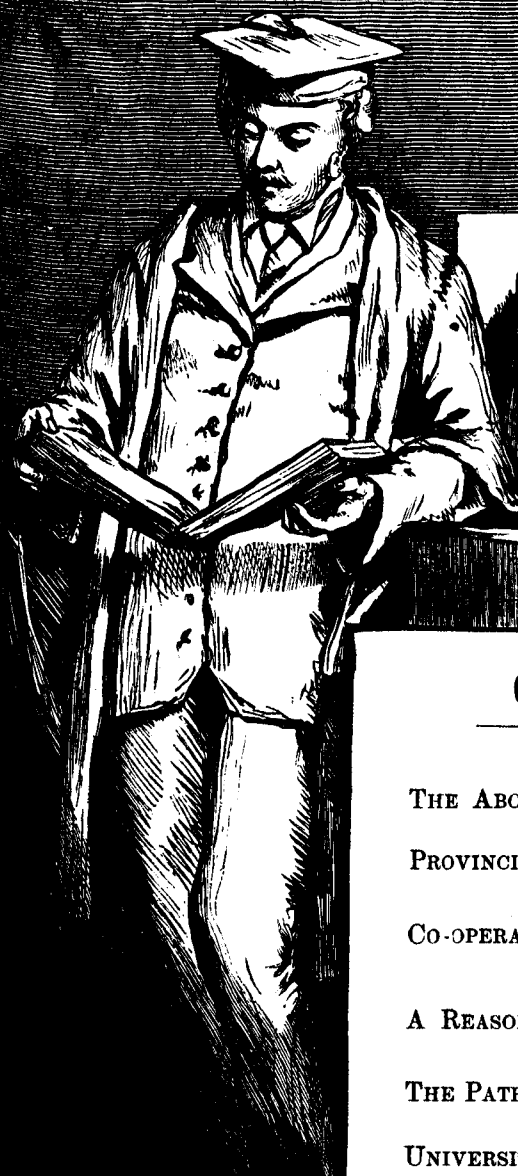
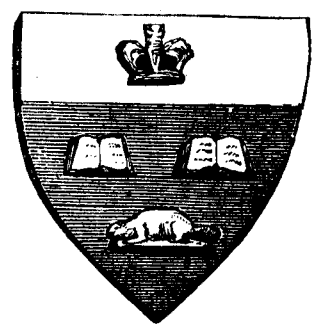
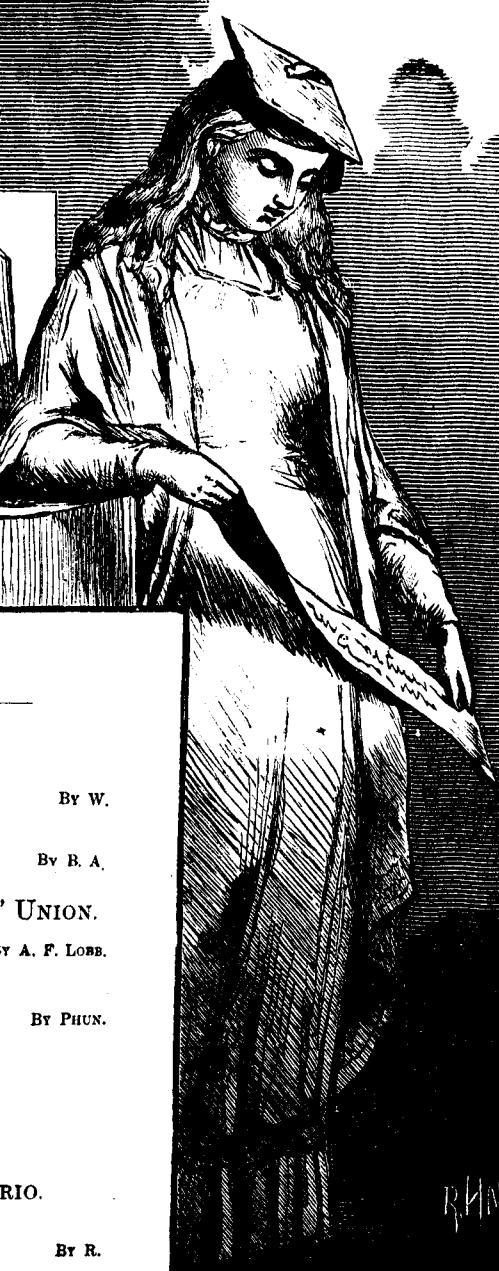


THE UNIVERSITY



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THE VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

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February 17, 1882.

