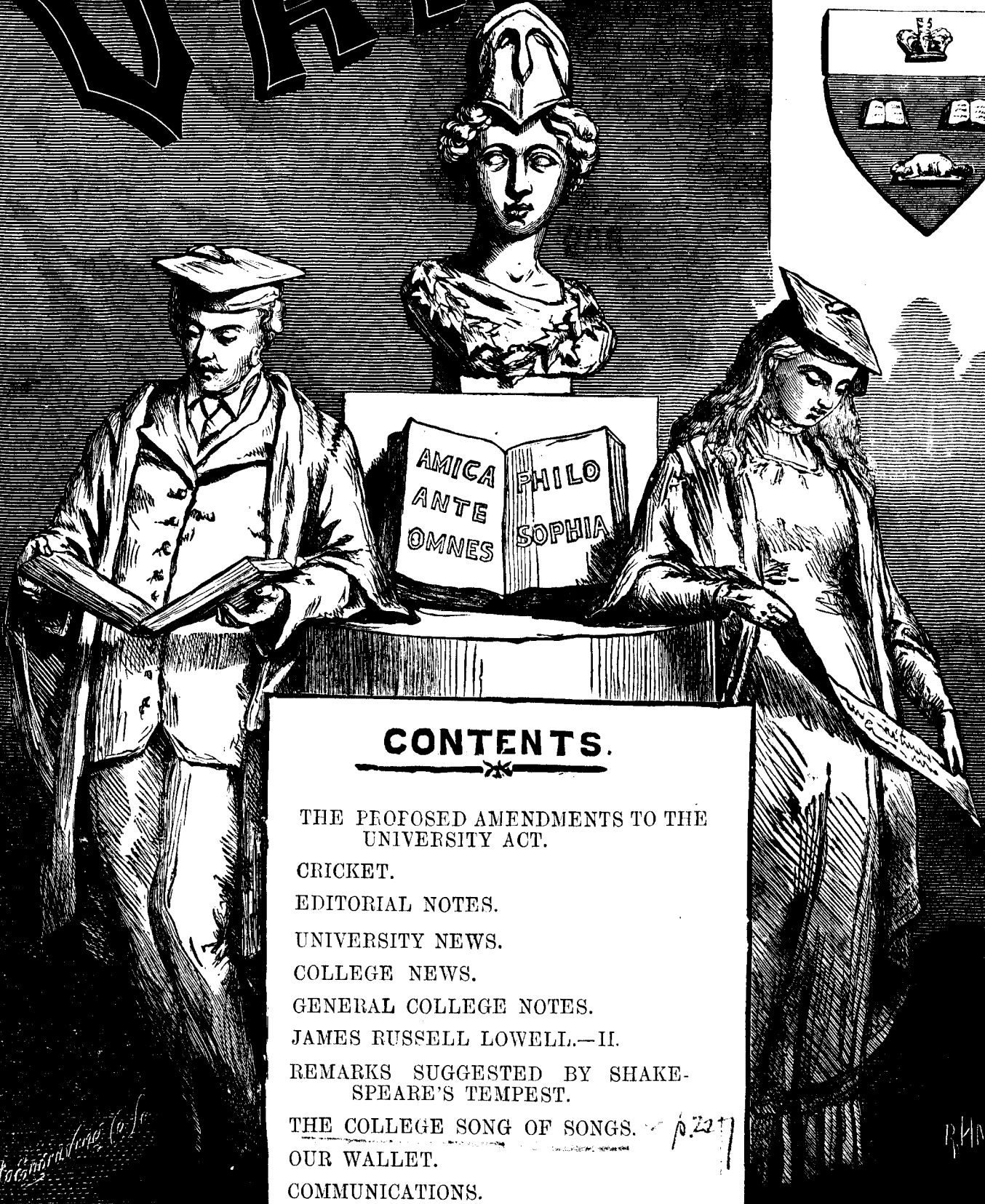


THE UNIVERSITY



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University of Toronto, March 1, 1884.

profusion of crisp yellow beard upon red truthful lips, full but firmly closed as those of Leighton's 'Sansome.' But it would be upon the forehead and the eyes that I would concentrate all my art. Around an open smooth forehead should cluster short golden curls with a frank space between well-marked brows. And underneath these dark, deep-set, dauntless blue eyes, filled to the brim with the steadfastness of a great purpose and a high resolve, should look straight out at you from the canvas meeting yours, and seem to look past you and far, far beyond you.

'All arm'd I ride, whate'er betide,
Until I find the Holy Grail.'

And through the noble gravity and seriousness of the face should play the light of a joy within like a child's, for with him there is no continual struggle between the powers of good and evil; his is an innocent nature strong in its almost unconscious virginity. —E. C.

* * *

THE RISING OF THE MOON.

Fresh from her bath in the eastern sea,
In argent glow of bare beauty
Rises the moon;
Her naked radiance is flung
In silver streams, the locks among
Of mid-night June;
As the sailor his waning lantern trims
He sees the sheen of those glistening limbs
And falls in swoon;
And lo! she careless wanders till,
With silver foot-prints shining still
The sea is strewn.

—FREE LANCE.

February 28th, 1884.

* * *

The London *Times* tell the following stories of Dr. Jacobson, the late Bishop of Chester, England: A new appointment had been made to a well-known Chester church, and at a dinner party shortly afterward the 'new man' was the subject of conversation. The Bishop said not a word until directly appealed to by a lady present. 'What do you think of the new vicar, my lord?' 'I think,' replied his lordship, 'that he is a middle-aged man.' Another story of a similar kind took its rise when the cathedral nave was re-opened. A certain dean, whose party leanings were a little undecided just then, was one of the special preachers. After service two dignitaries were engaged in a little friendly criticism of the sermon in the Chapter House. Said the first, 'It struck me as being rather low.' 'How curious, now,' said the other, 'I thought it rather High,' and appealing to the Bishop, who was present, 'What did you think, my lord?' 'Why,' replied his lordship, with a roguish sparkle in his eye, 'I considered it rather long.'

* * *

HORACE: BOOK IV., ODE X.

