of her sayings on the occasion; but if we wish to know how an average Roman who was determined to get rid of life carried out that object, the following letter describes the *modus operandi*:

"I have suffered a loss, if the taking off of so great a man is only to be called a loss. Corellius Rufus is dead, and dead voluntarily—a fact which increases my grief, as it is a most melancholy kind of death, not in the course of nature or of the ordinary run of fate—for however much in the case of those who die of disease there is a great consolation from the very necessity of the matter; in the case of those whom a self-caused death removes, there is a hopeless grief because of the possibility of their having been able to live on for a long time. The most urgent reason—which with the wise is equivalent to necessity—drove Corellius to this decision, although he had many a cause for living—an easy conscience, a good reputation, very great consideration, a daughter, a wife, grandson, sisters, and besides these pledges of affection, true friends; but he was worried by so long and so trying ill health, that even these inducements to preserve life were conquered by the reasons for death. In his thirty-third year, as I have often heard him say, he was attacked by the gout. It was hereditary with him, for oftentimes diseases are transmitted, like other things, by inheritance. As long as he

was young, by abstinence and self-restraint he conquered the disease, afterwards, as he got older, he endured it by the strength of his mind. After he had suffered incredible anguish and most excruciating torments—for the pain was not confined to his feet as formerly, but extended to all his members—I went to see him in the days of Domitian as he lay ill in his Villa. His slaves retired from the room, as was the custom, when any of his more intimate friends paid him a visit, and even his wife, although quite trustworthy enough to be the guardian of any secret left us. He cast round his eyes and said, "Why do you think I endure all these pains? It is that I may have the satisfaction of surviving that ruffian (Domitian) if only for one day." If you could have given that spirit a similar body he would have done what he desired. The Deity was so far propitious to his vow which he had gratified, that as he could now die secure and free he broke off many ties to life but less in influence. His bad state of health had got worse, and he tried to relieve it by abstaining from food. His constancy deserted him as he persevered. His wife, Hispulla, sent to me a common friend, Caius Geminius, with a very sad message, that Corellius was determined to die, nor could he be moved by her prayers or her daughters, that I was the only person by whom he could be recalled to life. I hastened—I almost reached the house—when Julius Atticus tells me from the same Hispulla that nothing can be done even by me, so obstinately had he hardened himself. He had said to the doctor who offered him food, *κέρικα*, I am determined; and this word left as much admiration in my mind, as affectionate longing for him. I think what a friend, what a man I have lost. He had reached his seventy-sixth year, which is a sufficiently long life for even the strongest—I know it. He escaped perpetual ill health—I know it. He departed from among his surviving family, and when the Republic was in a tranquil condition; that Republic which was dearer to him even than his own relations; and I know this too. Yet I grieve as if for the death of a young and strong person; but I grieve, although you may think me silly, on my own account; for I have lost a spectator of my life—a guide, a master. Finally, I will say, as I said in my recent sorrow to my room-mate, *I fear lest I shall live too negligently now.* Therefore, give me some consolation—not of this sort, *he was an old man, he was infirm*—for I know all that—but something new, something striking, which I never could have heard, never could have read. For what I have heard, what I have read, came to me of their own accord, but are overwhelmed by my grief—Farewell.

There was a means of consolation open to Pliny if he had only taken advantage of the opportunity. He specially came across the converts to the Christian religion, although probably after the time when this letter was written, for it was written evidently when he was young and when his emotions were strong. But even at Rome he must have known that the Christian faith was rapidly spreading, and there he could have found what he begged Calestrius Tiro to send him—something he had never heard or read—and where he would have found consolation such as he could not have extracted from any philosophy.

We notice the curious piece of self-deception kept up in alluding to the Roman State as the Republic—a strange relic of the proud days when Rome was a Republic in fact as in name—a sort of despairing grasp at the recollection of the days of true freedom at a time when that freedom had long perished.

