

VARSITY

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THE VARSITY.

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Topics of the Hour.

THE holiday number of the VARSITY will follow directly upon the present issue. It will probably appear about the 23rd inst. We still have room for a few contributions, and if our undergraduate friends will do their fair share of this work, the entire success of the Christmas issue will be assured. All contributions should be in our hands not later than Thursday next. We have secured contributions from several able writers in addition to those mentioned last week. Mr. Martin J. Griffin has sent us an article on "A New Volume of Thackeray." A beautiful poem, "Carmen Nativitatis," is contributed by "Fidelis," whose name is familiar to all Canadian magazine readers. Dr. Wilson has also sent us a poem, and with it all kind wishes for the future of the VARSITY. Mr. C.

Brent will describe "A Christmas in Trinidad." Mr. H. L. Dunn contributes a sonnet; and a writer of wide reputation will appear anonymously in a brilliant article on "The University of the Future."

WE have often had occasion to speak of the harm done to the young student of English by the injudicious questions of examiners and by the excessive use of annotations of the text prescribed. Most editors of literary texts commit the exceedingly reprehensible error of breaking up all the intellectual food there is in an author into spoon-victuals, for the supposed greater advantage of the student. They mistake instruction for education. In this case the annotator gets all the education, and the student simply commits to memory the dry external results of another person's mental labor. Nothing more deadening in its effects upon the intellect can be conceived, and yet it is the process which seems very generally to prevail in schools and colleges under the name of English literary education. We notice in our contemporary, the *Educational Weekly*, a style of annotation which differs very materially from that just mentioned. The editor of the literary papers signed "Philetus" seems to have struck the right idea that the proper use of notes is rather for the purpose of suggestion than of information. He seems to think, and rightly, that literary education can only be obtained by the study of literature itself, and so he is contented with asking such questions and throwing out such hints as will lead the student to think out the meaning of the text for himself. No information is given except what cannot be got from a careful study of the lesson itself, or from other general sources which are ordinarily available to the student, and there is no attempt to drag into the lesson the general information which is such an attraction and a snare to the ordinary annotator.

IN our news columns will be found an account of a dramatic episode which occurred at an early hour last Saturday morning in the subterranean halls of University College. We cannot but think that the College Council have dignified this little freak to a far greater degree than its intrinsic importance deserved. We have no sympathy with rowdyism in any of its phases, and we shall always uphold the authority of the College when there is need for its exercise. But really, a ceremony conducted with such decorum as it is said characterized this affair, seems open to objection mainly on account of the anxiety which it causes the faculty. Apart from unimportant incidents of place and time, and the theatrical paraphernalia of dress and stage scenery which appertain to college initiations, there are quite as serious disturbances every week among the undergraduates of every cross-roads school in the country, and nobody pays any attention to them. As a general thing the novitiates enjoy the fun of college initiations. The main objection appears to come from those who do not know by personal observation or experience how really harmless and trivial the whole affair usually

is, but form distorted opinions from the exaggerated and sensational reports of the newspapers.

IN a letter to the *Mail* and the *Telegram* the other day, Mr. G. R. R. Cockburn, under the guise of "suggestions" to Mr. Houston, made a fierce onslaught upon the scheme of reform in the English course of the University, which the latter gentleman brought before the Senate and the university public recently. A part of this scheme is embodied in the draft for a new curriculum in English which we published a short time since, and it is against this part of the scheme that Mr. Cockburn appears at first-sight to direct his principal attack. But if in reality he had only wished to show the defects of the draft, one would think he would have published his communication in the journal which had contained the draft. Readers of his strictures would then have been able to judge of their fairness by comparison with the matter criticized. But criticism of the draft does not appear to have been his entire intention. The letter opens with the assertion that the draft proposed "differs but little in its essential elements from the course which has been in operation for many years, and is so far worthy of our approval." This sentence has a general tone of inspiration in it with which we are not entirely unfamiliar. It is not the first time in the history of the University and College that an attempt has been made to obstruct the advance of reform by an idle and futile appeal to the past. The main source of this critic's indignation, then, appears to lie in the fact that a lay member of the Senate should wish to re-organize a course of study which meets with the approbation of Mr. Cockburn and his friends; a course, moreover, rendered sacred by the dust of past ages settling and resting upon it. Nevertheless, and in spite of the critic's assertion, there is a very considerable difference between the old course and the one which Mr. Houston proposes to substitute for it, as any unprejudiced person can easily see. The alleged course of English in Toronto University and University College has hitherto been a deceit and a delusion. We showed last week how little importance was attached to this subject by the low relative value of the marks assigned to it in examinations, and by the fact that the solitary instructor who was at last provided for this course, has been overburdened with the charge of Italian as well. Those who have graduated from Toronto University with any especial enthusiasm for the study of English, cannot be said to have gained it from the education received in that department here. As an additional illustration of the past misdirection of this course, we may mention that certain members of the Senate will not hear of a living author being represented on the curriculum, however justly famous he may be, and that in spite of the unprecedented growth of literature in the United States, American authors are entirely ignored upon our course. Mr. Houston asks the Senate to effect certain reforms which he and his constituents, the graduates of Toronto University, think urgently necessary to the future welfare of their common *Alma Mater*. He is very far from claiming that his draft curriculum is perfect, and he has both publicly and privately asked for suggestions in the preparation of it. He will doubtless answer Mr. Cockburn's objections for himself. But whatever defects there may be in the proposed curriculum they are very far from furnishing a respectable pretext for an attack upon the main intention of the reform. It might also be said here that Mr. Houston's relations to the Senate are of a quite different nature to what those of his critic were. The latter owed his seat to the political accident that gave the institution under his control representation on the Senate, the former, as well as Messrs. Kingsford, Miller, and Embree, were elected to their positions by our own graduates, for the express purpose of effecting reforms, and galvanizing into vigorous life that asphyxiated body of which Mr. Cockburn was a member. If this gentleman sneers at Mr. Houston's activity in the Senate, we must infer his own inactivity there, and it will now be in order for some one to tell us of a single beneficial measure brought into operation by him.

Leading Article.

FEDERALISM IN GOVERNMENT.

AT a recent meeting of the Young Men's Liberal Club of this city, Mr. William Houston, Provincial Librarian, delivered an address on "The Federal Principle in Government," which was a good practical illustration of the topical method of studying history. After pointing out the close connection that exists between the present and the past, between politics and history, the lecturer briefly described the inductive and deductive methods of treating his theme, preferring the former if time were available, but adopting the latter because so much ground had to be covered in a single address. The subject was then discussed under four divisions, (1) the definition of federal government, (2) the origin of federal government, (3) historical examples of federal government, and (4) the future of federal government.

The definition adopted by the lecturer was substantially that given by Freeman in his unfinished history of federal government, where he divides all states into three classes: (1) small states, in which all citizens take part directly in making and executing the laws; (2) large states, in which the work of legislation is carried on by representatives elected by the people, but the community is undivided; and (3) federal states, the government of which is intermediate between that of a small and that of a large state. A federal state is a large state in its international relations, but is made up of a number of smaller ones in its relations to its own citizens. Of federal governments there are two kinds, for which we have no distinguishing names in English, but which are called in German respectively "Staatenbund" and "Bundesstaat." The Staatenbund is a state in which the central government deals directly only with the governments of the various subdivisions and not with the individual citizens. The United States of America were from 1776 to 1787 a Staatenbund. A Bundesstaat is a state in which the central government deals directly with the individual citizen in some of the relations which always obtain between subject and sovereign. The United States of America is now a Bundesstaat, as the Federal Government not only collects taxes, but exercises other kinds of control by means of a system of courts of law and in other ways. It is impossible to say which of these forms is best. With respect to these and all other types of government it may be said that the one which best serves its purpose is best. Often a certain kind of government is the only one possible, and that is *ipso facto* the best kind. The historical method of studying the science of politics is the best corrective of any tendency to doctrinairism.