O, cruel boy, while you are Venus' care,
E'en things, which others may not, you may dare;
So soon, however as your beard doth grow,
And locks, that now do shine, are white as snow;
When your cheeks' bloom, now fairer than the rose,
Shall change and then a shaggy face disclose;
Then shall you say, whene'er before the glass
You see yourself a different figure pass:
'How comes it, now, that I have not to-day
The mind I had when but a boy at play;
That with this mind, which now belongs to me,
Unblemished cheeks do not at all agree?'

—MAC.

* * *

As a consolation to sundry Residence men whose minds dwell on the devastations of the evening of the *Conversazione*, we clip the following from one of our exchanges:

'While the President of Williams was giving a reception to the senior class, some youths took all the refreshments which had been provided for the occasion.'

Communications.

To the Editor of the 'VARSITY.

DEAR SIR,—As the notice of examinations has already appeared in the papers, it may not be too early to draw attention to the trouble and inconvenience experienced by the way the desks in Convocation Hall are usually allotted at the May exams.

All seem desirous of obtaining seats in the Hall; but, owing to its limited capacity, a large number are, of course, disappointed. Now, I think there is a very simple method of assigning the seats, and one that no reasonable person could object to.

Let the ladies and fourth year men receive their desks first, then the third year, and so on. Surely this would be no injustice to the second and first year men. At previous exams, some fourth year honor men, who were writing nearly the whole time, have had to seek places in lecture rooms, while pass men of lower years were seated in the Hall. By giving place for these brief remarks, you will greatly oblige

Yours truly, SENIOR.

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THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. IV. No. 19.

Mar. 1, 1884.

Price 10 cents.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY ACT.

A deputation from the Executive Committee of Convocation waited on the Minister of Education last Wednesday, on behalf of Convocation, to present a draft of proposed amendments to the University Statutes. The desired changes all point in one direction, and have one object,—that of making Convocation more representative of graduate opinion, and more manageable. And there seems to be no doubt that the amendments asked for will be granted by the Legislature.

It is proposed, in the first place, to make plain the power of Convocation to require the payment of a fee by its members as a condition to being placed on the register of those entitled to vote at the election of Chancellor and of the elective members of the Senate. This power was expressly given by Chap. 210 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario. But by subsequent legislation, which made all graduates in Arts, Medicine and Law members of Convocation, some doubt seemed to be thrown upon the continuance of a right which had never been exercised. This doubt it is now desired to remove. It is clear that if Convocation is to have any power, if it is to continue the exercise even of the limited functions it is now in possession of, it must have the right to raise, in itself, the means necessary to its active continuance. It has been decided to contribute, so far as the available finances will allow, to the travelling expenses of those members of the Executive Committee who do not live in Toronto. This is in every way desirable, and is but a fair return for the financial assistance of our country graduates in distant parts of the province. And it can be accomplished in no way but by a levy upon members of Convocation, as a condition to being allowed the highest privileges that membership in that body can afford.

It is proposed, also, to give Convocation power to call its own meetings, in such manner and at such times as to it shall seem fit. This is only a natural right. Now that Convocation has a complete and active organization and constitution, it is in a position to carry on its own business most satisfactorily in its own way. It will be easier and obviously more reasonable for the meetings of Convocation to be called by the Executive Committee, than in any other manner; for that Committee will be free from the necessity of adherence to technicalities, and it has already the preparation of business for deliberation and discussion. At present the Senate is bound to call a meeting of Convocation once a year, and extraordinary meetings, at least three months apart, at the requisition of twenty-five members. This, it is plain, cannot allow of the freedom of meeting that may at some time be desirable.

Representative voting in the meetings of Convocation is also asked for, the details of this representation to be left to Convocation itself. And those details will not be satisfactorily dealt with without the greatest difficulty. To allow our county associations an extension of power and a larger voice in the deliberations of Convocation, through their delegates, without the introduction of the worst features of the abominable system of proxy-voting, will not be a task of easy solution. The matter has been already discussed at some length; and if a satisfactory compromise can be arrived at, the fullest advantage allowed by the proposed amendment in this direction will be afforded.

It will be seen at a glance that the object of all these desired changes in our University Act is to make Convocation

more flexible and elastic in its working, and more fully capable of a useful discharge of the limited powers now allowed it. Convocation is advancing towards the position it ought to occupy in a University constituted as this is,—that of the House of Commons of University Government. Its constituency is increasing every year, and its influence becoming every year wider and stronger. It has now an organization fitted to its capacities and powers; and it is natural and right that it should be allowed the utmost freedom in the exercise of those capacities and powers, for its own advance in usefulness and vitality.

UNIVERSITY CRICKET.

It has always been a matter of deep regret to us that, while both branches of Football have always met with a considerable measure of success, our Cricket Club cannot show a like record. To all adherents of Cricket in University College who have indulged their imaginations with dreams of their Alma Mater's prowess in this line of sport, there are many and to a certain degree obvious reasons why the game cannot be placed on as firm a basis as the other clubs enjoy. Still, we cannot see clearly why, if the game can be supported, as it has been of late years, by a few 'enthusiasts,' Cricket, and the various interests pertaining to the sport, should not be more largely entered into by the great number of students who pass their annual vacation in and about Toronto. The cricketing season commences, as all are aware, just at that season of the year when the average undergraduate is either preparing for the annual examinations or is actually employed in ridding himself of their onus. But is not that just the time when, undergoing a heavy mental strain, he requires the greatest amount of physical exercise to enable him to keep up that strain? And in what way can exercise be taken in a pleasanter and less troublesome form than in an hour's practice at the nets? Experience has taught the great majority of cricketers that it is the only game which requires the closest attention, combined with a fair amount of exercise, the player can muster—an attention which will be called up generally whether the individual wills it or not. There is an engrossing, withal an exciting interest, to the merest tyro in the many technicalities of the game, in his attempts to defend his wickets from the onslaughts of bowlers, whose deliveries vary from the furiously-fast to the insidiously-slow pace, and, in addition, whose ever-changing accuracy of pitch and direction make it no small matter to protect one's stumps, and in some cases one's person, from petty injury. Naturally, during the month of May, that is, before the Queen's birthday, no matches can be played, but after that, if the 'Varsity can place a fairly good representative team in the field, there are a host of matches which can be arranged easily; and when our Inter-University match with Trinity comes off we can rely upon having a team which has at least played once or twice before the date of that important fixture.

