

VARSAITY

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THE VARSITY.

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Topics of the Hour.

The grand memorial which the graduates of Toronto University laid before the Government has not resulted in the desired legislation for an increase of graduate representation upon the Senate of that institution. Still, the agitation to that end has been most advantageous in its general influence. It has created another band of union among our graduates and has brought them into closer and more intelligent sympathy with one another. Through this agitation, also, the university public, have discovered the exact attitude which the representatives of University College and the other affiliated institutions are pleased to assume towards the graduates and their purposes. This is a most important fact and one which our graduates will doubtless keep well in mind. It sufficiently ex-

plains the mystery of the recent appointment and will throw considerable light on what else might have been a secret and powerful opposition policy in the future.

As the time approaches for the annual election by Convocation of its representatives in the Senate of the University, our graduates are desirous of knowing who are likely to be put forward as candidates, and what are their recommendations. And good candidates are particularly required at the present moment. The graduate representatives now in the Senate—most of them, at least—are fighting a good battle in behalf of their constituents, and the strengthening of their hands is a thing to be much desired, for they have a strong opposition to contend against, much of which, however, comes from quarters from which might rather have been expected sympathy and support. Men must be chosen, then, whose position is clear, unambiguous and firm. Two such men are already in the field: Mr. E. B. Edwards, M.A., LL.B., will be nominated from Peterborough, and Mr. J. A. Culham, M.A., from Hamilton. Both these gentlemen have been for years among the most active members of Convocation, and have done much in their respective counties towards working up strong graduate associations and developing university feeling and interest. In addition to this they promise—a promise we think they will keep to the letter—to attend regularly the meetings of the Senate, which not a few of our graduate representatives have undertaken in the past with apparently little intention of carrying it out. We think that Messrs. Edwards and Culham would represent in the Senate the views of Convocation on all the important questions now under consideration, which are likely soon to be considered, in our University government, and that they would give plain expression to those views, without hesitancy or fear. In our opinion, Convocation could not do better than elect these gentlemen as two of their representatives during the next five years.

In view of the great recognized needs of other departments of learning in University College, we felt called upon recently to protest against the creation of a new chair in Oriental languages. The method of procedure in the case was also irregular and open to serious objection. The VARSITY will continue to protest against this policy of secrecy in the conduct of University and College affairs. The university public have a right to know the reasons why such an important step was taken, not only without the advice of the Senate, but even without the knowledge of that body. While objecting to the manner in which this chair was created, we are not, however, precluded from a proper appreciation of the gentleman who fills it. It is not to be supposed that the sins of an official superior are to be visited on him. An imprudence in the matter of announcements gave occasion to one of our contributors for a humorous article which, we are told, was

misinterpreted and misapplied by some of our readers. For ourselves we have attacked the position and not the occupant. We have it now to say that since the position has been created, it is probable, so far as can yet be judged, that no better person could have been found to fill it than Dr. McCurdy. His scholarship is unquestioned. As a native Canadian he can sympathize fully with the spirit and aspirations of his students. He is untiring and energetic in his efforts to add new interest to the work of the department. And it is this enthusiasm which our college needs more than scholarships and medals as a source of inspiration to study. It seems probable that this department will acquire new importance in another way. The Senate are now considering the potential merits of the Oriental languages as a means of liberal culture with a view to the establishment of a new graduating department in Greek and Orientals. This measure would no doubt prove acceptable to a large number of students. Sanscrit could perhaps be added with advantage during the last two years of the new course, and it is probable that earnest students in philology from the other departments would be anxious to acquire some knowledge of the parent tongue. We look upon Dr. McCurdy's Saturday classes in Sanscrit as a commendable initiatory measure to the introduction of this language into the regular curriculum.

The members of the Young Men's Christian Association of our University are now fully at home in their new hall and a corresponding measure of fresh life and activity is being manifested among them. With such an attractive and commodious place of meeting it is certain that the membership will be largely increased, and also that that there will be a more regular attendance upon the society's meetings of those who are members. Mr. McLeod and his fellows may now rest well satisfied with the result of their noble enterprise. It would be difficult to speak too highly of the character and objects of this association. It is a great centre of moral and spiritual life among our students. With a creed as broad as Christianity itself and high as the spiritual aspirations of our race, the Young Men's Christian Association is the type and the partial realization of what the New Church will be. This society represents not a dogma but a Life. And by this grand band all the churches will at last be united. Looking to such an end our College association is worthily doing a great work. For here no one is Baptist or Methodist, Anglican or Presbyterian; it is enough that he is a Christian. Thrown together in earnest fellowship at this most impressible period of their lives, our young men will learn how artificial and trivial are the distinctions that separate the denominations when compared with the great vital principles that underlie all Christianity. The partial and one-sided views which purely denominational instruction necessarily produces will be counteracted by the liberalizing influences of fellowship in this association. Next to a non-denominational theological college such as Harvard possesses, a University Y. M. C. A. is the most powerful means for the furtherance of liberal religious culture. The prosperous existence of this institution in our midst must also in time have a good influence on that large class of students who as yet care very little for these things. They may come to learn that there are realities which purely physical science does not dream of and that there are cravings in the mind of man which knowledge will not satisfy. And so by spiritualizing science on the one hand and rationalizing belief on the other we may hope that University Young Men's Christian Associations may some day help not a little in producing the final harmony of science and religion.