It is a mistake to suppose that, ingenious as the federal form of government is, any man or any body of men ever preconceived or invented it. The first federation was in some measure a political necessity, adopted not because it was theoretically the best, but because it was the only device practically possible; and the same remark applies to all subsequent federations. The American colonies, for well-known and perfectly intelligible reasons, could not coalesce in 1776 more completely than they did. Only with great difficulty were they brought ten years later into the closer union which still endures. The Arcadian league was constructed as a counterpoise to the influence of Sparta in the Peloponnesus. The Achaean league was intended to check the growing power of Macedonia. The Dutch league was forced into existence by the aggressions of Spain. The Swiss league is due to the instinct of self-preservation which pervades a number of small Alpine communities surrounded by large and powerful states. The league of Austria-Hungary is the outcome of the battle of Sadowa, and was resorted to as the only possible means of preventing the dissolution of the Austrian empire. The United States of America grew out of the common resistance made by the separate colonies to the unjustifi-

able encroachments of the British Government on their colonial autonomy. The federation of the Canadian Provinces was occasioned by a threatened breach between Upper and Lower Canada, and suggested by the great and successful federation of the United States. Federations have usually been aggregations of political units into a relationship closer than that which they formerly bore to each other, though there are exceptions to this rule—notably the case of Austria-Hungary.

In citing examples of federations, Mr. Houston referred briefly to the Amphictyonic League, which, though it was a religious union, exercised a certain amount of political influence, owing to the now exploded idea that it was at least partly political. Passing over the Arcadian and Achæan leagues with a mere mention, he described at greater length the constitution of Switzerland, which has been since 1848 a Bundesstaat, and is now one of the most perfect examples of the federal form of government. In its older form of government the constitution of Switzerland exercised a potent influence over the minds of the statesmen who formed the first constitution of the United States, while the later form of the United States constitution was to a large extent the model on which the new Swiss constitution was framed. The present constitution of Austria-Hungary, which came into existence since Mr. Freeman's book was written, was described still more minutely. Though it is only a Staatenbund, and one of the lowest kind, it has been the means of bringing order out of confusion in a region more than usually diversified both ethnically and ecclesiastically. Teutons and Magyars, who had for generations scarcely tolerated each other's existence, dwell peacefully together under the constitution devised by the great Hungarian statesman, Deak, which, moreover, enables the whole empire to indulge in a spirited foreign policy. The constitutions of the United States and Canada were very briefly touched upon, the lesson to be learned from them being the erroneousness of the idea that looseness of the federal bond is unfavourable to perpetuity. In Mr. Houston's opinion, the tendency towards centralization is more dangerous than the opposite one.

Possible federations suggested by current events are (1) South Africa, (2) Australia, (3) Turkey in Europe, (4) Great Britain and Ireland. The last-named kingdom was for eighteen years of the 18th century—during the period of Grattan's parliament—a real federation, and no future event in political history is more certain than the near solution of the Irish problem by the concession of a measure of home rule not merely to Ireland, but at the same time to England and Scotland. A careful study of history will convince all but the most pessimistic observers that such a federation would promote, rather than endanger, the stability and unity of the empire.

Literature.

MIND-READING.

(After Burdette.)

"I tell you what, by George, I was never so completely—why did you go and load me up with such idiotic stuff as that? Sykes What does Sykes know about it? Sykes be—"

"Oh, but such psychical—er, ah—phenomena, you know, Phenomena." I had to say something at once, for when my friend Leatherby is irritated, he is apt to use strong language. It was the hour between eleven and twelve last night, and we two were sitting before the grate. Fred, whom I had met going out just before eight o'clock, had dropped in about half-past ten, utterly depressed and downcast—as I had never seen him before; his knitted brow telling of intense mental suffering, and the style in which his overcoat was buttoned, three holes over the same button, seeming to

lend an air of moody abstraction to the general dejection of his appearance.

What astonished me most was his apathetic disregard of the disorder of his sartorial habiliment; for Fred Leatherby, I must say, is of the Body Dandiical,—a "*dude*," Maud Gerolman's little brother calls him. *Jam dudum et cerno te*, Æneas said to the pilot, while sailing away from Dido; this being the earliest recorded fitting use of the word: fitting, because the sleek son of Anchises was open himself to the same imputation, and knew "a hawk from a hand-saw." Belike he applied this epithet to the pilot because the latter had just imparted the outcome of his excogitations on what was to be done now that the *wind had risen*,—*vespere ab atro consurgunt venti*, etc. Indeed, that worthy archetype of dudes, the wind being risen, had, on the whole, better fortune than the dudes of later ages, inasmuch as these have chiefly spent their time in unavailing efforts to raise the wind; as many even now are trying, both here in Toronto and elsewhere under the moon. But to return to Fred Leatherby. When I met him going out last night I surmised he was going over to Gerolman's, just to drop in casually, either to get his cane, which he had left there, or because she had asked him over, or—perhaps to have a pleasant chat with old Mr. Gerolman himself. His affection for the old gentleman is all the more remarkable from the fact that he was not acquainted with Mr. Gerolman before this term. However, I could not gather from what he said after his return that he had been at Gerolman's; but his clamorous abuse of Mr. Sykes led me to think that, wherever he had been, he had had a hand in some untoward experiments in mind-reading.

Now, Leatherby is in general an easy-going mortal, with no very decided opinions of his own, acquiescing in the opinions of those around him with characteristic *lâcheté*. I was therefore somewhat surprised last Monday evening, when, after having read to him the letters on mind-reading in last week's VARSITY,—he having said beforehand in his untutored manner of speech that "I needn't mind reading it; he didn't want to be bored to death"—I was surprised, I say, to find him showing true metaphysicianly combativeness, in upholding the theory on which the possibility of mind-reading rests. I held that the fallacy of the whole thing was unintentionally shown in a certain passage from the second letter. This Leatherby would not admit; denouncing it as a lame and impotent conclusion, based on misconstruction and false reasoning. In the end, arguments of learned length and thundering sound proving of no avail to either of us, we had recourse to experiments; and more by luck, I am sure, than by any skill in mind-reading, Leatherby did such feats, I being the "subject," as even to astonish himself. This happened, as I said, on Monday evening.

It was nearly twelve o'clock last night, and we two were still sitting before the grate. Leatherby was yet in a sulky mood, staring at the fire. I was waiting. At length he broke out into boisterous laughter, followed, I am sorry to have to say, by some profanity. I said "Well?" with a note of interrogation in the word; being curious to know what had befallen him.

"I was over to Yonge street," he began, having taken off his overcoat, "and on my way back I called at Gerolman's. There was quite a party in there. That Blosberg was turning the music for her at the piano. Well, Mrs. Gerolman asked me to stay for a while, and I did. There was nothing much going on; so before long I just chipped in with something about mind-reading. And then that ass Blosberg began to talk against it."

"I was talking against it the other night," said I.

"Yes," he went on, "but I guess I downed him too. You see, they all took a hand at it; old Gerolman sided with Blosberg. I just lay low till they'd all had their little say pretty much, and the discussion was getting spirited, and then—you see, I'd learned off a page from what I called 'the great American authority,' and I reeled it off this way: in certain aesthetic states of the mental and physical systems, peculiar psychic forces which always exist, though

in a latent condition, are excited into activity; and the ideal sensory percipiency in cerebrum and cerebellum, you see, is transmitted by protoplasmic action to the nerve centres, where the objective transfusion of the occipital parietes makes the Ego as cognizant of the cerebation of the non-Ego, as though the psychic modifications really impinged upon the same ganglion; being by a touch of the hand, you know, transmitted in mesmeric condition on the nerves along the ganglia of the two systems; and they, therefore, are, and can only be, identical."

I thought that pretty good for Leatherby.

"Yes," he continued, "but the other side just shook their heads, and said 'it was only a theory after all; they'd like to see the hypothesis demonstrated.' And just at that critical point the kid put in——"

"You mean that Tommy Gerolman took part in the argument?"

"He put in his oar and said they'd tried it at school, an' he could let the boys hide things, an' then lead them right to the place where they were hid. I knew the little cus was lying. But Blosberg said I should be the first subject, of course, because I had faith; and after some more talk I agreed. I put on a pensive air, you see, and announced that my thoughts were concentrated on one subject, to the exclusion of all other terrestrial things."