That there is plenty of talent in University College is a fact which will be at once verified by any undergraduate who has watched the reports of cricket matches throughout the country in which students have taken part. Not only is there no lack of talent, but a high standard of excellence in the various departments of the game has been reached by the majority of student-players. What is required is to consolidate these players in the 'Varsity Club, and there is no doubt but the fickle Goddess

of Fortune will smile upon their endeavours, and the result will be strongly in favour of our representatives.

We cannot impress too firmly upon the College Council the necessity of the gardeners paying more attention to the turf, as regards rolling and weeding. Who, among the undergraduates of last year, does not remember the ludicrous exhibition made by the sturdy, but constitutionally-tired gardener, who led a horse, which was dragging a two hundred pound roller around the lawn once or twice during the first days of spring? After that it was not thought necessary to roll any more, and the consequence was that it was utterly impossible to pick a match-crease worthy of the name on our lawn, which appears so beautiful from the terraces. We hope that this season the Council will hire a decently-heavy roller, and give the staff of gardeners particular directions as to the scientific destruction of dandelions and other weeds, the mere cropping of which by a lawnmower will not annihilate them. We trust that when the annual meeting takes place there will be a large representation of students who are imbued with the desire to see this sport flourish in University College. In their selection of officers and committeemen they must, however, bear in mind that to make the machinery of the club effective, the members of that body must either be residents or intending residents of the city. It is needless to urge the reasons for this caution, for they are but too palpable to those who consider that the real cricket season does not commence until the Easter term has ended, and with this the annual dispersion of the students for four months.

Editorial Notes.

We beg, once more, to remind the reporters of the various affiliated Colleges and University Clubs that all communications should be in the sanctum by Thursday evening (at the latest), to insure publication the following Saturday. These reports form a large proportion of the reading-matter in the paper, and should be in the hands of the compositor early in the week. By such an arrangement, the editorials could be left to discuss the most recent events in University politics.

'Senior,' elsewhere suggests a solution of the difficulties arising from the limited seating capacity in Convocation Hall. The present arrangements for the allotment of seats at the examinations in May are undoubtedly unsatisfactory, but as long as two hundred seats are distributed among four hundred undergraduates, there will probably be two hundred of them dissatisfied with any arrangement. This is but one of the many grievances arising from the insufficiency of the University Exchequer to meet the growing demands resulting from an increased attendance of undergraduates.

A committee has been appointed by the Literary and Scientific Society to co-operate with that deputed by the Convocation to undertake the editing of a Year Book. Nothing has been done so far by either Committee towards getting out this valuable volume, and meetings should be at once held, plans canvassed, and every effort made to bring the book out at the earliest possible date. This will probably be not till after the long vacation, and indeed it would not be worth while to have it printed before that time, as its usefulness will be greatest at the opening of the year. To show the need of such a volume, we may state that Mr. Fitzgerald, Clerk of Convocation, is at present engaged in making a list of graduates in the Province and their addresses, and finds the task a tedious and difficult one. For the first year the publication of the Year Book will be no light task; in succeeding years it will be easier in every way. Let the first steps be taken, and the originators will be rewarded for their labour of love by seeing, we are convinced, a permanent institution established.

The delegates from Convocation who waited on the Minister of Education a few days ago were unable to state the feeling of Convocation on the question of the LL.D. degree, for the reason that the discussion had been so strictly confined to the Senate Chamber that nothing was or could be known, even to graduates, of the state of the case. The Minister very pertinently remarked that at least all measures which had legislation for their object ought to be discussed in the light of day, and that graduates ought certainly to be informed of proposed changes in the granting of degrees. There are, no doubt, matters which are best confined within four walls, and to open the Senate to the public in all its workings would be inadvisable, but there is no possible occasion for keeping such matters as the above in secrecy, and such a course we believe to be much to the detriment of the University.

The University Glee Club has had under consideration a plan for a tour during the Midsummer vacation. It is proposed to make a selection of sufficient good voices to render part-songs and choruses with effect, to get up a number of these, and then to sing down the St. Lawrence, giving entertainments by the way at the Thousand Islands, Montreal, Quebec, and elsewhere. Such a tour would proceed under considerable disadvantages from the time of year at which it would have to be undertaken—a time when a large number of people are away from town. It ought, therefore to be postponed until as late in the year as possible, and probably the latter part of September would be the best time for it. We believe that the Club has the material to make a brilliant success of a series of concerts such as the proposed, but only on the condition of painstaking and incessant practice. It would be very imprudent, and to the discredit of the University, if the Club were to enter into such an undertaking, unless fully qualified to make it a success in every point.

The following little clipping from the *Dominion Churchman* affords a good illustration of the arguments used by those who call our University a Godless institution because it is not under the thumb of any religious denomination. After mentioning that a mission meeting was held in the schoolroom of the Church of the Redeemer on the evening of the 14th of February, it continued thus:—'The attendance was not, we regret to say, as large as usual, owing to the University soiree being held at the same time—a somewhat symbolic circumstance, as mission meetings and non-Christian Colleges are antagonistic.' We do not quote these words in order to refute the charge conveyed by them. Those who make it know its value. We merely quote them to afford a few moments' amusement to our readers, and enable them to estimate the smallness of the mind possessed by this so-called organ of the Church of England in Canada. If the attractions presented to the good Church people by our conversazione are so much superior to those of a missionary meeting, we would suggest that in future these meetings be held on evenings when there are no such rival attractions. Then, no doubt, much more missionary spirit would be displayed.

University News.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The second ordinary meeting under the new procedure was held last night, the President in the chair. The Secretary not being present, the President called for voluntary readings. In response, Mr. A. H. Young read the *Battle of Waterloo*; J. G. Holmes the *Funeral of Napoleon*; Mr. H. J. Hamilton Alexander's *Feast*; and W. P. McKenzie a selection from *Joaquim Miller*. The Secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting, and the gentlemen proposed at the last meeting were declared members.