The dramatic poem "Tecumseh," which was reviewed in our columns recently by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, is attracting much attention throughout Canada. The author, Mr. Charles Mair, has become a subject of interest, and many are the inquiries concerning

him among our literary people. Through the kindness of a Toronto friend of his, we are able to lay the following particulars of Mr. Mair's life before our readers. He was born in the village of Lanark, in Upper Canada, in the year 1840. He received his early education in his native village, and in the Grammar School of the neighboring town of Perth. From here he entered Queen's College, Kingston, but entered upon a business life before completing his course in this institution. His father, the late James Mair, came to Canada from Scotland, nearly sixty years ago. The elder Mr. Mair was one of the pioneers of the lumber business in the valleys of the Madawaska and other tributaries of the Ottawa River. Much of our author's early life was spent in the forest, and to this source we may trace his sympathy with nature in her varied forms and moods. In 1868, Mr. Mair published a small volume entitled "Dreamland and Other Poems," which was favourably received by Canadian readers. Copies of this book are now very scarce, as a large portion of the edition was burnt shortly after publication, in the Desbarats fire in Ottawa. In the fall of this year, Mr. Mair was sent by the Dominion Government to the Red River settlement, as paymaster to the men engaged in opening the Snow Road from Fort Garry to the Lake of the Woods. Mr. Mair was consequently in Fort Garry at the time of the outbreak of the first Riel rebellion. He was a prisoner in the hands of the rebels for many weeks during the winter of 1869-70. After being sentenced to death by the Provisional Government, he escaped from prison, and subsequently joined the expedition from Portage la Prairie to Fort Garry under Major Boulton. Shortly afterwards he set out for Ontario. With two or three companions he walked 400 miles on snow-shoes to St. Paul. Subsequently he reached this province and with Drs. Schultz and Lynch, was accorded a most enthusiastic reception. Upon the restoration of order, Mr. Mair settled at Portage la Prairie, and a few years after he moved to Prince Albert on the Saskatchewan, where he was engaged for some ten years in fur trading and general business. In 1883, foreseeing the outbreak which occurred last spring, and wishing to have his family safe, he moved from Prince Albert to Windsor, Ontario, where he has since been living. Here he wrote "Tecumseh," many of the scenes of which are laid in this part of the province. When the rebellion broke out he came to Toronto and enlisted in the Governor-General's Body Guard, whose commanding officer, Colonel George T. Denison, is an old and intimate friend of the author's. He was appointed acting Quarter-Master of that corps and served through the whole campaign. Mr. Mair was at one time a contributor to the *Canadian Monthly*, and it is said he will continue his literary career in other fields.

Leading Articles.

A STUDENTS' LOAN FUND.

There is nothing wholly bad, and it is to the presence of an element of good that the scholarship system owes its continued existence. When we admit all the harm that is done by the competition, the frequent injustice of the decision, and the fact that the awards often fall to those who are not in need of financial assistance, admitting all this, there still remains the undoubted fact that valuable aid has often been given through this means to needy and deserving students.

This is the ultimate ground upon which the scholarship question will be fought out. No one now cares to advocate the efficacy of money prizes as lures to attract students and to prevent them from entering other colleges. Some persons still speak of their potency in stimulating study and raising the level of the whole class, as the phrase runs. But this is a mere delusion of the men who get scho-

larships, or the few additional ones who unsuccessfully compete for them. The competition has no beneficial effect on the others. They recognize the mercenary element in the activity of the competitors and there is no inspiration in the example for them. For themselves they either know that they could not win the prize, or they think the game not worth the candle.

And among the scholars themselves there is the freest admission that apart from the moral dangers which are imminent in the case, the intellectual results of such a competition are, as a whole, flat and unsatisfactory. Money, as an intellectual stimulus, is both artificial and pernicious.

We have a plan to propose which contains all the good in the scholarship system without the evils that have hitherto accompanied it. We advocate the conversion of the scholarship endowments into a loan fund, the claim to benefit from which would rest simply upon need and not upon ability to succeed in competitive examinations.

The details of the scheme might be worked out in various ways. It might be decided, for instance, that the loans should not exceed \$100 per year to any person, or \$300 altogether. Interest should perhaps be required at a low rate, and the time of repayment might be limited to five years. No security other than the honor of the recipient would be required. Losses from death would be guarded against by insurance, the trustees of the fund to hold the policy and pay the premiums, which would also, of course, be repaid by the beneficiary.

As it is well recognized that a university course is not necessarily the highest good for individuals of every variety of mental or physical constitution, the loans should only be available to those who, in the judgment of the trustees, would probably be especially benefited thereby and who required such assistance.

No loss of dignity or independence would ensue to the student who took advantage of the assistance of this fund, as may to some extent occur under the present arrangements. The whole thing might be considered a matter of business. There is not here the appearance of working for pay which adheres to the scholarship system. And if intellectual culture is a good thing why should any one be paid for receiving it?

The President of University College and a committee of the faculty should be the trustees of this fund. They would be the most competent persons to judge of the qualifications of the applicants.

Messrs. Blake, Mulock, Macdonald and other benefactors of our University and College, would certainly not object to the conversion of their endowments in the way mentioned. We conceive that what these gentlemen desire is the good of our students and not the perpetuation of any special plan of assistance.

By this plan the money laid out would be replaced in a few years, and friends of our university who do not approve of ordinary scholarships would contribute readily to this fund.

There are many university men who have received benefit from scholarships and who are now in good positions with an income more or less greater than their needs. No doubt the establishment of a loan fund would be retro-active in its effect, and many of our old scholarship men would return to the university the money which it gave them in the time of need.

On the simple presentation of this scheme, and entirely without solicitation, three well-known graduates in this city have already signified their approval of our project by the following substantial offers: The first graduate will contribute to such a fund \$360, being the amount of the scholarships won by him, with interest in full since the date of graduation, now more than ten years ago. The second and third graduates will pledge themselves to contribute similar sums, but they are not prepared to do so at once.