"I guess any one could tell that from the way you looked at her."

"The kid took my hand, placed it against my forehead a while, then placed it against his own, and stood in a thoughtful posture for a few seconds. Then he led me out in the hall and up to my overcoat on the hat-rack, the whole company following, and he took out of the pockets——"

Leatherby went over to his overcoat and drew forth from the pockets himself, a pound of coffee, half a dozen eggs, a box of bootblacking, and a flat whiskey-bottle, partly full. "The little devil," he went on, "showed me these and said, 'There, that's what you're thinking about.'"

"As you certainly were at the time," I said.

"They didn't smile," said Leatherby, reaching out to poke the fire, "Oh no! Blosberg guffawed, and Miss Gerolman tittered, and the rest looked funny. I was shaking my head like an idiot, and trying to laugh, but I couldn't say a word."

"*Obstupuit visu,*" I quoted, "*et vox faucibus haesit.*" It was lost on Leatherby. (I may here state that in the matter of the flat whiskey-bottle, partly full, Fred was altogether guiltless, having borrowed it from the present writer, empty, to have some alcohol put in it, wishing to preserve, as he assured me, a very fine specimen of that interesting animal known to science as the *Cimex Lectularius*.)

"Well," he continued, having lit his pipe, "when we got back from the hall, the old gentleman said that though I had not denied the accuracy of Tommy's mind-reading, there had been an omission; you see, I should have written down on a slip of paper what I was thinking of. However, the community hung back; none of the visitors would have anything to do with it, and general applause greeted Mr. Gerolman when he said that he'd be the subject. He wrote something down on a piece of paper, and sat for a while in deep thought,—just like you when you are wondering where you can borrow three dollars, donchuknow!"

Leatherby does not say "donchuknow" as often as he used to. One morning about a month ago he walked into the VARSITY sanctum with a poem he had dashed off the night before. He handed it to the editor, saying, "I'd like to write for the VARSITY, donchuknow!" "So you'd like to write for our paper, Mr. Leatherby?" came from the editor in an undertone, as he gazed in consternation at the length of the manuscript, throwing out signals of distress to Manager Irving, who was busily writing. "Say," asked the latter suddenly of the new-comer, "got a lead-pencil? No? Well, never mind." And, taking up his pen, he reached over for the mailing list, saying as he wrote, "F. Leatherby, Univ. College. I'll see it's sent you. Save you all the trouble of writing for the VARSITY,

donchuknow! Good morning." And the astounded Leatherby turned in speechless amazement, and left the sanctum, hat in hand. And he was half-way across the lawn when Blosberg met him, and told him to put his hat on his head.)

But we have left Mr. Gerolman sitting in deep thought. Leatherby went on to say that the worthy gentleman, glancing sternly at his son, took his hand, and the whole congregation arose to follow. Tommy led the way upstairs into the study, and, despite several stealthy nudges from his indignant parent, was about to reach behind a book-case, when Mr. Gerolman cuffed Tommy's ears soundly, and, losing temper, drove the whole party down-stairs again in great confusion and disorder. And a shadow fell upon that party that not even Mrs. Gerolman's cheerful good nights could dissipate.

While I write Leatherby is lamenting that on him is cast the blame of it all. He has just told me that he met Mr. Gerolman on College street this morning, and that "the old boy scowled at him like a thief." I fear that the *entente cordiale* hitherto subsisting between my friend and the house of Gerolman has been rudely shattered.

JEWLYAH.

THE FUTURE OF WOMAN.

THE position which our University has taken in regard to the higher education of women is a just and sound one. Having granted this right of higher education to women, are we going to ignore the necessary rights which are involved in it? Should we give the power which comes with the development of her faculties, and limit the sphere of its use? In giving the means are we going to lose sight of the end? What is the future of a female graduate leaving her Alma Mater and entering the world? Suppose we interview her. We say to her, "Do you not feel discouraged at the prospect which lies before you? You have a fine education—better, perhaps, than many of the young men who are entering life with you. Would you not like to give your culture and powers for the benefit of mankind?" What is her answer?—"I have spent four years and more to obtain the education of which you speak. It has been a great source of development and delight to me, and I should like to use the powers I have in those spheres for which my education has fitted me, but those spheres are closed to me because the majority say it would not be consistent with womanliness.

A question here arises, about which there is apt to be a misunderstanding. What is womanliness? Have a care that we are not misled by fortuitous custom. "We are hoodwinked by custom," says that mighty iconoclast Carlyle, and let us add that we are too often hoodwinked by our language. It is womanly for the squaw to do the work of the Indian; for the Hindoo's widow to allow herself to be burned; and it was womanly for Queen Victoria to propose marriage to Prince Albert. Mayhap, in the centuries to come, it will be womanly to be a Prime Minister. No doubt the votaries of custom may smile at this, but the coming generations may smile at them in return, and congratulate themselves on the improvement and development of mankind. It would thus seem that custom to a great extent gives meaning to the relative term womanliness. One says it is unwomanly to vote, or to stand for election to Parliament, but he must not forget that if these political rights are allowed to women this new custom will give increased intention to the term womanliness.

What does the argument of expediency amount to? It merely raises the question of what is fit and proper, and how, in a matter of dispute, can this be positively known without a fair trial? The argument put forward seems to be that woman's character will be lost in competition with man. This is the old argument to all reforms, that of expediency. Until an issue has had a fair trial, in order that expediency may be a conclusive argument, we must assume infallibility. But no man is infallible, although there still

widely lingers a belief that books are infallible—as if books were not men. During the slave agitation it was urged that it was not expedient to emancipate so many thousands of slaves at once, and during the Anti-corn Law agitation expediency was urged, as it was assumed the repeal would ruin the farmers. But the slaves were liberated, because it was just; and the Corn Laws were repealed because they were unjust. Is this an infallible assertion, then, that competition with man will destroy the charm of a woman's character, or does it not involve the assumption that of a woman's character will gravitate to man's like the needle to the magnet—that woman will become man in the public world. But these writers are fond of saying that in home life woman is supreme, that the man gravitates towards the woman. Let them then not forget that the State is nothing more or less than an aggregation of homes. If woman is allowed to exercise her influence in the interests of the individual home, why not in the interests of the aggregation of homes? as the interests of the many must approximate to the interests of the one. If the influence of woman in a limited sphere is granted to be so great, then if this sphere be extended the probability is that this influence will continue. At least the opposite must not be taken for granted without proof. Neglected as is the department of Political Science in our University, we venture to say that women are passing through who know more about the principles of politics and good government than seventy-five per cent. of our politicians. We might say here, in passing, that if less Hebrew were taught in our non-sectarian College, and more political science, the power of the political machine would be considerably weakened, and if men, instead of giving money to perpetuate their own names, would give it for educational purposes, we might have a university of thought and not of names. It is said that woman votes indirectly, and that to give her the franchise merely means an increase in the number of voters. This is an unfair way of putting the case. The franchise is an educator, just as the trial by jury is. Who will doubt but that the two millions recently enfranchised in England will take a greater interest in the commonwealth than before, and seek to become familiar with political issues. This may produce inconvenience until these voters rise to their privileges, but all great reforms have been inconvenient for a time, yet in the great results that have followed they have been beneficial, and have developed the latent energies of mankind. And who can say, if the franchise and other political rights be extended to woman, that she will not develop thought and power that have been lost to the world for ages. Will man lose by the development of woman? What cramps her development must inevitably retard his progress. We have only to think of what Joan of Arc did for her native country, and what Harriet Beecher Stowe did for the slave, and think with regret of what might have been.

"Some village Hampden that, with dauntless breast,
The little tyrant of his fields withstood;
Some mute, inglorious Milton here may rest,
Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood."

Who can say that if woman's sphere had not been circumscribed that a woman's name might not have taken the place of every splendid name in this verse. If we have lost this power for freedom, for right and truth, in the past, is it wise for us to lose it in the future?