Messrs. A. M. Macdonell and J. G. Holmes gave notices of

motions; and Mr. Duff gave notice of motion that at the next meeting of this society he would move that \$50 be given to the Glee Club.

The President announced that, as J. G. Holmes had resigned as essayist for the next public debate, the general committee had appointed W. P. McKenzie in his place.

Mr. Cane gave notice of motion that the College Council be asked to defer their assent to the amendment that graduates be required to attend four meetings in order to vote. Mr. Robinette gave notice of motion that the graduates be exempted from attending four meetings in voting for President. The years then divided.

The subject of debate was, 'That the public endowment of Upper Canada College should be taken away and devoted to higher education.'

In the Senior division, Mr. T. W. Roswell, leader of the Affirmative, held that a number were taken away from the High Schools, and they were thus done an injustice; and if the rich wanted to separate their sons from the lower classes they should pay for it.

Mr. W. P. McKenzie, leader of the Negative, said that if the endowment of Upper Canada College was taken away, the Government would only have to give it to other sources, to supply the need of U. C. C., and that the endowment is not a direct tax.

Mr. A. F. McLeod then took the President's place.

A. Weir, affirmative, thought that there were other colleges that could take the place of Upper Canada College.

J. H. Bowes, negative, said that Port Hope, for instance, was sectarian and U. C. College was non-sectarian.

J. Short, affirmative, thought that U. C. College has had its day.

A. B. Thompson, negative, referred to the broad course taken by U. C. College.

J. G. Holmes thought that the usefulness of U. C. College was gone, and that its only use now was for aristocrats.

J. M. McWhinney, negative, spoke fluently in defence of the grant to Upper Canada College, holding that aside from the literary training, the *esprit de corps* nourished there fully recompensed the Province.

H. J. Cosgrove, affirmative, said that U. C. College had no constitutional basis, and that the country should not pay for the education of a few who can easily pay for it themselves.

A. MacMechan, negative, asked what higher education was, and advocated some of the advantages of U. C. College.

T. W. Roswell, in replying, said the matter concerning Upper Canada College was a matter for private enterprise and not for the Government.

The affirmative being in the majority, they accordingly won the debate.

In the Junior room, containing the 2nd and 1st years, and presided over by the 1st Vice-President, the debate was opened for the affirmative by Mr. Crawford, who stated that the College was started without the consent of Parliament, and procured almost all its monetary support illegally.

Mr. F. W. McLean led on the negative side. He claimed that in the past as well as the present Upper Canada College has done valuable work in turning out men prepared for both the University and for the various business callings.

Mr. Ross urged that it was not fair to tax the people for any special class. Moreover, if the endowment of the College was applied to the University, it would in all probability supply the very pressing wants of the University.

Mr. MacDonnell criticized the statements of the leader for the affirmative.

Mr. Hamilton thought that the Collegiate Institutes had for some time quite superseded the usefulness of the College.

Mr. J. M. Baldwin wished the statement concerning the decline of the College to be proved. He saw no reason that both institutions should not be maintained.

Mr. Bradford dealt with the financial side of the question, showing that there was far more expended on the College pupils than on those attending Collegiate Institutes.

Mr. Redmond, for the negative, took exception to some of the figures of the previous speaker, and produced further estimates, showing the stand the College has taken in the University.

Mr. Hunter confined himself to criticising the arguments of the opposing speakers.

Mr. Edgar claimed that the education received at the College differed greatly in quality from that of Collegiate Institutes.

Mr. Fraser entirely disagreed with what the former speaker

said about the difference between the education received at these institutions.

Mr. Young advanced the argument of the broadness of the education received at the College, as compared with that of the Collegiate Institutes.

Mr. Féré compared the Toronto Collegiate Institute and Upper Canada College, showing that the former did as much work as the latter.

Mr. Hodgins closed on behalf of the negative, criticizing the figures of the affirmative.

Mr. Crawford, as leader, summed up, and the question being left to the meeting, was decided in favor of the affirmative.

The meeting in this division was noisy, the five minutes' allowance to each speaker being narrowed down to two or three by questions, many of which were quite needless and off the point.

After the rooms had united, a motion to extend the debate till next Friday was voted on and lost; and after roll-call the members adjourned.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The meeting on Wednesday was pleasantly varied by the visit of a deputation from the District Conference. After the opening exercises, Mr. T. S. Cole spoke of the necessity of personal hand-to-hand work; meetings were well enough, but it was the fruit which had been 'hand-picked' which would 'keep.' Mr. E. D. Ingersoll, of New York, told how he had felt the lack of a Y. M. C. A., for he had passed through college careless and indifferent; and only many years afterwards began to serve the Lord Christ. He emphasized the need of getting hold of men when they came to college, perhaps wishing to live a better life in the new sphere; for very soon companionships are formed which will give direction to the whole after course. Mr. Gordon spoke a few earnest words about heeding and *obeying* the promptings of the Spirit of God in our dealings with unconverted men. Then Mr. Ingersoll closed with prayer.

A meeting of the Conference, attended by a large number of students, was held on Thursday, at 4 p.m., in Shaftesbury Hall, E. D. Ingersoll, of New York, in the chair. Topic, College Work, opened by Rev. G. M. Wrong, ex-President of the University Y. M. C. A. He dwelt upon the importance of the work. The students of to-day are to be leaders of men; it is therefore of the utmost importance that underlying all the studies should be the solid foundation of Christian principle. In his address he dwelt upon three points—

1st. The men to do the work. They must be *men*—true men. If there is anything a student dislikes, and readily detects, it is a sham. But they like a true man. So a true Christian man, one sincere, faithful, humble, will never fail to secure a hearing.

2nd. Men to work upon. These are thoughtful men, and when men are such, it must be that at times their thoughts will be directed to spiritual things, and if the Gospel be lived up to, and presented by the workers, it will command the attention of the student. This shows how much responsibility rests upon the Christian student, living among those who look to them to see what Christianity is.