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THE ABOLITION OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

The meeting at Moss Hall on Saturday, referred to in these columns last week, was largely attended, and the question of the advisability of petitioning the Senate to abolish scholarships and medals was fully discussed.

The first motion proposed was :

"That a petition be presented to the Senate of the University of Toronto in favor of the abolition of medals, scholarships and prizes; such petition to be presented to another meeting of undergraduates for ratification."

It was moved in amendment to this :

"That while recognizing the necessity of instruction in jurisprudence, constitutional history and political economy in University Colleges, this meeting declare itself in favor of the present system of scholarships and medals."

After a long and exhaustive discussion, the original motion was carried by an overwhelming majority. The only argument that the opponents of abolition placed weight upon was, that if scholarships were abolished, men who now go through the University either would not go through at all or would be greatly delayed in doing so. The answer to this argument was pointed out. The man who possesses sufficient ability and energy to take a scholarship throughout his college course, will not be prevented taking a University education because he did not secure a prize of \$150 a year. In two years he could save more than the total amount of the scholarships he would receive; and if he started out for himself in life at as early an age as most Canadian youths who are without means do, he could graduate while nearly as young as his more fortunate fellow-students possessed of means. Besides, for every one man who gets through the University depending on his ability to obtain a scholarship, there are a dozen others who are equally dependent on their own efforts, and who get through without any external assistance. The man possessed of more ability than these men have, should be as capable of helping himself as they are. As a matter of fact, however, the majority of those who obtain scholarships would go through the University uninterruptedly without them.

A strong argument against abolition, and one which was not mentioned on Saturday, is, that men who are going into law or medicine, might, if there were no scholarships in the arts course to help them, abandon it altogether, and devote their energies exclusively to obtaining their professional education. In answer to this we say, that supposing a man to take the senior matriculation examination, if he were going into law, it would only require one year longer to get through both arts and law courses than through law alone, as the Law Society deducts for graduates two years from the time under articles. As to medicine, few medical men take the arts course anyway, and those who put themselves through would probably do so by teaching, for which they would require an arts education.

But surely there are broader grounds upon which we must view this question than the assistance of a dozen needy students. No one denies that this object is a most commendable one, but it is unfair to practise it when injustice is done to students as a class, and we hold that the present system does this in more than one way.

It was stated on Saturday that if scholarships were abolished men would be driven from this University. We believe that instead of drawing men to the University the present system drives them away. Men who take scholarships and medals are considered *par excellence*, the best men in the University, and those who are not fortunate enough to get these are ranked in the popular mind as men of no ability or

learning. Students possessed of good ability yet content to acknowledge that there may be others with more than they have, in choosing the University they will attend, and seeing the keen competition here, despair of securing any of the prizes offered, and unwilling to be ranked as second class men, go to some other University. We hold that all first class honor men should be ranked equally, and when we see the injustice that is done by granting prizes to only the men who stand first, the remarks of one of the speakers at the meeting seems not too strong: "The present system is not only *bad* but *infamous*." If the Senate is at present too closely wedded to the system of scholarships to part with it, they might at least effect the desirable reform of ranking all first class honor men in the graduating class equally as none of the arguments in favor of scholarships apply to medals.

The course now open to undergraduates is concentrated resistance to the present system. There will be much opposition at first; unreasoning conservatism will oppose any change. We will be, and have been, told that this is a matter that students have no business to interfere with; but if the question is strongly agitated and kept before graduates and undergraduates, we *must* triumph, for we have right on our side.

W.

PROVINCIAL VICE-ROYALTY.