This is a matter of justice or injustice. If it is just, then woman need not fear the competition of man. Mean competition arises from the want of the feeling of brotherhood. In the olden time a man's kin alone were his brothers. Then the patriotic spirit developed, and the man's fellow-citizens became his brothers. And here the process of development seems to have ceased, and men of one country look with hatred upon men of another country. The press which fought so gloriously in the past for freedom now prates about Chinese immigration and clamours for war. The blissful serenity of the nineteenth century is astonishing. Millions of dollars are thrown away on an imaginary North Pole, on the

manufacture of lead and powder with which brother murders brother, while rank injustice reigns in every country and the poor die in the streets. It has been said that women are not soldiers, and therefore should not decide in questions of war. What influence more than woman's has tended to promote the feeling of brotherhood, and must this influence cease if woman is enfranchised? It may be that the solution of the problems of competition and war lie here. Will not her vote, her editorials in the press, be against the evils of war and for the widening of the bonds of brotherhood? The tendency of man's selfish nature is towards monopoly. To us there is a noble spirit of competition and a despicably mean one. Has it not been the noble competition of the past that has gained us our freedom? Is there not a mean spirit of competition which is only another name for the desire for monopoly? Is not a seeking-together-for-right a noble competition, and will not this triumph in the end against monopoly.

Many fallacies arise in arguing from an old state of things to a new. Does not selfishness, the mean spirit of competition, vanish to a great extent when the majority of men decide that women shall have these rights? The argument then that the desire for monopoly will destroy the fine character of woman loses its force, for the extension of these rights involves the absence of this desire for monopoly. These rights must be acknowledged by man, who holds the power of giving or refusing, and he will not give until he is taught that the selfish spirit of monopoly is wrong. When this vanishes the cause of alarm concerning woman's character will vanish with it. It is therefore necessary to educate man. Reforms do not come in a day. The hope of the world lies in education. It has banished the gloom of the middle ages, and it alone will solve the problems of the future. This leading-out of the mind, with all its adjuncts, must not be withheld from the female sex or a work is neglected which must be done in the future. The sooner man understands that woman is not a bundle of dynamite flung into the public world, the better for the State.

This reform will increase the influence of woman, giving her higher and wider aims, greater independence, and will place marriage on a nobler plane. At present marriage is looked upon too much as a convenience, and to most women who are dependent and cannot make their own living, it is the only means of subsistence. If these women were allowed to develop their faculties and powers, and to support themselves instead of having to come under the hands of husbands for their living, marriage would be less precipitate, which means less misery and a higher morality in the world.

Some writers are fond of flattering women on something which they make out to be a divine thing in instincts, as if she was wanting in reason and common sense. Some scientific writers measure the brains of woman, so many ounces of clay, compare them with man's, and conclude that it is useless to develop woman because the weight of her brain will not allow it. This gross materialism, which is not the fault of science but of those votaries who misapply it, is degrading true science in the eyes of the vulgar. It is all very well to talk of woman's face as the type of beauty, of her form as the type of grace, but these are dust and perishable. Woman has more than beauty of form and instinct, which are the essence of animality; something which is above and beyond all this. It is her spirituality, her humanity. We have forgotten the latter too much and thought too much of the former. Woman has felt this, and has wasted and is wasting her life in mere temporal adornment of dress and cosmetics, neglecting the adornment of mind, which alone is permanent and truly desirable. Men and women are waking up to the thought of mutual loss. The power and greatness and beauty of the world are not material but transcendental. The essence of history is the conquest of thought over brute force. Let us not be slaves to animality and monopoly, but seekers after the development of humanity in the whole human race. Here is a great field for life work. Are our young men

going to avail themselves of it or fall under the tyranny of machines? The danger of the future is in the machine—in politics, in the pulpit, in the press. All these great fields need reformers, upholders of right. If we are independent enough to champion our convictions of right and justice, are we to weaken our ranks by casting from us the high-souled philanthropy of woman and stand alone? They will help us if we give them a chance for development and union. It will take time, we must wait and work. The poet Tennyson has caught the spirit of the subject finely. Listen :—

“The woman's cause is man's ; they rise or sink
Together, dwarfed or godlike, bond or free.

If she be small, slight-natured, miserable,
How shall man grow ? but work no more alone ;
Yet in the long years liker must they grow ;
The man be more of woman, she of man.

And so these twain upon the skirts of time
Sit side by side, full-summed in all their powers,
Dispensing harvest, sowing the To Be.

Ourselves are full
Of social wrong ; and may be wildest dreams
Are but the needful preludes of the truth.

This fine old world of ours is but a child ;
Yet in the go-cart, Patience, give it time
To learn its limbs !”

PHILLIPS STEWART.

University and College News.

A NIGHT WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

“COME up to the University Friday night, there's going to be some fun,” had been an invitation given me a day or two previous by an undergraduate friend. A desire to be a participant in any fun that might be going was, as usual with me, a potent inducement, and accordingly the early part of the evening named found me surveying through the falling snow the grey outline of the College buildings. Observing the eastern portion of the building lit up, I surmised at once that the anticipated amusement was to be looked for in this direction. I entered the eastern door and found, among a group standing guard about the entrance corridor, my friend of the invitation. Here the secret nature of the fun was made known to me in subdued whispers. It was the hazing of some four or five alleged unruly freshmen, to be held at the close of the public debate then in progress in Convocation Hall, and which, as it would be a means of passing the intervening time, I was advised to patronize.

Since the entertainment was the ordeal through which I was destined to pass as an introduction to the after ceremony, let me, that you may go through the same preparation, make it yours also by a short description of it.

The meeting had just commenced and the Hon. Geo. W. Ross been installed as chairman. The programme announced a Glee Club chorus. About forty students ascended the platform and with a show of modesty that surprised me, proceeded to arrange themselves so that all might enjoy the hospitable shelter of the piano and hide themselves from the gaze of the audience. This was, apparently, accomplished satisfactorily, though several were of necessity forced out into the cold of the wings, which they evidently resented, for they failed to afford their companions of the bunch any material assistance in their effort to rattle the over-towering rafters. The chorus was sung and encored. Following this came an exceedingly interesting essay on “Humorous Poetry,” by a Mr. Miller, a divinity student, I was told, and which indeed I

would have guessed from his manner of reading, for I several times found my hand by a sort of uncontrollable natural instinct searching in the remote corners of my pocket for a stray nickel, in expectation of being suddenly awakened from the reverie into which I had fallen by the well-remembered words striking my ear, “Let your light so shine,” etc. A reading, very fairly given by a good-looking young man with a white choker, was followed by a flute solo. The latter the accompanist successfully spoiled by very ill-advisedly taking advantage of his position to settle some odd scores against the piano.

This completed the introductory portion of the programme. During its continuance I had noticed on the corner of the stage, hemmed in by a table surmounted by a pitcher and glasses, four lonely-looking individuals. They had sat there surveying the audience with all the cheerfulness of countenance and ease of bearing of the occupants of a twenty-four foot roped enclosure. These I now saw were the champions of the debate on the question of the superiority of the American over the Canadian mode of government, which the programme called for. In appearance three of the quartette were tall and somewhat alike ; the fourth was short and with a more youthful countenance. The card announced as the first contestant J. McD. Duncan. At the call of his name one of the tall individuals took the floor. In an instant he was *in media res*. Neither want of breath, nor ideas nor words barred his course. His language was strong in argument and vigorous in expression, but his speaking was defective in its entire lack of variety of tone. Indeed, I would say that Mr. Duncan saw no reason why “Mary had a little lamb” and “The Charge of the Light Brigade” should not be recited in the same tone of voice.

On the same side spoke a Mr. MacMillan. This gentleman seemed to suggest the predicament of a man who, with his train waiting outside, had just fifteen minutes for refreshments and a twenty-four hours' fast to overtake. His attempt was tolerably successful. His material was well selected and utilized, and he satisfied the audience, if not himself.

These two presented the cause of the affirmative. The negative speakers, Bradford and Roche by name, were sandwiched in before and after the last speaker, but, as these gentlemen seemed to regard their cause as common only between the front row, the chairman and themselves, and did not condescend to notice our existence in the rear of the hall, I shall be forced to treat them in a similar manner.

The debate over, the performance, much to my relief, was finished.