We submit this scheme to the fair consideration of the friends of our university. Should the Council or the Senate see fit to act upon it, we think they will be sure of the active assistance of many of our graduates.

ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

The Report of the Minister of Education for 1885 contains some interesting remarks on "English," by John Seath, B.A., Inspector of High Schools. Mr. Seath is this year one of the University Examiners, and every under-graduate has therefore a peculiar interest in knowing what he thinks about the subject. His whole report (pp. 152-172,) may be read with advantage by those who have access to it, but for the benefit of those who may not be able to see it, we take the liberty of making a few quotations from the section devoted to "English."

"There is a wide-spread feeling that some, at least, of the English branches have not received the attention they merit. My experience as Inspector leads me to conclude that, although there are many schools in which English is admirably taught, this feeling is justified by the facts. Here again, however, the teacher is not wholly in fault. The schools are largely what the examinations make them; and in some of the English subjects the examinations have set what, to my mind, is too low a standard. There is little use in declaiming against bad methods in English grammar or in English history, or against the neglect of English literature or composition or reading. In these days of examinations, the examination papers being unsuitable examination papers, produce or perpetuate bad methods; and the subject on which it is difficult to pass, and neglect of which means failure, is the subject that will not be neglected. If, then, English is to secure its proper place in our system, we must have a higher and a better standard at the examinations. . . . On the subject of English literature, I find in many a great deal of misapprehension. The history of English literature is often confounded with English literature itself. . . . The biography of the writers and the forces that produced certain forms of our literature, should be taken up in connection with the literature texts; but they deserve special attention only in so far as they have been agents determinative thereof. Literature itself, according to the accepted definition, is the thoughts and feelings of intelligent men and women, expressed in writing in such a way as to give pleasure by what is said, and by the artistic way in which it is said. The teaching of literature, therefore, deals with the author's meaning and the form in which he puts it—with the meaning primarily. *The elucidation of the meaning should be the teacher's grand object.* If this be attained, all else will follow. . . . An English Classic is not, as many make it, a mere collection of linguistic pegs on which to hang every conceivable form of biographical, historical, philological, archaeological, and grammatical questions. Side work, the true teacher of literature sedulously avoids, even when it thrusts itself forward in its most seductive garb. Grammar and philology, history and biography, are his servants, not his masters. . . . In most of the schools there is too much destructive, too little constructive work in English composition. . . . We learn how to do anything by doing it, not simply by correcting the mistakes others make in doing it. . . . The University authorities have taken a step in the right direction, in prescribing a prose author as a basis for English composition. . . . We learn how to speak good English under proper and systematic guidance, and by frequenting the society of those who speak good English. Similarly, we shall learn how to write good English under proper and systematic guidance and by the careful study of those authors that have written good English. . . . Experience and reflection both show that the mere study of the principles of grammar can never impart the ability to speak and write correctly. The ability comes chiefly from fortunate associations, and from being habituated to the right use of words by constant and careful drill. . . . Greater freedom from the cast-iron systems of martinet grammarians is urgently needed. The inductive method of presenting English grammar is not in general use. Our false conceptions of

literature teaching we owe chiefly to the old-fashioned classical master. To him we owe also our false conceptions of the proper mode of presenting English grammar."

The obvious inference to be drawn from these passages is that Mr. Seath is likely to attach far more importance to acquaintance with the texts than to wide reading when he makes out his questions and estimates the answers. The italics given above are his own; and if the elucidation of the meaning of a text should be the grand object kept in view by the teacher, it is safe to predict that the examiner's questions will be designed to test the extent to which this object has been kept in view by the student. It is safe to predict also that the questions on the history of literature will deal with prominent authors rather than those insignificant ones whose names are found so plentifully sprinkled over the examination papers of past years. The knowledge of this subject that is likely to be most useful is a critical rather than an encyclopedic knowledge. There may be differences of opinion as to the correctness of Mr. Seath's views, but there is little room for doubt that his papers will indicate a new departure in the methods of conducting examinations in English. Whatever others may think about the matter, we feel strongly convinced that the time for a somewhat radical change has fully come.

TORONTO UNIVERSITY AND THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

It is interesting to note the steady progress made by the University of Toronto in her influence on the secondary education of the Province. Year by year the head masterships of the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes have fallen more and more into the hands of Toronto graduates, until in 1885 they hold 49 head masterships out of a total of 106. The list includes Alexandria, Arnprior, Aylmer, Barrie, Beamsville, Belleville, Berlin, Bowmanville, Bradford, Brantford, Cayuga, Clinton, Colborne, Collingwood, Elora, Fergus, Galt, Gananoque, Goderich, Grimsby, Guelph, Hamilton, Harriston, Kemptville, Mitchell, Mount Forest, Napanee, Newburgh, Newcastle, Newmarket, Niagara Falls, Oakville, Orangeville, Orillia, Ottawa, Parkhill, Peterboro', Port Dover, Port Rowan, Prescott, Richmond Hill, Ridgetown, Sarnia, Seaforth, Simcoe, Stratford, Strathroy, St. Catharines, St. Mary's, St. Thomas, Toronto, Uxbridge, Vankleek Hill, Vienna, Walkerton, Wardsville, Waterdown, Welland, Whitby, Windsor, Woodstock. Of other universities, Victoria supplied 20 schools with head masters; Queen's, 11; Trinity, 7; Albert, 2; Aberdeen, 2; McGill, 1; Queen's (Ireland), 1; Dublin, 1, while two taught on unexpired certificates.