Those who were present at the opening ceremonies of this Session of our Local Legislature, witnessed a scene that strikingly exemplified the lasting and disheartening influence of prejudice. With royal promptitude, at the proper moment, a carriage, drawn by foaming steeds, and bearing the Lieutenant-Governor, dashed up to the Legislative Hall. A corps of volunteers guarded the historic precincts of that venerable building, and successfully accomplished the double task of presenting arms to His Excellency, and of overawing the revolutionary populace without. Within, the Chamber presented an animated and impressive appearance. The diplomatic corps resident in the city relaxed for the nonce from the cares of international intrigue and finesse, and showed their brilliant uniforms to the best advantage. These, with the gorgeous costumes of the ladies, the venerable aspect of the Judges, the conscious modesty of the members, and the presence of the mace, were all calculated to make the casual spectator believe that the constitution was still safe. Had he any lingering doubts as to this, they were finally dissipated when the Speech from the Throne (what a resounding phrase!) was read in grandiloquent style by a stoutish gentleman in a cocked hat, with an amazing quantity of gold lace strewn in reckless profusion over his uniform, while a youthful officer struck stained-glass attitudes on his right. The speech read, the Lieutenant-Governor drove back to Government House and oblivion, and the members, after the regulation number of adjournments, settled down to the exhausting task of struggling with the Address.

Now, while deprecating any aimless tampering with the Constitution, it must strike every one who will for one moment forget mere prejudice and custom, that all this is out of place in

so democratic a Province as Ontario. The ill-concealed ridicule of uninterested spectators showed at once their appreciation of this useless ostentation, though perhaps but few paused to think that underneath all this tinsel there lay a positive wrong to the community at large. Speakers on both sides at the last public debate expressed themselves clearly and well on this subject, pointing out that this useless parade is a matter of serious importance (when we consider that it costs enormously out of proportion to our resources); serious, because through an ill-directed and pressing economy, deserving institutions are forced to lead a starved and undeveloped existence.

I would submit for careful consideration the following facts in this connexion. In the first place the Lieutenant-Governor is allowed a yearly salary of \$10,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Dominion; in addition to this, there is an annual appropriation from the Provincial Treasury of \$10,000 more. Government House and the grounds attached (worth at least \$300,000) would, if sold and the proceeds invested, yield a yearly income of probably \$20,000. Adding these sums, we have a capital sum (say \$800,000), representing an income of \$40,000 per annum unproductively invested, and conferring no earthly benefit on anybody but the fortunate politician who chances to be Lieutenant-Governor. Now, it would do neither the constitution nor the country any harm if the Lieutenant-Governor's salary were put at \$1,200 a year (a sum not thought too small by the wealthy and populous State of Ohio) and a suite of rooms in the Government Buildings, sufficient for the transaction of business, allowed him. The annual appropriation could still be made and applied, together with the interest on the sum realized by the sale of the Government House, to the sole use and benefit of the University of Toronto. As the denominational colleges have never objected to the present wasteful application of this sum, they obviously could not consistently object if it were to be made productive of good in the way I have indicated.

I now hand the active advocacy of this scheme over to the members of Convocation on the one hand, and of our Local Assembly on the other. The former, unsparing critics of both the University Senate and the Provincial Assembly, cannot surely refrain from seizing the opportunity of redressing a grievance and confirming upon their *Alma Mater* so substantial a benefit. Members of the Legislature (always rigidly economical in the interests of their constituents) who have attacked Upper Canada College, and thus sought to abolish an institution which, even from the most unfriendly point of view, has done the country good service, must, if they wish to be both just and generous, first remove that institution whose expensiveness is in an inverse ratio to its usefulness. How instructive it would be could we have from both bodies an unbiassed and candid expression of opinion!

B. A.

CO-OPERATION AND THE STUDENTS' UNION.

The Executive Committee of the Union will report at the mass meeting on Tuesday next three methods of co-operation in purchasing College books and instruments. The first of these is, that dealers who now make specialties of either arts and medical law books or surgical instruments, allow a discount to students of the different faculties, members of the Union, and thus secure the exclusive patronage for their particular supplies. This system is at once simple and certain. The dealer, by a liberal discount, secures a monopoly, and trade opposition guarantees the purchasing student against fraud and exorbitancy. Unfortunately for this, as I think, the best system, no dealer will co-operate.