[A contributor having in another column dealt with the initiation proceedings, we omit the description of them given by the writer of the above.—ED.]

“IXION'S CAVERNS.”

“There was a sound of revelry by night.

For lo! the Sophomores had gathered there
Some Freshmen for a chivaree,” etc.

The usual number of the good city folk favored our Society public debate with their attendance last Friday evening, little imagining, perhaps, that a rarer entertainment was in prospect for the night. Else how account for the presence of a half-a-dozen sagacious-looking minions of the law posted here and there about the place, the venerable President trudging through the snow, inspecting the Y.M.C.A. building and looking askance at the School of Science, and, last and most infallible sign, McKim more austere than usual as he paced up and down the corridors on sentinel duty. A casual visitor might have thought that these unwonted happenings betokened the expected visit of dynamiters, robbers, or some other equally evil-minded desperadoes. Not at all. It was an attempt to deprive the tutelary deity of the seniors of their annual sacrifice to her of the usual quartette of Freshmen. Alas ! it

availed not, and the wrath of the offended deity was presumably placated for another year.

Notwithstanding these attempts, the echoes of Convocation Hall had hardly become once more quiescent when it seemed that they had transferred themselves to the vaults below. For a large throng of stern and outraged seniors could be seen streaming in, accompanied by the unlucky verdants. No time was lost; magic-like, the gathering had resolved itself into mufti, solemnly arrayed, a dozen true and honest-looking jurymen, learned counsel for and against the prisoners, the zealous crier, ushers sturdy and watchful, ubiquitous reporters, and, finally, eager and all-attentive spectators. The mysteries of the orthodox knee-drill, grovellings, gallops, passings, together with divers other arcanal rites, were duly inculcated into the delinquents after their case had been more or less carefully and leniently considered by the court. And it must not be imagined that the eminent counsel for the defence left a stone unturned to secure their acquittal. But the odds were against him, for, not to talk of the vigilance on the part of the prosecution, the plea of mental aberration on which much reliance had been laid was peremptorily disposed of by his Lordship, who quoted as his authority the case of *The Seniors v. Holmes*, and, in fact, I must record it as my conviction that the mufti was altogether too conversant with the leading cases on the subject to be hoodwinked by the defence.

Sentence having been duly passed and carried out on the culprits, and their solemn declaration of secrecy being obtained, the court adjourned, with orders that the next session should be holden whenever the state of the docket would call for another general gaol delivery.

A GRAD.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The Mathematical and Physical Society held its last meeting for the Michaelmas Term in Lecture-room No. 8. Mr. J. M. Clark occupied the chair. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Mr. W. Stephen was elected Recording Secretary *pro tem*. Mr. Bowerman, in accordance with his previous notice, moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, "That a medal similar to the McMurrich medal of the Natural Science Association be awarded by this Society annually, and that the following committee: Messrs. Clark, Mulvey, and Martin, be appointed to consider the means of establishing and best method of awarding it, and report at the next meeting," which was unanimously carried. The most interesting part of the programme was a paper by Mr. A. Baker, M.A., on "Geometrical Criteria in cubic equations, and Geometrical Treatment of Fourier's Theorem." In this paper Mr. Baker, in a most ingenious and original manner, obtained geometrically, and graphically represented all the results that are algebraically obtained in cubic equations and Fourier's Theorem, by writers on the theory of equations; he pointed out that in these cases as in others, a marked symmetry between algebraical and geometrical processes and how they were complementary to each other. He stated his opinion that when equations could be solved it was by a certain transformation, if necessary, that corresponded to transforming the curve which the equation represented to a new axis with regard to which the curve bore a certain symmetry. He represented the curve denoted by the cubic equation in its solvable form, and traced the curve represented by the auxiliary equation which it is necessary to solve in order to obtain the roots of the cubic, applying it to all circumstances arising from variations in the constants. Fourier's Theorem was also treated in a similar interesting and lucid manner.

Messrs. Martin and Bowerman solved problems handed to the Secretary.

Mr. Baker, in reply to a vote of thanks tendered to him for the trouble he had taken in preparing a paper for the Society, gave some very pithy advice, and in particular advising them to take advantage of the other Societies whose proceedings are of a different nature to our own, in order to counteract the tendency produced by mathematics to meagerness of expression.

Messrs. S. J. Saunders and A. Elliot were elected members, and A. F. Hunter proposed for membership. The Society then adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in January.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The regular meeting of the above Society was held in the School of Practical Science on Tuesday afternoon. The President, Prof.

Galbraith, occupied the chair. After the routine business had been transacted Mr. E. F. Ball read a very interesting paper on "Asphalt Pavements" which showed careful study and observation.

Mr. Ball first gave a short historical outline of asphalt, then minutely described,—its chemical constituents and adaptation to different climates; the best method of preparing it for pavements; the preparation of the road-bed, and finally the laying of the asphalt on this bed. The next paper was read by Mr. E. W. Stern, a graduate of this school, who, having spent three years in the field, was in the position to add to the transactions of the Society a very valuable paper on "Railroad construction." The organization of parties and the duties of every man on the staff were thoroughly indicated. He then described the best methods of,—staking out work, refering hubs, cross sectioning, keeping cross section notes, laying out bridges and culverts, and of diverting rivers and streams where necessary. Systems of monthly and final estimates were investigated and an original plan of noting "borrow pits" explained. After pointing out some useful checks on contractors and how to lay track, Mr. Stern gave some valuable information concerning the different instruments used in railroad work.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The last regular meeting of the Natural Science Association for Michaelmas term was held last Tuesday evening, the Vice-President, F. T. Shutt, B.A., in the chair. In a very interesting paper on "Mining in Freiberg," Mr. H. R. Wood, B.A., charmed his audience by his vivid description of old Freiberg and his first descent of the mines. Mr. Fyfe followed with a paper on "Amphioxus," describing minutely its habits, anatomy and development. Mr. Brent read a paper on "The Physical Geography and Geology of the Lesser Antilles," in which he endeavored to show the former connection of these Islands with South America, as indicated by geology, geography, and the fauna and flora of the group. A number of sketches and diagrams accompanied the paper.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB.

At a meeting of undergraduates in Moss Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 1st, it was resolved that an Historical and Political Science Association should be formed, no provision having been made for lectures in these branches. A committee was chosen to draft a constitution and report week from date. On Tuesday, Dec. 8th, the meeting was opened by reading of papers from Messrs. J. W. Garvin and J. McMillan, who respectively supported views for and against Henry George on the subject of "Nationalisation of Land." A lively discussion from those present was summed up by Mr. Houston, who occupied the chair. The report of the committee on constitution was then presented, accepted and adopted. It was formed upon the basis of the Literary Society constitution.

The following were then nominated for the respective offices:—President, W. Houston, M. A.; 1st Vice-President, Messrs. S. H. Bradford, J. McD. Duncan, T. M. Logie, Jas. Ross Chamberlain, Geo. Patterson; 2nd Vice-President, Messrs. J. G. Hume, J. McMillan, Wright and Kelly; Recording Secretary, N. H. Russell, Ferguson, H. Aikins, J. Crawford, McMurchie, J. W. Garvin; Corresponding Secretary, Messrs. Wilson, McGee, McNamara; Treasurer, Messrs. Mitchell, G. Crozier, J. G. Shearer; Councillors Messrs. Mann, J. A. Taylor, W. H. Hunter, E. G. Fitzgerald.

Subject for discussion next Tuesday evening is, Direct and Indirect Taxation. Meeting will be in Moss Hall at 4 o'clock.

A full meeting, to which both graduates and undergraduates are invited, is looked for.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

At the first English meeting of the Modern Language Society after the new year, the "Life and Works of Longfellow" will be discussed. Dr. Wilson has kindly consented to preside. The programme will consist of:—"Life of Longfellow," T. C. DesBarres; "Evangeline," Miss Lennox; "Hiawatha," A. Stevenson, B.A.; "Tales of a Wayside Inn," J. E. Jones; "Dramatic Works," T. Logie; "Readings from Longfellow," by H. J. Cody and J. Moss. This will be followed by a discussion of the essays and of Longfellow in general.