Scarcely less striking is the hold Toronto University has on the secondary schools through the assistant masters, a very large proportion of whom are graduates or undergraduates of this University. The total number of Head Masters and Assistants is 362. Of these, 150 are members of Toronto University; 57, of Victoria; 26, of Queen's; 13, of Trinity; 15, of universities outside of Ontario; one of Albert; and 100 of no university. In other words, while 150 of those who teach in the High Schools belong to Toronto University, 97 belong to other universities in Ontario, 15 to universities outside of Ontario, and 100 teach on certificates. Not being attached academically to any institution of learning, the latter class sympathise more with the Provincial University than with any other.

The bond between the teaching profession and the University of Toronto will soon be materially strengthened as the result of the recent action of the Senate in accepting *pro tanto* for junior matriculation the certificates of those second-class teachers who have passed a Provincial examination. All they have to do in order to matriculate is to pay the usual fee, pass in the subjects they have not already taken, and register with the proper officers. As they will be able, under the local examination system, to take these

subjects in their own counties, many of them will no doubt do so, and so far as sympathy is concerned, undergraduateship in a University is practically as important as graduateship. With the strong and increasing hold the University of the people has on the general public, its future is assured independently of all schemes of consolidation.

Literature.

TORONTO.

I see you in the dying day,
Your trees and turrets stretch away,
From this your distant island bay.

Half hidden in your cloud of smoke,
That wraps and folds you as a cloak,
The sun hath cleaved with single stroke.

When scarce the day is growing old,
And shadows thicken fo'd on fold,
Your turrets glimmer red and gold.

Here when the evening's voice is dumb,
Across the lake your murmurs come,
A never ceasing human hum;

The hurrying of a thousand feet,
Where joy and sorrow ever meet,
The mighty city's throb and beat.

For where evening slants and falls,
Against the sunset's lighted walls,
Rise in the gloom your college halls;

Lore battlements, grey, grim and towered,
Half shadowed and half sunset flowered,
Your student hives in trees embowered.

This side of roof and smoke and dome,
A single boatman roweth home,
Leaving behind a track of foam.

I see his shadow far away,
The flashing of his oars at play,
Dying in the evening grey.

I hear stray snatches of his song,
Now far away, now growing strong,
In echoes that the airs prolong.

Perchance, within your streets below,
Some loved home spirits wait him now,
To kiss him on his cheek and brow.

The night comes up, the sun goes down;
Across you, loved Canadian town,
The day is dim, the sky grows brown.

The sky grows brown, the day is dim,
And up Ontario's misty rim
The misty star is stealing in.

Your bells from out of roof and tower,
With rise and swell proclaim the hour,
And now the dusk is wheeling lower.

Now in your dusky streets uprise
Faint glimmers, like a million eyes,
Or stars down fallen from the skies.

O mighty city by the shore,
Hushed is your pulses' throb and roar ;
To-night God sends you rest once more.

And o'er yon steeple's shafted height,
The pale moon floods her misty light,
The benediction of the night.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

West Claremont, New Hampshire.

SYMPATHY.

A cry came to me this afternoon across the wide Atlantic—a cry that cut to my heart and unmanned me straight. A blow was struck that left me prostrate as under night and day toil for many a weary month ; and my soul was stricken with a consuming, maddening thirst for sympathy, and writhed in agonies that have hardly left me yet. I confess I thought of you, brother, in my desperation, as the only one who knew and could sympathize with what I and another suffered. I was even going to brave your politest sarcasms and beg for sympathy. But the fit is over now, and I can theorize and grasp the sunbeams and the mist, and mould and build gay castled unsubstantialities.

What a curious thing, for instance, is this very sympathy. Why are we not like isolated atoms? or why do we not resemble what everywhere we find in elemental nature? Nearest in approximation, quickest in conjunction, is the law. "Hydrogen to oxygen" is the simple edict. Hydrogen to oxygen, therefore, the world over—quick, direct, with lightning flash, no wayward caprice, but rigid, invariable law. We do not know, but it seems to me it *must* be beneficent, painless law.

But what a mad, unreasonable thing is this capricious human sympathy, overleaping the intervening space of one thousand leagues to find its brother. Locked fast the hearts are as ever any associate atoms of oxygen and hydrogen—close-wrapped, welded in indissoluble union—and yet the distance one thousand leagues. That's the insane mystery of the thing. I've pondered, baffled, over it many an hour. Can it be that underneath, guiding it all, lies a universal law?—or is the thing lawless?

Then, this need, this hunger for sympathy. I've a picture now before me in imagination of what the world is and of what it might be. The many souls I see moving through the labyrinthine mazes of their goings to and fro. And each is cased in hard crystal ; and as they jar in a whirling chaos they make unlovely music—noise of envy, suspicion, hate—wild wailing of pain—dumb moaning of woe—and unseemly cackling of a thing called joy.

But ah, what has happened? where is now the jarring? whence this new harmony, thrilling to the soul? where now the hard crystal? Soul to soul in flux and reflux of electric currents of sympathy. One heart-throb for humanity, beating deep and strong with high hope and mighty endeavor, driving the race on to sublime, undreamed of apotheosis. And the ravishing harmony!—silence before the memory of it!

GUEUX.

CONCENTRATION.

You declare that the common fault of writers is that they are too diffuse. Is that your quarrel with them, Sir Critic? Mine is, that those of to day and of all times, have never written one tith of what they should. What subject is treated sufficiently? Which one do your miraculous German doctors, your Neanders, Heynes, Rankes with their tons of writing, mountains of folio, and acres of library, dare to say they have exhausted! The glaring fault of one and all is their reckless bald concentration.