A Students' Emporium, where books may be ordered and delivered, within a reasonable time, at a fair advance on cost to proprietor, seems at first sight to possess many advantages. Losses from the accumulation of dead stock would be avoided; certain and ready sale saves the interest on capital invested. These items must give the emporium a high vantage-ground. However, in actual business there are weighty offsets. The discount allowed by publisher to retailer is, as a matter of fact, computed on the gross amount of the order given. Publishers of College books also publish a much larger proportion of miscellaneous works (*vide* MacMillan's Catalogue). In a supposed case a city dealer orders \$5,000 worth of books, of which \$500 worth are collegiate; the discount allowed on the college books is determined by the magnitude of the whole order, and is, of course, considerable. The proprietor of the emporium orders the actual quantity of college books required, \$500 worth. His discount is a mere bagatelle. With this great advantage in buying, the dealer can lower his prices to Union figures, and since the obligation to buy at the emporium is not on moral grounds but purely one of self-interest, the emporium becomes an opposition book store with no advantages of general trade, and patronized only at the caprice of the student. The proprietor of the emporium would expect the Union to pay an officer from their funds to assist him in the selection of books; this of course lessens the economy aimed at, and entails upon the executive the control of what will be found to be, practically, an uncontrollable officer. The annoyance caused by delay in delivery and the mistakes of inexperienced ordering will force the student who wants a work at once to purchase elsewhere, and leave the emporium unvisited.

Between these systems, advocated for united operation, there exists what may be termed the wholesale system. This is purely coöperative, and obtains with manifest advantage in several local student communities at present; for example, in Knox College and McMaster Hall. A student, solely for the sake of the saving accruing to himself, induces several fellow-students to join him in the purchase of necessary works. The order thus reaching a respectable total, a discount of 25 per cent. may be obtained from wholesale dealers in the city, and a very appreciable economy effected.

To co-operate thus as a union would demand the appointment of a salaried secretary, adept in each branch of college literature, to arrange payments, collect orders, and procure the right editions. No representative committee could conduct the ordering satisfactorily, since their courses are different; and unless these gentlemen were paid, they could not give the time and care necessary to the performance of this important function. Clearly, to reap the full advantage of this system, it must be operated locally.

As a delegate to the executive, recognized as yet indeed only by the courtesy of its members, and an ardent admirer of the spirit which inaugurated this Union, I exceedingly regret to seem to attack what is assuredly the keystone of its permanence. But why base its continuance on any such hazardous undertaking? To establish a book emporium, which, in the opinion of men of experience, both in and retired from business, cannot succeed, and which confessedly the intending proprietor will conduct as an accessory and as an advertisement to a drug and other special business, would perhaps lower booksellers' prices for a time; however, they by combination, and from the absence of any moral obligation on members, would compass the suspension of the emporium, and make students at once the laughing-stock of the commercial world, the dupe of persuasive inexperience, and the victims of now established and vengeful monopolists.

Let each community adopt the wholesale system locally; the students in the different courses of University combine to reap a common benefit in new books if desired. And as a means of exchange in second-hand books, which the proprietor of the proposed emporium in no way contemplates, let there appear in the University journal, at a merely nominal charge, a list of books to be disposed of by graduating classes, or wanted by undergraduates in the different years. If the name of the work and address of the seller is published, the second-hand bookseller, with his paltry prices offered, is done away with.

This plan would be co-operation without complication, co-operation between student and student, between University men and their University press. Does this necessarily sacrifice the Union? No. It has other objects, and if the Union prevents the operation of these local systems, which alone can be successful and appreciable, if to support the Union undergraduates must forego immediate and tangible advantages for the distant and imagined benefits of a reckless venture, the interests of the communities demand that the Union should abandon co-operation. Amend the constitution so that meetings may be called when the interests of the students demand them, abandon co-operation as a Union and develop it locally; the Students' Union becomes a Parliament with executive and broad objects, and leaves its constituents to enjoy the manifest advantages of localised co-operative economies.