An invitation is extended to all interested in the subject of the evening. Dr. Wilson has also kindly consented to give a short course of readings from Browning, for the benefit of the College students specially. These will no doubt be given early next term, and on Saturday mornings, so that all students may have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with one of the greatest minds of our century.

At the last meeting of the Modern Language Club, the chair was

occupied by Mr. J. Squair, M.A. Mr. M. L. Rouse gave an address on "Music in Speech." The various theories advanced were not strikingly original, the same ground having been covered by Helmholtz and others.

Y. M. C. A.

The regular weekly meeting was held in Moss Hall, on Thursday afternoon. Mr. C. C. Owen read a full and interesting paper on Missions in the North-West. He showed the civilizing influence which the Gospel has had on the Indians in that territory. Brief remarks on the same subject were made by Messrs. Reid and Russell.

A business meeting was held immediately afterwards, at which the semi-annual nomination for officers of the Society was proceeded with. Mr. R. R. McKay, the retiring president, and Mr. C. C. Owen were the nominees for President. Mr. J. McD. Duncan was re-elected to the Vice-Presidency. Mr. T. H. Rogers remains in his office of Corresponding Secretary. Mr. H. E. A. Reid, Mr. J. McP. Scott, and Mr. N. H. Russell, were nominated for the position of Recording Secretary. Mr. J. E. Jones was unanimously re-elected to the Treasurership, while for the office of Assistant Treasurer Messrs. Cody, Desbarres and Forin were nominated. It is hoped there will be a large attendance at the last meeting of the session on Thursday afternoon next.

The ladies of the different churches of the city have decided to undertake the furnishing of the new Y. M. C. A. building, and with that view have organized an auxiliary society in connection with the College organization. It is hoped everything will be in readiness to open the new building about the end of January.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE.

The opening of the new Library has been postponed until early in January, on account of the Christmas examinations. It is, however, finished, and is a very handsome room. A detailed description would be tedious; but the men will be glad to show visitors over the building. The residence could not be more comfortable, every room being supplied with a steam coil and all the latest improvements. We understand that there are four or five rooms available for University Students as there are not quite enough theolgs. yet to fill the building.

THE UNDERGRADUATE DINNER.

The dinner given by the undergraduates of University College, last night, at the Queen's Hotel, was a most emphatic success in every respect. It was a thoroughly representative gathering of undergraduates, there being over 150 present.

Among the guests were: His Worship the Mayor, Mr. Charles Moss, Q.C., Dr. Macfarlane, Rev. Dr. Potts, Rev. Dr. Castle, Rev. Dr. Sheraton, Rev. Father Teefty, Hon. G. W. Ross, A. B. Aylesworth, H. E. Clarke, M.P.P., Mr. Pedley, of McGill, Mr. Kerby, of Victoria, Mr. Symonds, of Trinity, Mr. A. MacMurchy, Wm. Houston, and numerous others.

The faculty were well represented, the only members absent being: President Wilson, Professors Young and Chapman.

Mr. G. A. Cameron, the Secretary, read letters of regret, from His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, Professor Goldwin Smith, Hon. Oliver Mowat, Vice-Chancellor Mulock, Rev. D. J. Macdonell, and others.

The *menu* was in the best style and well sustained the high reputation of the Queen's. At a little after eight o'clock the chairman, Mr. D. J. MacMurchy, of the fourth year, took the chair, and the guests sat down to enjoy the creature comforts provided for them in so liberal a manner.

The vice-chairs were filled by Messrs. A. H. Young and F. B. Hodgins.

Special mention must be made of the *menu* card, which was the handsomest thing of the kind yet produced in Canada.

The speeches were most entertaining, and, with one or two exceptions, just the right length. Those made by the undergraduates displayed considerable wit and post-prandial humor, and elicited loud applause.

Before the toast list was commenced, the chairman, in a few well-chosen sentences, welcomed the guests of the evening, and expressed regret that Dr. Wilson, President of the College, and Professors Young and Chapman were unable to be present.

The toast of "The Queen" was then drunk with all the honors. In response to a request of the chairman, His Worship the Mayor made a few remarks.

The Minister of Education and H. E. Clarke, M.P.P., responded with patriotic speeches to the toast of "Canada."

For "The Learned Professions," Rev. Dr. Potts, Mr. Charles Moss, Q.C., and Dr. McFarlane responded.

To the toast of the "Sister Institutions," Rev. Principals Castle and Sheraton, the Rev. Father Teefty, and Messrs. Pedley, of McGill, Kerby, of Victoria, and Symonds, of Trinity, responded most felicitously.

"The Faculty" brought forth responses from Professors Hutton, Loudon, Pike, and Baker.

For "The University and Graduates" Messrs. Baker and Aylesworth, B.A., replied.

The toast of the evening, that of "'K' Company," was responded to by Sergt. Cronyn, and Messrs. Marshall and G. S. Macdonald, B.A., who related some of their experiences whilst in the North-west.

For the "Graduating Class" Messrs. G. A. Cameron and J. Ross did their duty nobly.

Mr. Rowan spoke most eloquently on behalf of "The Ladies," especially the "fair undergraduates with their golden hair," in whom Mr. Rowan has a warm interest.

For "The Press," Mr. Phillips Stewart of the VARSITY replied. Mr. F. H. Moss nobly represented the "dish of greens."

The speeches of Dr. Potts, Professor Hutton—on the "Endowment of Research"—Mr. Aylesworth, and Mr. Pedley (of McGill) were the best among many good ones, the speech by Professor Hutton being a most humorous and happy effort.

The importance of this event is all the more noteworthy, since it is the first really Undergraduate dinner that has been held by the students of Toronto University. We hope that it is the predecessor of many similar gatherings of the Undergraduates of our glorious old *Alma Mater*.

During the evening numerous College songs were sung by Messrs. Morphy, Boyd, McKeown, Hughes, Kent, Needler, Garvin and Hume.

About 1.30 this morning the assembly broke up, and thus ended one of the largest and most successful University dinners ever given in the City of Toronto.

RUGBY FOOT-BALL.

The season just closed was very successful for the Varsity, as will be seen from the following record:—

	Won,	Lost.
Oct. 14, Varsity vs. Upper Canada College.....	0	2
Oct. 16, Varsity vs. Agricultural College.....	67	0
Oct. 23, Varsity vs. Trinity College.....	21	0
Oct. 28, Varsity vs. Upper Canada College....	19	0
(Played only 40 minutes on account of darkness)		
Oct. 31, Varsity vs. Ottawa College.....	2	19
Nov. 7, Varsity vs. McGill College.....	17	1
Nov. 21, Varsity vs. Toronto.....	33	1

Total number of points..... 159 23

Seven matches were played, of which the Varsity won five and had one drawn. The only one lost was that with the Ottawa College team, who subsequently proved to be the champions. On November 21 the Varsity won from the Torontos the challenge cup presented by Mr. J. K. Kerr. The names and weights of the team were:—Forwards—W. B. Nesbitt, 173 lbs., H. B. Cronyn, 173, H. MacLaren, 164, A. Elliott, 161, F. M. Robertson, 153, H. B. Bruce, 153, D. Ferguson, 153, A. G. Smith, 157, G. Richardson, 144, J. S. MacLean, 137. Quarters—J. H. Moss, 146, E. C. Senkler, 146. Halfs—C. Marani, 157, H. J. Senkler, 145. Full—W. P. Mustard, 166. The average weight was 156.

The team certainly deserved all the success they had, as it was won by hard work. This year they played more of an open game in the scrimmage than formerly, which made it very fast; but the forwards were fully equal to it, following up the ball in splendid style. The backs and wings played well together and very unselfishly; their passing and kicking was invariably good and sure, much better than it has been for some years. Another new feature was the number of goals dropped from the field, five in all.

The outlook for next year is very good. The team will lose only three members, Elliott, Cronyn and Mustard, all good men, especially the last, who will be very difficult to replace. On the other hand several good new players are coming to college, and there are some very promising ones among the second team.