3rd. How to do the work. Not necessarily by public meetings, but specially by personal contact with the fellow student. In this work much tact and judgment is needed, and if an earnest and honest approach be made, it will seldom fail to secure a response, if not hearty it will be at least respectful. Meetings, however, should be held from time to time, and should be lively. A dry meeting, where the leader delivers his message in the form of a theological treatise, or a doctrinal essay, will never commend itself even to Christian students, how much less so to the unconverted man. All addresses should be brief, pointed, suggestive.

In these meetings invitations should be freely extended and backed up by members accompanying a fellow student. If these suggestions are carried out, and if the members of the College Association make the work a subject of prayer, there must be blessing.

Mr. McKenzie, President of the College Association, spoke of the success which had attended the work. The meetings have an attendance of from 50 to 80. In addition to meetings in the University, classes are conducted on three evenings of each week in the Boy's Home, which are closed with a brief religious service. Hospital visitation is also carried on by some of the members. Efforts had been made to open a Mission meeting, but the way had been so hedged up that they had accepted it as a token that the Lord would have them devote their energies among the students.

Mr. Garside spoke of the work carried on in Woodstock Literary Institute. This Association was organized about a year ago. Work was at once entered upon, and as a result of Mission meetings some 56 persons were led to Christ.

Mr. D. McLaren, a graduate of the University, gave his experience of work in past years, and also of visits paid by him to Associations in Queen's College, Kingston, Albert College, Belleville, and Victoria College, Cobourg. In some of these, specially at Kingston, much had been accomplished among the students and in the city. He also referred to his experience at the University at Edinburgh, and at Bonn, Germany. He referred to the deadness in spiritual matters, especially in the latter country. The University to which he was attached was the only one in all the empire in which a prayer meeting is regularly held, and yet even there, at a prayer meeting, out of 1,100 students only 12 were present.

Mr. E. D. Ingersoll spoke of the great advance made in University Association work in the United States. As an illustration he stated that at the recent Convention of the Association of Michigan, there were 110 college delegates present; and added to this is the blessed fact that during the past year revivals have taken place and over 1,300 conversions have been reported.

Some time was then spent in prayer and song, after which the meeting adjourned to take part in a social tea, provided by the Toronto Y. M. C. A.

The inestimable benefit of attending conventions of workers was much spoken of, and it is to be hoped that those who were present from our Y. M. C. A. may be stirred up to renewed efforts and filled with zeal for the work.

QUICQUID AGUNT.

The Glee Club commenced practice Thursday afternoon for the Galt and Guelph concerts.

Professor Young resumed lectures Thursday afternoon, having been indisposed the rest of the week by a severe cold.

The Building was closed, and there were accordingly no lectures Ash Wednesday.

The Knox College Glee Club's Concert, Tuesday evening, was well attended by University students.

The last meeting of this year's Association Football Committee was held on Friday.

There will be an extra drill class to-day, at four o'clock.

The *Undergraduate*, from Middleburg, Vt., this week, contains an article on Canada and the Canadians.

The discussion of Mr. Gibson's Bill before the Ontario Legislature, in favor of co-education in University College, will take place next Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. W. A. Frost, of the Fourth Year, last week, had a coat and hat taken from the peg near the Reading Room, where he had put them in the morning. At first he thought some one had taken them for a joke, but as he has not yet recovered them, his appreciation of said joke is diminishing daily.

Battalion drill will commence about the 15th of March.

It is very likely Captain Delamere, M. A., will examine the Non-Commission Drill Class for corporal and sergeant's certificates on or about Saturday the 8th March.

The Hon. the Minister of Education, we believe, will act as chairman at the next Public Debate.

At the next general meeting of the Temperance League, which will be held on Monday, March 10th, with Professor Young in the chair, and to which all undergraduates are cordially invited, the Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, Dr. Aikens, President of the Toronto School of Medicine, and Mr. W. P. Howland will deliver addresses.

At the next meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society, to be held on the evening of March 5th, Professor Young (or as the notice spells it Younge) will read the paper that he read before the Canadian Institute on Imaginary Points, and Prof. W. J. London will conduct some interesting experiments in physics.

A meeting in connection with the District Conference, to discuss College Work, was held at Shaftesbury Hall, Thursday evening, several of the members of the College Y. M. C. A. being present.

The Opera House, Guelph, has been leased by the Glee Club for the evening of April 4th, for their concert there. The *Guelph Mercury* hopes the Glee Club will have the success they deserve.

ROTTEN ROW.

The Third Year Debating Society held its weekly meeting Monday night, everybody there. The representative from No. 15 gave a reading, "The Boy stood on the Burning Deck." No. 25 then sang a song, "Grandfather's Clock." Then came the debate, That the Horse is a more useful animal than the Cow. Nos. 33 and 30 spoke on the affirmative and 22 and 25 the negative. The proceedings ended in disorder.

Mr. Bleakley, second year engineering, has returned after a two weeks' visit to his native hamlet, Bowmanville.

We wonder what the Quad will look like next spring, covered with all the ashes that ought to be emptied in the ash-house at the back of the College.

Only one empty room in Residence.

College News.

TRINITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The final meeting for the session of 1883-84 of our Literary and Scientific Society takes place on Saturday evening next.

The committee has arranged an excellent programme of fourteen pieces, consisting of songs, readings, and a valedictory address by the President, Dr. Sheard. It is to be hoped a large number of students will take advantage of this opportunity for spending a pleasant evening, and allow their fair friends to share in the pleasures of a student's life by bringing along a goodly number of them. We have heard ominous sounds and dire threats concerning this latter wish of ours, to the effect that no gentleman shall be admitted unless accompanied by a fair one; so, boys, look about you and arrange to take *her* on Saturday evening.

There was a meeting of the medicos, held for the purpose of selecting a gentleman to read the valedictory at the Convocation of Trinity; after a few remarks, it was decided that the student who succeeds in taking the gold medal should receive that honour.

The group photo. of sixty-six gentlemen who graduate this year has been taken by Mr. Dufresne, and is now completed.