A case in point. A handsome young Englishman is travelling

in Italy ; he writes verse and has letters in his pocket that admit him to the most cultured society of the day. The poet is in his first youth, with its countless visions and bursts of heart, its vivid intense living and endless precious thought. All this is quickened into a fire by the contact of equal minds taught how to flatter with southern courtesy. In the Eternal City the goal of all artists in every age, he meets a young and lovely singer. Music's spell is on him. Its thousand thronging delights are entranced by the liquid language of the south, glowing with a passion warm as southern skies, poured forth from an eloquent Italian heart, matched with a lovely face. If, still thrilling with such music, he writes a sonnet, good Elia calls it "almost profane." Is it at all adequate, think you? Then the author takes all this infinitude of life and feeling and thought, sets it down in ten lines of print, and says this is the story of Milton and the Baroni.

With these ten lines, then, you would coldly put me off, and call it the history of a life dowered by its maker, above all others when each successive thought of the commonest of earth's sons is an Apocalypse, a constant miracle that we do not dream of. Is not this concentration, as of the universe compressed into a cubic inch?

BOHEMIEN.

TO A SNOW-BIRD.

A starry sheen now fills the bloomless earth,
Summer hath gone, and gone the delicate rose,
With perfumed petals sunk in deepening snows,
Faded and dumb the emerald fields of mirth,
Where the wild warbler used to tune his pipe at birth
Of spring with sweet melodious song.
Sporting amid an airy throng
Of tangled boughs and drooping bowers of leaves.
Empty is every silken nest,
Where grew the tender brood, caressed
Mid whispering trees, whose mingled shadow weaves
Cool haunts, languid with ease and dreamful rest.

How throbs the heart at gay approach of spring
When Beauty plays upon the silver grass,
Or trembles in the weedy pools of glass,
Lulled with sweet song and lilies pale that sw
On slender stalks. In her luxuriant tresses cling
Violet and moss and bleeding—heart ;
Gently she sleeps, with lips apart,
On blossom beds, her scented bosom heaves
Glad with the thought of future boon,
She dreams beneath the curved moon,—
Dreameth of harvest with its yellow sheaves,
And fruit on r sy branches strewn.

Ah, soon forgotten Spring when Summer glows !
And the wild bee roams round the fragrant lime
Long after sunset flush and cheated time
Of rest, ere humming he reluctant goes
Through 'shadowy scented fields where juicy clover grows,
'Mid barley, wheat, and fluttering peas,
Whose bloom doth promise large increase
Of bearded ear, plump seed, and bending pod.
Along the fence wild bushes fling
Dew-laden berries, locusts sing,
The daisy, buttercup, and wild rose nod,
Brief bloom the days of summer bring.

Soon, soon the summer wanes in Autumn's sheen,
Then sumachs hang rich plumes along the hill,
And glossy groups of crows untiring fill
The woods and stubble fields ; reddening is seen
The hawthorne tree. Along the road canaries glean
Light thistle down in darting flight,
Dank golden rod throbs with delight ;

By hill and winding vale and bubbling streams
 Gay butterflies a fluttering stray
 On silken wings in lazy play,
 Where clustering fruits, swollen with jelly, gleam
 On mountain ash and alder spray.

'Neath bursting apples orchard trees hang red,
 With luscious peckings to the mealy core,
 And gardens yield sweet plums. About the door
 The purpling vine on bending trellis spread.
 Far in the woods the deep-tinged trees melodious shed
 Their mellow leaves, and scatter o'er
 The ground brown nuts in ample store;
 The sportive squirrel, chattering with glee,
 O'erjoyed with food for winter days,
 'Neath logs and fallen leaves he lays
 Them one by one so secretly,
 While hills and woods are dim with haze.

What wonder that the yearning heart is sad
 When Winter comes and Autumn days are dead;
 When song and bloom and gladdening days are fled.
 Where are the joyous scenes that Summer had,
 And where the bright-winged birds that singing were so glad?
 They sought the radiant South, long, long
 Ago for warmer haunts of song;
 But thou, swift-winged bird of snows and winds,
 Thou tender messenger of love,
 Comest like Noah's wandering dove
 With olive branch of hope to weary minds
 When all is gloom below, above!

Thou hast not known spring on the hill's green side;
 The summer's sunshine, shade and crystal streams,
 And misty Autumn's melancholy dreams;
 Nor seen them fade, nor asked 'Can aught abide';
 Nor wept sad tears for loves that with them sighing died.
 I know not what the future hath.
 Narrow, or heavy tangled path,
 Failure and grief and death must be my lot;
 Yet hidden power that lives in thee
 Will surely lead me tenderly,
 More than the south born bird thy life hath taught
 Me hope and immortality.

T. B. PHILLIPS-STEWART.

University and College News.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting was held last Tuesday; the President, Mr. Houston, in the chair. Mr. Alfred Jury gave a very clear exposition of the "Labor Question." The hour question is the most important of all those before the public. If work is carried on for a fewer number of hours each day, a demand for extra workmen will be created in order to keep up the amount of production. This extra demand will increase wages. It has been urged that if a workman has more time at his disposal he will waste it in dissipation. But dissipation among workmen is far less common now in proportion to the opportunities for it than it was when hours were longer. If a man works eighteen hours a day in a heated shop, when he gets through he is not fit for anything but drinking. Poverty is as much the cause of drunkenness as the reverse. Prison labor should not compete with free labor. If a convict is idle the workingman has to pay the largest share towards his support, but if he is allowed to compete with the free labourer who supports a family, the latter is driven out of employment, perhaps to crime, while the rich man reaps all the benefit of cheaper produc-

tion. It is better for the workingman to feed the criminal than himself to starve through his competition. Convicts might be employed on government works that would not otherwise be undertaken. Machinery in factories should be properly covered, and children should not be employed till they have received a certain amount of education.