A. F. LOBB.

In another column will be found a letter from Junius, Jr., which purports to set forth the views of those who think that the time for getting up the Greek play is too short, and hence that the representation should be postponed till next fall or spring. Of course it will be apparent to all, that if each man says to his neighbor, "Behold! the time is short," and works himself into the belief that it is actually impossible to get up the play in the time allowed, the play will not be produced at all. Now, it seems to us, that all that is wanted is a little of that back-bone which is generally to be found lacking in our undergraduates whenever a scheme of somewhat more stupendous proportions than ordinary is proposed. The actors are rehearsing twice a week instead of once, as stated in the letter referred to, and the music is getting on as well as could be expected, when it is known that it is among the members of the Glee Club that most if not all of the despondency in regard to the play and its production exists. It surely is a little premature to say that the play cannot be got up, although there is some show of reason in the remarks by Junius, especially in his reference to the time expended at Harvard in rehearsals in comparison with the time allotted here. We would suggest that the preparations be continued till the last moment, short of incurring any actual expense, and then if it be found impossible to produce the play, in the natural order of things, it must needs be postponed till some time in the next academic year. By pursuing this method, nothing will be lost in the way of preparation already done. The feelings expressed by Junius, however, seem to be by no means confined to a few, and a thorough examination of the position of affairs will be now quite in order; and any expression of opinion on this subject, both *pro* and *con*, through these columns, will be gladly welcomed, so that we may not bring lasting disgrace on the College by making a failure, when success of the highest order can alone be tolerated, through going blindfolded into a *cul de sac* of uncertainty.

REPLY TO "A REASONABLE DOUBT,"

IN No. 15.

Oh, no! he'll say, "It's very mild;"
 "Pray, Miss, beware the gutter."
 "Oh, view the high and lustrous moon;"
 "Say, isn't she just utter."
 And then he'll stroke his soft moustache;
 Or fix his giglamps closer;
 And then he'll sigh, or perhaps he'll sneeze,
 Or perhaps propound a poser:
 As thus, "Do you read Tennyson
 "And do you like his 'Princess'!"

"It's awful clever, don't you think?"
 If she assents he winces,
 And slides off to the carnival,
 Or cart-wheel style of bonnet,
 Or perhaps describes his little dog,
 And makes weak jokes upon it.

And oft in midst of study brown,
 A missive disconcerts him,
 'Tis sure to be, "You'r fooling me,"
 Or something else that hurts him.
 Or just some simple question, as
 "What is the French for 'winking'?"
 Or, "Do you know your hair's awry?"
 And quite prevents him thinking.
 And if at lecture, taking notes,
 His ardent mind he fixes
 To catch the points, his neighbour laughs,
 And thus the subject mixes.
 And if he chance to look around,
 He catches some eye smiling,
 Grey, brown, or blue, from thought profound,
 The wretched Soph. beguiling.

PRUX.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

In its last issue the *Crimson* takes up the cudgels on the side of Mr. Oscar Wilde, and its remarks might form a supplement to the article in the *New York Sun* on the part played by the Freshmen at the Boston lecture. This is the only college paper I have as yet seen which contains any words appreciative of Mr. Wilde's claim to respect and admiration. The tone and style in which other prints have expressed themselves seem to have been borrowed from the outside press, and the information vouchsafed in regard to his character and aims were taken from the same source. The greater number of those employed by daily papers to furnish contributions on subjects of the day fulfil their task fairly well when confined to ordinary social and political topics. This class of contributors have been called upon in many instances to 'dish up' something on the 'aesthetic movement.' The subject not being one on which the dictionaries and the cyclopedias of the newspaper office could furnish the usual amount of material, the writers had to fall back on the scanty stock supplied by English comic papers and the extravaganza *Patience*. Hence it has come about, that nine out of ten accounts concerning Mr. Wilde, are made under the inspiration of a mental picture, consisting of attenuated forms, unnatural attitudes and inane gazers at flowers. However wretched this sort of criticism, its wretchedness was not too much for the gullibility of several college prints, including those of Yale. The climax as to ignorance of what constitutes aestheticism was reached in the revolting boorishness of a correspondent in the *Michigan Chronicle*. The *Crimson* shows a sincere wish to form a fair estimate of Mr. Wilde, and maintains that "he is a young man of rare poetic ability, fine poetic achievement, grand poetic promise." This lavish meed of praise is doubtless well meant, but if it is intended to convey the idea that Mr. Wilde's best title to fame rests or will rest on his poems, the mark is altogether missed. As he said in conversation at Boston, the object of English aesthetes is to teach the poor, the working people, to create beauty by educating them in design, and endow them with fine and permanent taste in handicrafts. This is a noble mission which opens a road endless in possibilities of refinement. Mr. Wilde will merit durable renown if in this respect he will prove to be a successful missionary.