OSGOODE LEGAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

"A tree is known by its fruit," is a maxim quaint and old and pungent as it is brief. If the Society is only to be known by the fruit it proclaims to an intelligent public, your correspondent fears lest posterity will be ignorant of its existence altogether. In its struggle to exist it encounters much that does not tend to build a reputation, while that lack of broadness of thought and liberality of opinion, which should characterize each individual member of such a society, has had the effect of estranging from and driving away those whose assistance greater intellectual bodies of a similar kind would crave. The elections last fall, conducted in a manner peculiar to this society, placed in office those whose previous record had been an entire blank in connection therewith. How well they have, up to the present, sustained that hardly won record, is answered by the fact, that already nearly one half of their number have resigned others; have, however taken their places, and our correspondent knows that the society hailed the departure of the old, and the advent of the new, with pleasure.

This year has not altogether been a blank, as we have at our head a President who does honor to the position, and shows energy and perseverance in keeping together the elements that seem to possess no tenacity whatever. Last Wednesday evening was held our second public debate of the season. Professor Goldwin Smith honoured the occasion by presiding. The Hall, thought sparsely filled, contained a number of the fair sex, sufficient at least to make our youthful debaters soar to great achievements. Those programmes, one and a half inches square, we presume, answered their purpose, but at the same time told of fallen greatness. The presiding officer, after a few appropriate opening remarks, called upon Mr. Clark to read an essay on 'Minority Representation.' The essay was well received but contained *some ideas* not wholly original. Mr. Thurston gave a reading in his own style which no doubt some admire, after which the debate followed on the subject—Resolved "That the liberty of the press has degenerated into a license." Mr. Gerald Bolster

opened the debate with some pointed remarks, that weighed well for his own cause, and in his usual pleasant style entertained the audience for fifteen or twenty minutes. Mr. Taylor followed and in a general manner spoke fluently, advancing some good arguments in defence of the press. The assembly seemed to smile at the simplicity of his language as he, in his peroration, had the press soaring through *the sun* in its *chariot of fire*, made it speak through its *golden mouthed Bisostrum*, and called it the 'semaphore disseminating ideas throughout Christendom.'

Mr. Cox followed and asked the audience to call back their thoughts from those ethereal regions for a time while he treated them to a poem of facts. Mr. Cox spoke both eloquently and effectively, and was followed by Mr. Symons who *dittoed* most of what had been said. The Chairman gave a short address on the subject, but forbore to give a decision.

There will be no regular meeting next Saturday night, consequently the society will entertain its members to a dinner at 'the Hub,' to the tune of fifty cents a head. 'How have the mighty fallen!' *Dinner at the Hub*; fifty cents a head!

CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

DEAR 'VARSITY,—The adjourned debate on Socialism which I mentioned in my last letter was resumed yesterday evening, two members only speaking in favor of the motion and eight against it. At the close of the debate the House divided and showed a majority of 341 against the motion, the vote being, Ayes, 58, and Noes, 399.

Gouville and Caius College has lost one of its most noted graduates by the death of Mr. Chenery, who for the past six years has been editor of *The Times*. Mr. Chenery was a noted oriental scholar and was formerly Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic at Oxford.

Notice has been given in Parliament of a bill 'to amend the law relating to the licensing of the performance of stage plays in the city of Oxford and town of Cambridge.' Under the present law it rests with 'the Worshipful the Vice-Chancellor' to permit or forbid dramatic performances just as he pleases. This is one of the privileges that was granted to the Universities many years ago, but it is a privilege that has now degenerated into a drawback, though it is quite possible that the bill may find some little opposition.

The University eight resumed practice last Friday on the river at Ely. One or two changes may yet be made in the crew, but they will soon settle down to work in their final shape. The Oxford eight are also hard at work, but the floods and rough weather combined have greatly interfered with their practice. Our Lent races are to begin on Ash-Wednesday, and the men composing the different college crews are now in strict training. Part of the training consists in going out for a run every morning in the 'Backs' at eight o'clock. This gives some of the men an opportunity of experiencing quite a new sensation—the novelty of getting up at 7.30.

Yours very truly,
T. C. S. M.

Cambridge, February 13th, 1884.

General College Notes.

Columbia's total expenditure last year was \$555,000.

The girls at the University of Michigan are to have a gymnasium.
—*Ex.*

Columbia College is to have its library illuminated by electric light.

The Amherst Glee Club will make a Western trip after the Easter holidays.

There are about 7,000 American students in the universities of Germany.

At Cornell the first and second years are required to do gymnasium work.

Columbia has received a gift of astronomical instruments valued at \$12,000.

Princeton is in possession of the electrical machine which Dr. Franklin used.

The gymnasium belonging to the University of California was recently destroyed by fire.

\$40,000 has been given to Boston University to endow a chair in the College of Liberal Arts.

The various classes at Amherst have organized whist clubs, and a tournament is expected in the near future.

Mr. Wendell Phillips was a graduate of Harvard. He is said to have been the best scholar and best general athlete in college.

The late Mr. Hallgarten, of New York, bequeathed \$50,000 to Dartmouth College. It was an unconditional gift.—*Scholastic*.

There are five journals issued in connection with John Hopkins University. All are devoted to original scientific investigations.

The Yale baseball nine will be coached this winter by Goldsmith, of the Chicago, and Yale's crew by Captain Flanders, who pulled bow oar on last year's crew.

Dartmouth College will hereafter receive five thousand dollars annually from the State of New Hampshire for the aid of indigent students.—*Bowdoin Orient*.

A great many of the American Colleges are now organizing their boat crews for the coming spring. Pennsylvania seems to have surprised them all by a big challenge.

Cornell University has got a particularly fine Egyptian mummy from Mr. Pomeroy, American consul-general at Cairo. It is something over 3,500 years old, and the covering of pasteboard bears a host of figures and inscriptions which are yet plain.—*Ex.*

According to the report of the Minister of Education for 1883, the following universities are represented among the head masters of the High Schools in Ontario:—Toronto, 53; Victoria, 18; Queen's, 12; Trinity, 4; Albert, 4; Aberdeen, 2; Queen's (Ireland), 2; Dublin, 1; McGill, 1; Cambridge, 1; Glasgow, 1; making a total of 99, of which 91 are graduates of Ontario Universities, and 8 are foreigners. Of the 99 graduates of Ontario Universities, the State College, which does 'less than 40 per cent of the higher educational work of the Province,' can lay claim to only 53, or more than 58 per cent of the total number of head masters in Ontario. This is one University against *all* the others in the Province. Comparing it with each University separately, we find that it has 3 times the number of one, 4½ that of another, and 14 times that of each of the remaining two.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

II.