On the land question the labor party agrees with Henry George that land is the great source of wealth and employment, and that its monopoly is detrimental to the best interests of labor. Though some go the full length of saying that all land should be state property, all are agreed that no land should be sold by the Government to speculators, but all land granted should be immediately turned to productive purposes.

Co-operation can do much towards overcoming the antagonism between labor and capital, and towards encouraging habits of thrift and industry amongst the working classes. For a Government constantly to carry on public works for the sake of employing idle labor was about as sensible as to burn your house to keep yourself warm. On this point, however, he was at variance with the majority of his fellow-workingmen. After a lively discussion on the views advanced, a hearty vote of thanks was presented to Mr. Jury, and the meeting adjourned.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

Prof. Galbraith, the President, presided over the last regular meeting of the above society that will be held this session. The ordinary business having been despatched, Mr. R. Laird read an interesting paper on "Toronto Sewage." His paper gave evidence of much industry and research, while it was rendered even more entertaining by a keen sense of humor and irony which pervaded it throughout. Mr. C. H. C. Wright gave a neat solution of the strains in a bridge of 120 feet span. The dimensions of this bridge were sent in to the Society by a practical engineer, who, in working out the strains, got puzzled over the "counters." "An Improvement for a Theodolite," by Mr. R. A. Ludgate, was read by the corresponding secretary. Mr. Ludgate's paper explained an excellent device (his own invention) to prevent the telescope revolving too rapidly about its horizontal axis, an evil which is too well known to be described here. This was ingeniously accomplished by a spring attached to the horizontal axis. A paper on "Railroad Construction," from Mr. W. F. Tye, was partly read, but owing to want of time it was laid over for the next meeting. As Mr. Tye has been out on the C. P. R. ever since he left the School of Practical Science six years ago, he is well qualified to make a valuable addition to the transactions of the Society. His paper started with prairie work near Winnipeg and ended with mountainous work in the heart of the Rockies.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of this association on Tuesday evening, Prof. Pike, Ph. D., was nominated for the presidency for the ensuing year. Motions were made to have a question drawer established in connection with the society, and that the meetings be held next term in the afternoon. An interesting account of the organization of German Universities, and of the method of proceeding to the degree of Ph. D., was given by Prof. Wright, after which Mr. T. McKenzie, B.A., delivered a lecture on the "Anatomy of the Seal," illustrating it with specimens of the more peculiar organs of the body.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

At the last meeting of the University College Modern Language Society the annual election of officers took place. The offices were all keenly contested, and after a most exciting election the follow-

ing were declared the staff of management for 1886-7:—Honorary President, Mr. J. Squair, B.A.; President, Mr. A. H. Young; Vice-President, Mr. F. J. Steen; Lady Vice-President, Miss H. Charles; Recording Secretary, Mr. J. H. Moss; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. F. McLeay; Councillors, Messrs. T. Logie, J. A. Ferguson, E. C. Jeffrey, J. E. Jones, H. J. Cody, T. C. Des Barres; Musical Director, Mr. J. E. Jones. The representatives from the first year will be chosen in October.

The newly-elected President, Mr. A. H. Young, then took the chair, after which Mr. Ferguson, in a very flattering speech, moved the thanks of the Society to the retiring committee, mentioning the President, the lady Vice-President, Miss Balmer, and Mr. Jones. On behalf of his committee, Mr. T. A. Rowan replied, thanking the members for their cordial support during his term of office, and assuring them of the pleasure it had been to him to preside during a year, in which such unusual success had attended the working of the Society.

The usual farewell was then tendered the old fourth year men, almost all of whom were present, and in most touching speeches expressed regret at their prospects of not meeting again at the Club. Among those who replied were Mr. Mapcherson, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. King and Mr. Burkholder. Thus closed the most successful year in the history of the Modern Language Society of University College.

PRESENTATION.

On Tuesday evening, the 23rd inst., Lieut. Acheson, who lately resigned the command of "K" Company Q. O. R., was presented with a handsome bronze clock by the officers and men of the University Rifles. This presentation was delayed by the sudden call of the Company to active service last March, and on this account was made informally.

Sergeant Cronyn, on behalf of the members of "K" Company, presented the clock as a token of esteem and of the high appreciation of the services rendered to the Company by Lieut. Acheson, whose resignation was the cause of general regret.

Mr. Acheson returned his hearty thanks to the members of the Company, and expressed his regret that circumstances should have made it necessary for him to resign the command of the University Rifles.

A SENSIBLE DONATION.—The treasurer of the University College Y. M. C. A. has received a donation of \$46.75 from St. Paul's church, Bowmanville.

Drift.

FROM "LEAVES OF GRASS."

A child said, *What is the grass?* fetching it to me with full hands;
How could I answer the child? I do not know what it is any more
than he.

I guess it must be the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful green stuff
woven.

Or, I guess it is the handkerchief of the Lord,
A scented gift and remembrance designedly dropped,
Bearing the owner's name someway in the corners, that we may see
and remark, and say *Whose?*

Or I guess the grass is itself a child, the produced babe of the vegeta-
tion.

Or I guess it is a uniform hieroglyphic,
And it means, sprouting alike in broad zones and narrow zones,

Growing among black folks as among white,
Kanuck, Tuckahoe, Congressman, Cuff, I give them the same, I re-
ceive them the same.

And now it seems to me the beautiful uncut hair of graves.

Tenderly will I use you, curling grass;
It may be you transpire from the breasts of young men,
It may be if I had known *them* I would have loved them;
It may be you are from old people or from offspring taken soon out of
their mothers' laps,
And here you are the mothers' laps.