The second fifteen practiced the same good team game as the first, with the following success:—

	Won.	Lost.
Oct. 31, against Toronto 2nd.....	23	0
Nov. 14, " Trinity College School.....	5	8
Nov. 28, " Torontos 2nd.....	17	1

Total number of points..... 45 9

Dec. 12, 1885.

THE LATE MR. S. W. BROAD, B.A.

It is our painful duty to record the death of Mr. S. W. Broad, B.A., of the University class of 1884. Last midsummer Mr. Broad was seized with a cold which settled upon his lungs, consumption set in, and after an illness of four months, he died on the 2nd inst., at the residence of his father, Mr. John Broad, of Little Britain, in the twenty-sixth year of his age.

Mr. Broad was an honor graduate in the department of Mental Science and Civil Polity. He will be remembered by many as an active supporter of the College Glee Club. After graduation Mr. Broad chose the Law as his profession, and last May passed his first intermediate examination at Osgoode Hall. He was pursuing his law studies at Lindsay when attacked by the illness which proved fatal.

Mr. Broad was a dutiful son, affectionate brother and true friend. In all that he had to do he was a determined and conscientious worker. His death is lamented not only by the bereaved family, but by a wide circle of companions and friends. His leaf has perished in the green, but his memory will be held dear by those who knew him in life.

Communications.

LL.D.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:—

SIR:—My attention has been called to an article of yours on my proposed amendment to the statute relating to the degree of LL.D. You have let loose the dogs of war upon a very unoffending, innocent bill, but before you slaughter it in such a high-handed manner, perhaps you will listen to what may be said in favour of it.

Suppose the degree of M.A. were to be suddenly wiped out without consulting the present holders of the degree of B.A., would not that course strike you as unjust? Wherein in principle does the abolition of the degree of LL.D., without consulting the LL.B.'s, differ from that case? Yet this is what is now done. A good many men of respectable abilities and fair standing have taken the LL.B. course. It was promised to them that on complying with certain requirements they would become entitled to a degree of LL.D. They have in no way forfeited their standing. They apply now for their LL.D. and they are told "No." These degrees are now only "Honorary." It seems to me the case need only be stated to show how unjust has been the step taken.

Surely what is only fair is that all of those who were entitled to the degree of LL.D. in course at the passing of the statute making the degree honorary, should have an opportunity given them of at all events trying for the degree. That is my proposition. I want faith kept with all men who come up, and while I am as earnest an advocate of reform as anybody, I want reform united with justice.

Theoretically the senate has the right to extinguish the degree, but it has not, in my opinion, the right to abolish it without providing for the case of those to whom it was held out as an inducement to take the course. Your own sense of justice will sustain such a contention.

I would like to add a word or two on another subject. Mr. King's statute, reviving medals, has been defeated. Hereafter a man leaves the University. It is a fair question, and so long as human nature is human nature the question will be asked: What triumphs brings he home? What has he to show in answer to that question? Nothing. Heretofore a man who did well had his medal, and however trifling the value, there was a sentiment about it which no subsequent trials or misfortunes could extinguish—in fact, these very trials and misfortunes make the memory more pleasant. I am afraid the tendency of many of the reforms you advocate is to destroy the romance of education. Your efforts are generally in the right direction and graduates may be proud of the advances you have made. But I would submit as worthy of con-

sideration, whether the prevalent spirit of utilitarianism should not be combated by educated men, and whether this very abolition of medals is not an unfortunate concession to that spirit. As for emulation stirring up malice, hatred and all uncharitableness, forgive me if I refuse to believe any such statement. Our maxim in my time was and I believe it is still: A fair field—no favour—and let the best man win.

Further, I think it not unfair to ask you: Would you have the University refuse a medal presented for competition? I do not think you would. If not, then the argument, *ab inconvenienti*, falls to the ground—leaving the discussion to be confined to a question of expediency from a money point of view. The expenditure is trifling, and past experience, so far as I know it, has warranted the advisability of the expenditure.

I am, yours obediently,

R. E. KINGSFORD.

Toronto, Dec. 3rd, 1885.

UNIVERSITY CUSTOMS.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

It is impossible for a man possessing even in a small degree the power of observation, to enter our university without at once recognising the despotic rule of that uncrowned king, Custom, and the severity and injustice of his unwritten laws. The custom which at present stands prominently forward is hazing. We are told that in this the British universities are our models, and it will no doubt surprise the advocates of everything British, to know, that the Oxford and Cambridge we copy, date nearly ten years back, and that at present the system is well nigh effete in these places. In Scotland and Ireland the custom has been long since consigned to the limbo of forgotten things. It is passing strange in the face of these facts, that our university, destitute of the plea of heredity or the power of tradition, should cling to a custom, at no time indigenous to a free soil. We pride ourselves (*vide* Dr. Wilson's convocation address) upon building up a system of University Education, suited to the needs of a new country. It seems strange, however, that we should not be able to develop a distinctive college life, but be forced to copy,—as do all copyists—the weaknesses of others.

The time has come for those who take an interest in our university to take sides on this question and compel the senate to adopt strict measures for its suppression.

At present it looks as though bribes were needed, in the form of scholarships, to draw students to our halls and laxity of discipline to keep them. "There is something rotten in the State of Denmark."

The folly of perpetuating this custom amongst us will appear, when we remember that in this country our matriculating students vary in age and acquirements. There is the young lad possessing merely the technical knowledge, sufficient to pass an examination, and there are the young men of wider experience, who for years perhaps have worked hard at business or the farm and come now from responsible positions to prepare for their life's work. To the latter class, everything is real and earnest, and it cannot be expected that they should submit to puerilities or senseless indignities which often degenerate into foul play. Many of the freaks which are mildly termed "obnoxious" arise from a mistaken conception of that state and position to which respect is due. Many of the unjust acts are the result of a desire to enforce respect in accordance with this mistaken conception. What is this erroneous position? It is simply this: In this democratic university, where we should acknowledge no aristocracy but that of intellect, no "betters" but those whose moral worth is indisputably clear, we make length of attendance at university the standard of respect and of all excellence. In fact, we reverse the idea held by cultured men, and count our lives by years, not by deeds.

This artificial standard is the source of great trouble.

A freshman, whose sole desire is to stand up for the right, naturally resents—as he has a perfect right to do—the bull-doing and cowardice of these self-constituted authorities. His conduct is styled “fresh” and “cheeky” by these competent judges of such things, and he is at once a marked man, although perhaps his culture, deportment and feelings would never have led him into collision with any but the base and “whatever loathes a law” had he not first been the subject of attack. * It must be remembered, to their honour, that up to this point many of the senior students join in for pure fun’s sake and here stop.

It is needless to say that those who do not stop here, but go on and constitute themselves a “hazing party,” do not embrace the morals, intellect, or culture of the university. Some thirty or forty organize and others follow in their wake. We cannot allow that these men represent the university or college either before or after graduation, for in the past we have observed that the professions and literature do not draw largely from this list, as the habits and tastes formed whilst at college are not calculated to elevate or refine.

It is said in extenuation that leaders of the Y. M. C. A. make themselves prominent at these meetings. If this be so, we must say that their conduct is open to severe criticism. It is certainly indiscreet, and they cannot blame freshmen who refuse to be charmed into their meetings, charm they never so wisely, and who fail to recognize them as dignitaries when the sign posts of consistency, polite bearing and refined courtesy are not visible. It is said that the idea is to teach freshmen better things. The class referred to are not qualified to instruct in the departments of morals, manners, or ideas, and the sooner we wake up to the fact the better.

Let us make the word student a synonym for gentleman. Let us aim at making all students feel that right is right, since God is God, and that they should go on in college “with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right,” remembering the motto, “Freedom for the right means suppression of the wrong.”

VIGILANTIBUS.

IS COMPETITION CHOICE OR NECESSITY?