HIS HUMOROUS WRITINGS.

It was chiefly through his humorous writings that Mr. Lowell gained his literary reputation. He is the greatest of all American humorous writers and yet he cannot be called a professional humorist, for humour is not to him the object aimed at, but the instrument or means used to reach a higher end—the elevation of mankind.

His most famous work is the 'Biglow Papers.' The editor of the *Week* said recently in a critical note that these essays contained little that would survive the hour. This, I believe, is an underestimate of their value. It is now thirty-five years since their first publication, but the interest of the American public in them is almost as strong as it ever was. Probably no book is so frequently quoted in Congress, in the State Legislatures and in the leading political journals. Members of the Canadian House of Commons have also occasionally spiced their orations from its contents. The raciness and originality, the pungency and causticity of the Biglow Papers has probably never been equalled by other writers in the field of political humor. 'Butler's Hudibras' is weak in comparison. Inferior indeed to the 'Letters of Junius,' in smoothness of style and in the balance of sentences, the Biglow Papers show a great superiority to the letters in variety, in quaintness and in directness of expression, in the obviousness of the ideas presented, and in their consequent adaptation to the capacity of ordinary minds. This is an absolutely essential requisite in a work designed, as this was, to affect widely and deeply the public. In order to reach the people more effectually Mr. Lowell frequently addresses them in their own everyday language. He is the most successful writer of the New England vernacular. This feature appears to some of his readers an artistic defect of Mr. Lowell's work, but to the majority it is one of its characteristic excellences.

The Biglow Papers are semi-dramatic in style. The principal characters are Mr. Hosea Biglow, a young farmer, and the Reverend Homer Wilbur, his pastor. Mr. Biglow writes letters to the local papers and the Rev. Homer Wilbur adds comments thereon. The

letters assail slavery and whatever was at that time associated with the system. For example, the slave-holders, with a view to increase their representation in Congress, agitated for a forcible annexation of a part of Mexico and its conversion into slave states. This agitation led to the Mexican war of 1845. Hosea's first letter appears on the occasion of his being solicited by a recruiting sergeant to join the army against Mexico. The sergeant represented to him that if the war were unjust the Government would be responsible for the wrong done; to whom Hosea replies:—

'Ef you take a sword an' dror it,
An' go stick a feller thru,
Gov'ment ain't to answer for it,
God 'll send the bill to you.

Jest go home an' ask our Nancy
Wether I'd be such a goose
Ez to jine ye,—guess you'd fancy
The eternal being wuz loose!

Mr. Wilbur adds—

'The first recruiting sergeant on record I conceive to have been that individual who is mentioned in the Book of Job as going to and fro in the earth and walking up and down in it!'

The Mexican war also called forth the most famous letter of the series. It is entitled 'What Mr. Robinson Thinks.' Shortly after its appearance it was quoted by Mr. Bright in the British House of Commons and laid the foundation of Mr. Lowell's present immense popularity in Great Britain. It was written during the excitement preceding an election to the governorship of the State of Massachusetts. The question at issue between the two parties was the war with Mexico. The war party were carrying the day and Colonel Cushing, their candidate, would most certainly have been elected had it not been for the appearance of this letter of Hosea's in the *Boston Courier*. It exposed the injustice and the unchristian nature of the war and the immoral and selfish aims of its promoters, and this so effectually that the war party was defeated by a large majority. There is, I believe, no better illustration of the fact that wit is a moral agency of tremendous power. The voters who could not be influenced by the ordinary declamation against the war were carried irresistibly by the witty letter.

We were gettin on nicely up here to our village,
With good old ideas o' wut's right an' wut aint;
We kind o' thought Christ went agin war an' pillage,
An' thet epyletts worn't the best mark of a saint;
But John P
Robinson he

Sez this kind o' thing's an exploded idee.

Parson Wilbur he calls all (their) arguments lies;
Sez they're nothin' on earth but jest *fee, faw, fum*;
An' thet all this big talk of our destinies
Is half on it ignorance, an' t'other half rum;

But John P
Robinson he

Sez it aint no sech thing; an', of course, so must we.

The Rev. Homer Wilbur's notes derive a peculiar force from their quaint style and pedantic phraseology, and from the charming simplicity of manner in which entirely incongruous subjects are connected in his discourse. That the old gentleman was an exceedingly shrewd observer is evident from his remarks.

'In reading the Congressional debates, I made the discovery that *nothing* takes longer in the saying than anything else, for as *ex nihilo nihil fit*, so from one polypus nothing any number of similar ones may be produced. It has not seldom occurred to me that Babel was the first congress, the earliest mill erected for the manufacture of gabble!'

Mr. Wilbur expresses himself very vigorously on the question of the toleration of evil:

'There is a point where toleration sinks into sheer baseness and profligacy. The toleration of the worst leads us to look on what is barely better as good enough, and to worship what is only moderately good. Woe to that man, or that nation to whom mediocrity has become an ideal!'

In his next letter, 'The Pious Editor's Creed,' Hosea cuts with an unmerciful lash the American political editors of his time. It is to be regretted that his remarks have force in Canada even to-day.

'I don't believe in princerples
But, O, I du in interest,

I do believe in bein' this
Or thet, ez it may happen
One way or t'other handiest is
To ketch the people nappin';
It aint by princerples or men
My prudent course is steadied,
I scent which pays the best, an' then
Go into it baldheaded."

Mr. Lowell especially excels when exposing the falseness and hollowness of military glory. He does this most effectively in the form of three epistles from Mr. Sawin, who had been enticed to volunteer into the army operating in Mexico, by promises of fame and riches to be gained in the war. In these letters he describes his exceedingly disagreeable experiences.

'This going where glory waits ye haint one agreeable feetur,
An' if it worn't fer wakin snakes, I'd home again short meter.
The Mexicans don't fight fair, they piz'n all the water,
An' du amazin' lots o' things thet isn't wut they ought to;
Bein' they haint no lead they make their bullets out o' copper,
An' shoot the d—rn—d things at us, which Caleb sez aint proper.'