This grass is very dark to be from the white heads of old mothers,
Darker than the colorless beards of old men,
Dark to come from under the faint red roofs of mouths.

O I perceive, after all, so many uttering tongues,
And I perceive they do not come from the roofs of mouths for no-
thing.

I wish I could translate the hints about the dead young men and
women,
And the hints about old men and mothers, and the offspring taken soon
out of their laps.

What do you think has become of the young and old men?
And what do you think has become of the women and children?

They are alive and well somewhere,
The smallest sprout shows there is really no death,
And if ever there was it led forward life, and does not wait at the end
to arrest it,
And ceased the moment life appeared.

All goes onward and outward, nothing collapses,
And to die is different from what any one supposed and luckier.

WALT WHITMAN.

Communications.

THE CLASSICAL COURSE.

To the Editor of the VARSITY.

DEAR SIR,—Every one who has watched the course of events within the sphere of University and College work, during the past two or three years, must have noticed the active spirit of reform, or shall we rather call it desire for change, that has shown itself at every opportunity. Hardly had we recovered from the shock of the New Protestantism, when the sacred monument erected by the Alexandrian "father of mathematics," and no doubt expected by him to be *aere perennius*, is assailed as being antiquated and confused. But instances of this tendency are perhaps most plainly to be seen among the undergraduates themselves.

Changes in the curriculum are suggested, visions of Atlantis are related, scholarships are denounced, freedom from the restraint of the College Council is demanded, until the situation presents the picture of an irritable, grey-headed father, surrounded by a group of persistent and noisy children, who may, by one more demand, evoke the impatient, "Don't bother me!"

Whether or not many of the proposed changes are in the right direction, we are not in a position to state. There is one, however, in favor of which an opinion might safely be expressed. The department of Modern Languages has of late been receiving special attention, while classical literature has been comparatively ignored, either from the belief that this department is insusceptible to reform or does not fall within the province of literature.

A change which it was thought would be beneficial in that department, viz. : to allow freedom of choice with regard to the work read provided a fair proficiency in the languages is acquired, would apply quite as well to ancient literature as to modern. Greek is not so much more abstruse than German or Latin than French, that after a certain acquaintance with it, in order to appreciate the author's sentiments, we must take them in small doses, interspersed with lengthy notes and criticisms to aid digestion. If there were no ideas underlying these languages, were they to be regarded merely as an interesting collection of grammatical constructions, or modified Sanskrit roots, a knowledge of which was essential in order that the reading might be of any benefit, the above plan might well be adopted.

But surely there is something beyond the mere form. Should our language ever occupy among future ages the place that Greek and Latin does among us, would a comparison of dialects and idioms be worthy of much attention? The strong, homely verses of Burns would afford as much information as would be found in the polished lines of Pope.

Again, one who may care comparatively little about the narrative of a contest between Athenians and Spartans, the result of which, after all, made little difference in the history of the world, may read with delight, and be equally profited by the perusal of scenes from Plato, for example, where an acquaintance is formed with that great philosopher, in rank the second of those the world has seen, or with the every-day life of the citizens of a nation surpassed only by our own.

But, Mr. Editor, my object was not to instruct in these matters those who know far more about them than I do, but merely to call attention to the fact that by the removal of prescribed text-books in the upper years, by an examination upon whatever passages may be placed before the candidate, much might be done to encourage in our college the study of a department, which at present is not receiving due attention, nor is the attention it does receive producing the best results.

T. A. GIBSON.

A DREAM OF ATLANTIS.

To the Editor of the VARSITY.

SIR,—If the few remarks made by "B. A." on our English lecturer call forth criticism, how much more should Mr. Vandersmissen be defended from the mean attack directed against him!

There are a few men around our college who criticise almost everything and everybody. No doubt the young man who had the interview with "B. A." was one of these, and we must confess, to put it mildly, that he possesses an extremely inventive and imaginative mind, or, to put it stronger, that he, out of a spirit of petty spitefulness, in consort with "B. A." (perhaps a disappointed would-be medallist), deliberately mis-states the facts and takes this means of making an unjust attack which would in no way meet with the assent of the students if submitted to them in the form of a petition.

This petty spitefulness is evident in the exaggeration indulged in, "more and more disgusted each year," "necessary to wait twenty minutes," "a most frigid scowl," "impossible to distinguish," etc., etc.

It is doubtful whether a grievance which has to resort to despicable exaggeration to state itself is a grievance at all.

Not satisfied with the attack on Mr. Vandersmissen as a lecturer, your correspondent criticises him in his position of librarian. I wish "B. A." would explain the sentence "Complaints—disposition." Does he mean that because Mr. Vandersmissen is not amiable enough to the students of the Modern Language department, therefore he is an inefficient librarian? If this is his meaning, he is a miserable logician.

Mr. Vandersmissen, in addition to his weekly lecture on German

prose, has always kindly offered to correct all the prose we might be inclined to write. He takes us very often into the library and there explains the corrections he has made in our exercises. Although I have been three years in this College, I have never yet heard a complaint against Mr. V.'s sociability. He is always willing to enter into a conversation with us on any subject which interests us. Nor have I ever seen evidences of his "cynical disposition."

Mr. V.'s non-punctuality has been greatly exaggerated. It is the exception and not the rule. Students must remember that he is often detained in the library by members of the Faculty and visitors like that one who came sniffing around the University last week to find fault as much as he could in order to have something to talk about in the Local Legislature.

The accusation that Mr. Vandersmissen is unpopular among the Modern Language students goes without weight when confronted with the fact that in the contest yesterday afternoon for the position of Honorary President of the Modern Language Club three votes would have won him the election.