To the Editor of THE VARSITY :

SIR :—One of your correspondents in last week’s VARSITY has done me the favour to reproduce a paragraph from a communication of mine to you, replying to some objections advanced in your editorial columns, on the giving of scholarships in the University of Toronto, and University College. Of course I feel somewhat gratified that my feeble words have been thought worth of reappearing in your paper, a feeling, however, which is somewhat modified by the fact that these opinions, when weighed in the balance of a maturer judgment, have seemed so light and at the same time so utterly at variance with those of your correspondent as to impel him to couple with the paragraph in question the epithet of “childish.” I am quite ready to appropriate to my opinions anything of frankness and honesty which may be implied in the word, and to credit him freely with all the advantage, which by the use of so comprehensive and graphic an epithet so ingeniously applied naturally accrues to his efforts in demolishing what I have so naively advanced. I assure you I have read with much interest and pleasure his exceedingly brilliant and well-worded communication, which at times approaches eloquence. We can hardly too much admire the nobility of the spirit which inspires the writer of it. His ideals are lofty and his aims are no doubt the very best.

It seems, however, that you and I and the rest of us who, like “plain blunt men, only speak right on,” with no eloquence and very little logic, have failed to grasp the real question. We have been pruning at the branches of a great upas tree, when we should have been seeking its root. We have at least got somewhat nearer to the question than those who discuss it solely as a matter of dollars and cents. I leave your editorial mind to imagine how far those are out of the way, who with what our correspondent would

call “ghastly incongruity” are ready to teach and encourage young men to compete “like swine scrambling for food,” and who sees the question only in its practical aspect of whether or not the University has funds to spare for this unholy business.

Your correspondent has shown us how to resolve the question into its elements and to deal with it in a way which will probably set it at rest for ever. He has transferred it to the domain of speculation, and there, singled out and at bay, he gives it the *coup de grace*. What now becomes our trivial little dispute about scholarships is intimately connected with, is indeed only an offshoot of great speculative question of competition in general in the plan of nature and society. Of course the question is vast, and it would be inaccurate to call it a new one. Competition at any rate is not a new thing in the universe. for the great fact which stands out in relief in our observation of the whole natural world is that of competition. If we traverse the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms, we find everywhere competition sharp and definite, with the one exception, that the fossil remains have retired from it—their fighting days are over. In the animal kingdom, from the protozoa up to man, the race is, and has been to the swift, and the battle to the strong. In primitive mankind doubtless, competition was as vigorous as it is now, when it is so forced upon every individual of us by circumstances that, so long as we remain in the world and are members of human society, it is utterly and absolutely impossible to escape it. To use the commonest sort of illustration. A cannot successfully apply against B for the privilege of sawing my wood without being guilty, indirectly, of taking the bread out of B’s mouth ; and on the other hand, if A does not successfully apply against B, he takes the bread out of his own mouth. The stern force of a necessity not laid on him by himself compels him to choose. There are, I believe, some persons blasphemers of the newer creed, who, applying to university matters, the conclusions drawn from the observations of this phenomenon, would go so far as to say that the friendly emulation and generous competitions of college days even fit men better for what is their inevitable destiny outside of college walls. However, that may be, I have often thought upon this general problem in my humble way, and I have done so hitherto without finding a satisfactory solution. It is indeed a question which has vexed many minds. The fact is there. Some have contended that competition is a salutary principle, without which nature and society would be impossible, an invigorating principle which by its reflex action produces strength.

Your correspondent admits the fact of competition, and I think he would willingly admit its universality, but he finds a new and satisfactory explanation for that part of it which affects us, most satisfactory indeed the explanation should be, if the authority of this hierophant of nature is at all in proportion to the positiveness of the explanation and to the decision with which he deals with a question which has puzzled generations. The perspicuity with which he brings it to the level of our capacity is specially grateful. The invisible hand which guides the universe has erred, something has gone wrong in the plan, “to struggle with one another, we were not made so.” The competition is everywhere, it has crept in somehow, and it must be admitted that men have succeeded marvelously well in doing what they were not made or fitted to do. Those who believe in the infallibility of nature’s methods, or in the designer of them, take the competition with the rest as a part of the great plan, a part which may have its dark side, but which is in the main good, and working for good. But we are assured that “we were not made so,” and there is an end of it.

Now, sir, how can you or I or any one else have a word more to say on the scholarship question ? We have reached the root of the matter, and nothing is left now, seeing that we have been set right, but to accept the assurance of the gentleman who so eloquently interprets to us nature’s intentions, and to subside into a dignified and respectful silence.

W. H. FRASER.

Toronto, Dec. 9th, 1885.

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gregation the Central church Xmas and New
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for the New Year.) on Sunday evening, Dec. 20.

Fact and Fun.

"A new way to pay old debts" : One hun-
dred cents on the dollar.

At the bank—Robber (levelling his revolver
at the head of the paying teller), "Hold up
your hands. I'm the leader of the new James
gang." Paying teller (going on with his
counting), "Sorry, sir; don't know you!
You'll have to be identified."

The only young lady student at the Boston
University Law School is called appropriately
by the men law students their sister-in-law.
—*N. Y. Post.*

Johns Hopkins imitates the German uni-
versities so far as to have a little club room
where students and teachers meet to drink
German beer and sing German songs.

In a Sixth avenue street-car filled with
ladies a ninety-pound dude sat wedged in
one corner. At Twenty-third street a fat
woman, handsomely dressed, and with a little
dog in her arms, got on. The little dude
struggled to his feet and touched his hat
politely, remarking facetiously, "Madame,
will you take this seat?" The fat lady
looked at the crevice he had left and thanked
him pleasantly. "You are very kind, sir,"
she said; "I think it will just fit the dog."
And it did.—*St. Paul Globe.*

Bowdoin is to have a new brick gym-
nasium, 50 by 80 feet, with bath rooms, and
a place for base ball practice in the basement,
and a race track in the second storey. The
total cost will be \$90,000.

The good humored Dr. McCosh, of Prince-
ton, has smiled scores of times when told
that the secret and sepulchral midnight pass-
word was : "Jimmy McCosh, begosh !"

"What do you think of Fielding?" asked
a Boston girl of a Harvard graduate. "Oh,
it's important, of course, but it don't amount
to anything without good batting."

A girl at Harvard, Miss Brown, of the
Annex, led the entire college in all its de-
partments. She passed the examinations to
enter on an equal footing with her brothers,
took instructions from the same professors,
though at separate recitations, and headed
them all in rank. She could not take a
diploma, but she received a certificate of
testimony of what she had done.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has been sued
by some students of the Connecticut Literary
Institute for twice failing to fulfill an engage-
ment to lecture.

Nine students of the Ohio Wesleyan Uni-
versity, at Delaware, have been suspended
and ordered to leave town for witnessing a
performance of "Richard III.," in violation
of the college rules.

The regents of the University of Wiscon-
sin have appropriated \$50.00 to aid the Jun-
ior class in publishing an annual.

Eight of the students of the Wesleyan
University, U. S., have lost their scholarships
for "ducking" the Freshmen.



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Dr. McCosh of Princeton, is celebrated for egotism, and the best of it he is never conscious of it. He has a broad Scotch accent, and the habit of gnawing at the joint of his thumb when busily thinking. Some years ago he was lecturing before the senior class in Princeton college. He had been discussing Leibnitz's view of the reason of evil, to the effect that mankind was put upon the earth because there was less evil here than elsewhere.

One of the seniors inquired; "Well, Doctor, why was evil introduced into the world?" "Ah!" said the Doctor, holding up both hands, "ye have asked the hardest question in all feolosophy. Suckrates tried to answer it and failed; Plato tried it, and failed; Kant attempted it, and made bad work of it; Leibnitz tried it, and he begged the whole question as I've been tellin' ye; and I confess (gnawing at his thumb knuckle)—I confess I don't know—what—to mak of it myself."

The property of the late Victor Hugo is valued at \$1,500,000.

When a pair of red lips are upturned to your own,
With no one to gossip about it,
Do you pray for endurance to let them alone?
Well, maybe you do—but I doubt it.

When a slight little hand you are permitted to seize,
With a velvety softness about it,
Do you think you can drop it with never a squeeze?
Well, maybe you do—but I doubt it.

When a tapering waist is in reach of your arm,
With a wonderful plumpness about it,
Do you argue the point 'twixt the good and the harm?
Well, maybe you do—but I doubt it.

And if by these tricks you should capture a heart,
With a womanly softness about it,
Will you guard it, and keep it, and act the good part?
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