We perceive from the letter that Pliny had no objection to suicide *per se*. He spoke the general feeling of his race and time. It remained for a purer religion and a higher morality to teach men a better opinion.

The affections of Pliny seem to have been very strong. Take this letter to his wife (vii., 6).

"It is incredible by what a longing for you I am held. The first reason is my love for you; the second, because we are not accustomed to be separated. Hence it comes that I lie awake a great part of the night with your image before me; thence it is that sometimes at the hours when I am accustomed to see you, my feet carry me, to tell you the truth, mechanically to your room; then heartsick and sad, and like a banished man, I turn away from the empty threshold. One part of the day is free from these torments; that in which I am engaged in Court, and in the business of my friends. You can judge what a life mine is, when I find rest in labour, solace in cares and misery—Farewell.

He always speaks kindly of his friends and their literary efforts.* We find him explaining to Fabatus a great piece of liberality towards Corellia, chiefly because she was the sister of Corellius, whose death is described in the letter given above. He speaks in glowing praise of Terentius Junios, a country scholar lost in rustic retirement. He writes most feelingly to Geminius of the great loss sustained by Macrinus, whose wife has died. He speaks of taking refuge in literary pursuits from the grief caused him by the loss of his friends and relations. He tells Marcellinus of the death of Avitus; he grieves over the illness of Passienus; his letters bring him before us as an amiable and estimable man, with natural affection, kindly sympathy, and genial temperament. We have spoken of his treatment of his slaves, and have given references to some passages shewing what his views were on that subject. The sixteenth letter of the eighth book sets them out very plainly.

* See vii., 28, where he defends himself against a charge of too promiscuous praise.

Finally, he was animated by a sincere love for learning, and often urges his friends to leave something behind them which should carry down their name to future ages. His scholarly mind takes refuge in the following assertion:

"I have both joy and solace in Literature. There is nothing so pleasant as not to be the pleasanter for it. There is nothing so sad as not to be rendered the less sad by it.

It is pleasant indeed to hear the ring of these words after the lapse of centuries, and to feel that they are as real for us as they were for the long ago dead Pliny.

"THE VEILED DIVINITY."

BEAUTY—alas! is she not at all times exasperatingly coy, changeful,

"Visiting
This various world with as inconstant wing
As summer winds that creep from flower to flower?"

And to us, besmirched with the dust of toil and degraded by the indignities of labor, does she not appear but too often as a cold, haughty queen? In youth, while as yet we are untrammelled by laws, she exists, we think, only for us; our playfellow in whose caresses we revel to satiety. But as we mature, her surpassing loveliness awes us; that, which before we admired, we find to be but an infinitesimal part of her charms; an incipient conception of the glorious soul that underlies all her movements dawns upon us, and soon we—that is those of us who, forced by the necessities of life to forsake her courts, are frightened from her presence by the thought of her immeasurable superiority—despairingly assert that she is altogether beyond us; that her majesty is insufferable, her favor unattainable, and that only to those who have learned to move in the court dress and to speak in the court language will she ever grant an audience. And so indeed it always will be. We know only in part, and when we recognize it as but a part, the stupendousness of the whole overwhelms us. Unity is unutterable, inconceivable. Plurality, complexity, mutability, like evanescent shadows, forever confusingly implicate one another and dim our hopes to gain even transient glimpses of the one that lies beyond. Our own powers daunt us. They are ever increasing and yet, baffled by the intricacy of their interaction, we are unable to harmonize them. At first, indeed, in earliest youth, we are satisfied and happy with the purely sensuous; the greenness of the hillside with its yielding ferns and turf; the softness and grace of our pets, and the thousand other delights presented to the senses. Soon the emotions are aroused; what a transport the recognition of affection creates. But when at length the rational faculty is awakened, the problem becomes infinitely involved, our ideal then becomes ineffable. The enigmas of the universe are opened to us, and, seeing that no one portion is soluble independently of the rest, in sheer despair we yield up the effort to attain even an approximation of a conception of the harmonizing power that interpenetrates the whole as far beyond our scope.