Yours truly,

March 23, 1886.

THIRD YEAR.

A CLERICAL CRITIC.

To the Editor of the VARSITY.

SIR,—A Presbyterian preacher of this city, in his sermon of last Sunday evening, to give point (I presume) to a sarcastic denunciation of a late contributor to your columns on the "New Protestantism" discussion, deliberately went out of his way to say that the VARSITY, in his opinion, does not at all represent the opinion of University men as a body. I could not discover any connection between a disagreement on the preacher's part with the views expressed by your contributor and a gratuitous attack on your magazine. He gave no reasons for his opinion, nor do I know the motive which called forth its utterance. But I desire that such a statement—a very serious one to those of us who take an interest and pride in the VARSITY, particularly when made in a position where direct answer or refutation is impossible—should not go unchallenged unless true. In this case, I take the liberty of saying, that the expression of opinion was not only uncalled for, but was, to put it mildly, quite unwarranted by fact. Having known the VARSITY from its foundation, I venture to say that it has always, on all questions that have arisen of importance or interest to University men as such, been in accord with, and given expression to, the opinion of the majority, or of those who soon became the majority in its constituency; and that it to-day occupies a position as the accepted representative of graduates and undergraduates, of which both are proud. Of course the VARSITY is not in agreement with everybody, even among University men; to be so would involve the most absurd inconsistency. Much less does it pretend to be in agreement with those who are not of the University or in sympathy with it. But it has an opinion of its own which it does not hesitate to express, and this, while doubtless of itself the ground of some opposition and dislike, is at the same time the main reason why the VARSITY possesses to so marked an extent the confidence and support of those who know it best and have known it longest. Candour and fearlessness are good qualities for a press to show, and as long as the VARSITY possesses these it need not be afraid of attack from the pulpit or elsewhere. Those qualities won it success in the past and can be depended on now. Moreover, Mr. Editor, I fancy that you will find the approval and the ever-increasing support of our University men a sufficient antidote to any injury attempted to the VARSITY by its enemies, of whom, of course, its independence will always ensure the existence of a certain number.

I am, Mr. Editor, yours truly,

Toronto, March 27, 1886.

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A WAR SONG OF 1812.
From "Tecumseh."

FOR CANADA FIGHT.

O hark to the voice from the lips of the free ;
O hark to the cry from the lakes to the sea !
Arm ! arm ! the invader is wasting our coasts,
And tainting the air of our land with his hosts.
Arise ! then, arise ! let us rally and form,
And rush like the torrent, and sweep like the
storm,
On the foes of our king, of our country adored,
Of the flag that was lost, but in exile restored !

And whose was the flag ? and whose was the soil ?
And whose was the exile, the suffering, the toil ?
Our fathers', who carved in the forest a name,
And left us rich heirs of their freedom and fame,
Oh, dear to our hearts is that flag, and the land
Our fathers' bequeathed—'tis the work of their
hand !

And the soul they redeemed from the woods
with renoun,
The might of their sons will defend for the
Crown !

CHARLES MAIR.

REPRIMANDED IN CHURCH.

(Ned Buntline, in Detroit Free Press.)

It was years ago. I had no gray hairs in
my top-knot, no wrinkles in my face, few
griefs in my bosom. I had business in
Quincy, Ill., and had to stay over Thanks-
giving day there. I was invited by a fair
friend who belonged to the choir of a popu-
lar church to go with her to hear the Thanks-
giving sermon.

It was one of the old-fashioned kind, long,
theological and dry. I sat where I could
look out on a vacant lot beside the church.
In that lot, alone, wandered one poor goose
—apparently seeking in vain some way to
get out. I saw it and a thought struck me.
I wrote a paraphrastic verse on the blank leaf
of my fair friend's singing book. These were
the words :

'Twas the last goose of autumn
Left standing alone ;
All its feathered companions
Were slaughtered and gone—
Not a goose of its kindred,
Not a gander was nigh
To list to its sorrow,
Or yield sigh for sigh !

I handed the book over to the lady and
pointed to the unhappy goose in that back
yard.

She tittered and handed the book to the
next member of the choir.

The verse was read, the goose looked at,
and so it went all through that large choir.

And all this time the preacher was watch-
ing me while he went on with his sermon.
When he saw that the choir was in a full blast
of glee he broke out :

"It is bad enough for the members of the
choir to bring strangers into their circle, but
when such strangers are so irreverent as to
write notes in the singing books to excite
laughter, it is more than a man of God can
bear in silence !"

I felt worse than that goose, you bet, and
never since then have I tried to make fun in
a choir.

The mariner is not liable to censure if he
leads a wreckless life.



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A wind-fall—A calm.
An oversight—Firing above the target.
From top to bottom—A landslide.—*Puck.*

Mr. Johnson, why is a stock yard like a focus? Give it up. Because the 'raise meet there. See?

HIS NAME WAS G. W.

One of the managers of a home for destitute colored children tells a funny story about the way Washington's birthday was celebrated at that institution. She went out there in the afternoon to see how things were going on, and found a youngster, as black as the inside of a coal mine, tied to a bed post with his hands behind him.

"What's that boy tied up so for?" she asked the attendant.

"For lying, ma'am; he is the worst lying nigger I ever saw."

"What's his name?"

"George Washington, ma'am," was the paralyzing reply.—*Washington Capitol.*

A clergyman is always a marrying man.

Many people have been anxious to know what the wild waves are saying? Why, telling fish-stories, of course.

A weather-prophet says: "It is likely to be dry throughout Kansas this year." This is a safe prediction in view of the fact that Kansas is a prohibition state.

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