* *

Of course it was a printer's error. But why should it not set a fashion? Why should not certain invitations run honestly? "Mr. and Mrs. _____ request the pleasure of your presents at their daughter's wedding." Unhappily in this particular case, the undergrad at the Residence who got the notice is for the time being—to use his own somewhat doleful expression—"strapped."

* *

SCENE: A smoking car on G. W. R. Train draws up at station.
 CONDUCTOR (entering): "All tickets ready."
 SPOT (disappearing under the sofa, to passengers): "Gentlemen, I trust to your honor."

* *

It appears that at Cornell the Freshmen have an annual banquet, and the Sophomores an annual conspiracy to upset the arrangements for

that festivity. I proceed to compare two sorts of opinion on this apparent antagonism between two Years.

I. In Toronto, the press and some of the undergraduates too, judging from the published comments on an occurrence of last term, would say that this was a "disgraceful" state of affairs; that the Freshmen were the victims every year of an "outrage" that these Sophomores were "unmanly and cowardly."

II. In Cornell they presume to look upon things somewhat differently. On the last occasion of the banquet a few in the class were unable to attend; they had been kidnapped. The snatching party were denounced by the outside press and got into hot water with the Faculty. The Freshmen, however, instead of echoing the indignation of the papers and the authorities, decided to acknowledge themselves as participators in the abduction. In the words of the Cornell *Era*, every one knew that this affair was something expected and perhaps welcomed by the Freshmen. It was no more than a game in which in the earlier part the Sophs. played more skilfully. No one doubts that the Freshmen would have been greatly disappointed had '84 resolved to let them have their supper without opposition. The Freshmen felt certain that they had outwitted the Sophs. But the Sophs. played a skilful game and well nigh won. What there is to make such a loud noise about we cannot see.

Those who want men to go through their University in the manner that some people adopt when marching up a church aisle, should be embalmed as precious remnants of darker times. But when they officiously express sympathy for Freshmen who, as in the above case, had rather be without it, the sympathizers are a nuisance to the public and an annoyance to the institution their remarks affect.

* * *

BACON has recorded, that "Augustus Caesar died in a compliment; Tiberius in dissimulation; and Vespasian in a jest;" but Amos Thickett-wait Morgan, student at the Yale Theological Seminary, has done the best time on record, for he died in a clap of thunder.

* * *

IN early childhood I remember being told of a girl who could see with the top of her head, and tell what time it was with a watch laid under her hair. Quite recently, in Yorkville, I was shown an old woman who had the sense of smell concealed in her right ear. Now comes one of the editors of the Oberlin *Review* (Ohio), who is said to hear with his mouth. He will probably publish his reminiscences under the title, "What the Keg Told Me."

* * *

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

THE number of students in the United States is 25,570.

IT is rumored that Columbia will soon publish a daily.

ERON College, England, has 890 students.

THE student taking the highest scholastic honors at Yale the past year was a Jew.

McGILL. Mr. H. Street, of the class of '83 in Applied Science, died of typhoid fever on Thursday, 9th ult., at the age of eighteen years and ten months. Mr. Street was a member of the Reading Room Committee, an ex-Vice-President of the Undergraduates Literary Society, ex-Secretary of the Scientific Society, and a member of the Football team. The funeral took place from the hospital on Saturday morning at 7.30 a.m., and was attended by over two hundred students.

On Thursday evening the Reading Room Committee adjourned after the reading of the minutes, on the motion of Mr. J. R. Murray, as a mark of respect to their late member just removed.

Mr. Weston delivered his lecture on Alaska at the Undergraduates Society on Friday evening last. The subject matter was rather interesting, but the lecturer's delivery was rather poor. A letter was read by the Secretary from the Corporation of the University stating that they had handed over to the Faculty of Arts power to deal with the Society, especially in the matter of honorary members. Mr. Turner gave notice that on that day fortnight he would move, seconded by Mr. MacKay, "that a Committee of five be appointed to communicate with the University Literary Society and the Faculties of Law and Medicine, with the view of re-establishing a College paper." Before adjournment a vote of regret at the death of Mr. Street was carried.

On account of the Medicals failing to subscribe the amount estimated, the Sports' Committee this year are called upon to face a large deficit of over sixty dollars. This will no doubt be a warning to future committees.