Mr. Wilbur remarks that 'Satan did not lack attorneys to advocate the Mexican war as for the spreading of free institutions and of Protestantism. But Mr. Wilbur conceives that if the people of the United States could be apprised by some system of direct taxation of the exact way in which the war-tax contributed by each was expended it would probably lead to greater economy in the national expenditure. Says he 'During the present fall I have often pictured to myself a government official entering my study and handing me the following bill:

Washington, Sept. 30, 1848.

REV. HOMER WILBUR TO UNCLE SAMUEL, DR.

To his share of work done in Mexico on partnership account, sundry jobs, as below:

To killing, maiming, and wounding about 500 Mexicans.....	\$2 00
" Slaughtering one woman carrying water to the wounded.....	10
" Extra work on two different Sabbaths (one bombardment and one assault) whereby the Mexicans were prevented from defiling themselves with the idolatries of high mass	3 50
" Throwing an especially fortunate and Protestant bombshell into the cathedral at Vera Cruz, whereby several female Papists were slain at the altar.....	50
" His proportion of cash paid for conquered territory	1 75
" " " " for conquering " "	1 50
" Extending the area of freedom and Protestantism	01
" Glory.....	10
	\$9 87

Immediate payment is requested.

—A. STEVENSON.

REMARKS SUGGESTED BY SHAKESPEARE'S 'TEMPEST.'

With those who attempt to find allegorical meanings in the master-works of our men of genius, or to exhibit them as illustrating some leading ethical idea, we have no sympathy. The true ethical work of literature seems rather to consist in the gradual and almost imperceptible inworking of the spirit of its finest creations. As the mind is brought to love noble characters, personifications of truth and beauty, so it learns to love and act out the true and the beautiful. But the desire to find moral significance in each work of art, since it prevents the mind from becoming absorbed in the emotional element in which the artist works, and through which he alone seeks to aid our mental growth, has no other effect than a tendency to ruin that moral education, which the work should properly produce. No great imaginative work was ever written with a direct ethical aim. Didactic poetry is a contradiction in terms. If we have, then, a great drama or a great novel, we must try to appreciate it as such, convinced, in the words of the master-mind of the last two centuries, that 'everything great produces culture immediately we become aware of it.'

With any attempt to see in the 'Tempest,' for example, an allegory in which *Ariel* is the spirit, and *Caliban* the corporal part of man, we have nothing to do. Just as we ruin the 'Fairy

Queen' or the 'Pilgrim's Progress' by remembering the allegory, so unless we enter into the play as a romance, we miss the whole spirit of it.

Our education tends too much to abnormal development of the critical, at the expense of the appreciative faculty. Shakespeare study has become, to a great degree, merely a mechanical process of dissection; with us, indeed, it is an expressive name for the swallowing of commentaries and the cramming of notes, grammatical and etymological, and 'sich like cattle.'

The 'Tempest' and such a play as 'Hamlet' differ most widely in dramatic character. Anyone who has seen Rossi knows the passionate tumult this latter play produces, an excitement, of which, in reading, we can get but the faintest shadow. The former, on the contrary, is more suitable for reading than for representation on the stage, where the delicate shading of its characters would be lost under the glare of the footlights. It has no action or plot-interest; it is a poem rather than a play.

The first scene is a work of fine dramatic insight. Nothing could be better for throwing us into the proper receptive state. Amidst the cry of the sailors and the rude commands of the boatswain, are heard the creaking of the masts and cordage and the rush and roar of the water. The present fades away, we lose ourselves in the scene before us, our emotional condition fits us for witnessing the wonders and beauties of the 'enchanted island.'

The admirable way in which the worlds of spirits and of men are brought into relation is but one of the many instances of what might be called the dramatic ingenuity of our dramatist. Indeed, with such ease does he put together the framework of his dramas, that we lose sight of the workman altogether.

The 'Tempest' and 'Midsummer Night's Dream' resemble one another in their poetic rather than dramatic character. In both plays the lyrical portions are constituent elements of their beauty, not chance jewels to deck it.

Critics have generally assigned the 'Tempest' a higher place than 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' and, no doubt, the loftier tone of imagination that pictures forth

'The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples,'

and the philosophic spirit that breathes in the lines,

'We are such stuff
As dreams are made; and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep,'

justifies the judgment. But 'Midsummer Night's Dream' has such peculiar excellences, arising mostly from the different way in which the author has dealt with the spirit world, that it becomes almost a question of taste or age, as to which is preferred.

In the play, *Ariel* takes part in human affairs only because he is under the magic power of *Prospero*. There is no attempt to enter into a world of 'airy nothings' to which that 'tricksy spirit' might belong; the supernatural creatures are little more than the means for carrying out their master's wishes. In the other play, we are taken right into the realm of fairyland. We are made partakers of the loves and jealousies of *Oberon* and *Titania*, watch their mimic warfare and the tricks of that most mischievous *Puck*.

'Such sight as youthful poets dream
On summer eves, by haunted stream.'

Outspread before us are the immortal glades, filled with such creatures as

'Hang a pearl in each cowslip's ear,
Creep into acorn cups and hide them there.'

Or,

'In the beached margent of the sea
Dance their ringlets to the whistling wind.'

Shakespeare's more youthful spirit is just revelling in all these delicate imaginings. What glorious praise of love, and what tender-hearted mockery of it, are there too, and how Shakespeare's genial humor spreads, like sunlight, over everything!

There is no comical scene in the 'Tempest' to compare with that in which the 'Athenian mechanicals' choose their parts for acting *Pyramus and Thisbe*. With what exquisite humor the dramatist makes *Bottom* respond, when his companions object to his offer to play the *Lion*, since he would rave so awfully, that 'he would frighten the ladies and the Duke would hang them.'

'I grant you, friends, that if you should fright the ladies out of their wits, they should have no more discretion but to hang us; but I will aggravate my voice so, that I will roar you as gently as an sucking dove; I will roar you an't were any nightin-

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