But need it be so? are all the colors, sounds, forms, thoughts with which we are surrounded incapable of reassuring us that above all exists the spirit of beauty, which—itself in an unapproachable grandeur—shadows itself in nature and consecrates the aims of all true art and true poetry? What is the alternative? Is the labor of a man to be all for his mouth? Do we live merely to gain patients and clients and parishioners? Need we know nothing beyond Pearson on the Creed, or Billroth's Pathology, or Byles on Bills? Surely it cannot be accounted folly in us who are spending our lives in testing our weapons and burnishing our armour for the fight of life, once and again to throw them aside and bask in the splendours so lavishly effused about us in earth and sky and sea and air; so wondrously imaged and enhanced by the master-hands of art and song. Does the whole duty of life consist in poisoning the lance and blazoning the shield? May we not beg some "lily maid" to work for us some gay favor, distinctive sign that the unhorsing of one's foe is not the sole end of strife? Assuredly; even a Theseus is aided by an Ariadne. And think not that by so doing we shall in any way impede the course of common life. Nay, rather we shall gain gifts and powers and intents,

"Such, perhaps,
As have no slight or trivial influence
On that best portion of a good man's life."

The imaginative will stoop to the practical and bestow on it a lustre none the less brilliant because borrowed.

H.

COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR.—The elections to fill the vacancies caused by the retirement of Mr. Mulock, Dr. Oldright and Judge Boyd, are coming on apace. Mr. Mulock being *ex officio*, in virtue of his office of Vice-Chancellor, a member of the Senate, will not again be a candidate. The other

gentlemen will probably again present themselves for election. Besides these, Mr. Houston and Prof. Galbraith are by this time fairly in the field. Members of Convocation, therefore, will have a good field to pick from, and the contest promises to be rather lively. Both Messrs. Oldright and Boyd have been active members in the Senate, while Messrs. Houston and Galbraith have obviously strong claims on the suffrages of Convocation.

All these gentlemen, however, belong more or less to the past. None of them is identified with the sentiment and thought of the younger generations of Graduates, who compose a strong minority. Canadian character has in the past few years undergone a considerable change and, if I mistake not, University men have participated in that change to a greater extent than the general public. I would submit that if the younger Graduates were to be represented in the Senate by one of their own class, that very staid and respectable body might be benefited by the infusion of the new blood. The election of Mr. Falconbridge, a year ago, did to some extent accomplish this, and with the best results. There is now in Toronto a large body of young Graduates who stand foremost amongst the men of their own age in their respective professions. With due deference to the claims of the present candidates, it is not impossible that the election of a younger candidate would be acceptable to a large portion of the constituency. The presence of a few such men in the Senate, free from the traditions of the past, might do not a little to bring about those reforms which under the present regime seem relegated to the Greek Kalends. Certainly such a candidature would, from its inception, command a strong and united support from the younger Graduates. The enfranchisement of the B.A.'s can have no other logical conclusion.

At any rate the proposition is worthy of some serious consideration. I should like to see expressions of opinion on the subject from the "Junior Convocation." If nothing can be effected now, perhaps opinion will have ripened sufficiently next year to take definite action.

B. A.

NOTICE.

The 'VARSITY is published every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.

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The representation of the ANTIGONE has been fixed for Tuesday and Wednesday, April 11th and 12th, next.

On the 15th of March the box plan will be opened at the University in Prof. Hutton's rooms in residence, for those Graduates and Undergraduates who have applied for seats prior to February 28th.

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All seats (reserved or unreserved) must be paid for when they are taken. Graduates who want the Secretary to take seats for them should send the amount, and their addresses, and instructions regarding the choice of seats, to H. S. Osler, Esq., University College, not later than March 15th.

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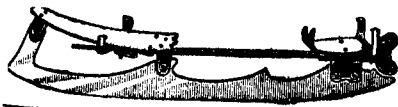
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