At the Undergraduate Literary Society on the 2nd, the question: "Would the United States Government be justified in forcibly suppressing Mormonism?" was decided in the affirmative by a majority of one. Mr. A. Lee read an extremely able and exhaustive essay on "Language," in which were included some original verses, which have already been

published, and which have met with much friendly criticism. Mr. Kirkpatrick also gave a reading. On the motion of Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Greenshields, an article was added to the constitution, by which in future those who fail to take the part assigned to them without due notice to the Special Committee are to be entered in the minutes as defaulters.

The following are the B.A. candidates for honors this year: Mental and Moral Philosophy, Messrs. L. Gregor and I. H. Rogers; Classics, Mr. H. J. Hague; Natural Science, Messrs. Ami, Lafleur, Trenholme, and A. W. Smith; English Language and Literature, Mr. N. T. Rielle; Modern Languages, Mr. J. L. Morin. There are no candidates for mathematical honors.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. One of the places of interest at the Conversazione last Friday was the armory of the University Rifles, which has been lately improved in many respects. There is now in the centre of the room a large stand for the arms, made of chestnut wood, against which the rifles are stacked, while above the rifles the sword-bayonets are suspended on brass hooks against scarlet cloth, which set them off very well. This whole stand is on castors and can be moved into any position with ease. Around the sides of the armory there are arranged cupboards for the great-coats, pants and tunics, while in three corners of the room, at the intersection of the cupboards, there are hooks, one in each, for haversacks.

The busbies are arranged on railings over a closet which contains canteens.

The pouches are suspended from pegs all around the wall, over the cupboards and against the chestnut wainscoting. This high wainscoting, with the green tint of the wall, lit up by a new gas chandelier, showed the armory off very well on Friday evening. Other features are the new Linoleum oil-cloth, and the portable hinges which enable the door to be lifted off at a moments notice, so that K. company may have easy access to their arms. The knapsacks, etc., are always put away according to their numbers, so that the men may know exactly where to get their accoutrements. The armory is heated by a steam coil, and we hope soon to have military pictures of interest on the walls, such as "The Army" and "The Navy," etc., besides the photograph of the company. The whole cost of furnishing the armory is about \$150.

Capt. Baker especially, besides the other officers, not forgetting the able help of Mr. McKim, deserve all credit for the efficient way in which they have expended the funds.

THE Residence Dance, held in the dining hall on Friday evening after the Conversazione, was a grand success. The number of tickets was limited to 150; each residence man, besides the graduates, receiving four. This filled the hall, although it was by no means crowded. The music (three harpers) sounded very well from the gallery, and kept good time. The corridors were decorated with Chinese lanterns, while the dining hall was decorated with flowers. Taking this as a precedent, we hope that the practice of having a dance at least every year will become established, so that the outside world may see that the residence men are not as bad as the *Globe* would make out. And now that the students' union, the Conversazione and the dance have gone off so well, let us put forth every effort to make the Greek play worthy of our present reputation.

THE report of the Conversazione has unavoidably been held over till next week.

THE regular prayer-meeting of the University College Y. M. C. A. was held in Moss Hall, on Saturday, 11.30. The subject for the day, "God's Gift," was briefly and pointedly touched upon by the leader, Mr. R. Haddon, who was followed with a few remarks by two others. The meeting was well attended, but it was not so lively and vigorous as it should have been. The new hymn-books were used and appeared to give unqualified satisfaction. It would be well if those who are able to read music would sit in the front seats on the night when the books with the music are distributed. The meeting next Saturday (18th) will be addressed by Rev. H. M. Parsons; a large attendance is requested.

AN adjourned meeting of the undergraduates has been called for Friday evening, after the meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society, to decide upon the form of the petition to the Senate in favor of the abolition of medals, scholarships and prizes, and to choose a committee to obtain signatures.

DR. WILSON entertained the Second Year at his home last Saturday evening.

THE subject for discussion at the next meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society is "Annexation v. Independence," and at the following meeting will be discussed the comparative advantages of a general debating society and special department societies. The latter question ought at present to possess great interest, on account of the so-great multiplication of special societies.

The annual meeting of the Toronto University Football Club was held in Moss Hall, Wednesday afternoon, about forty members being present. The following officers were elected for the next year: President, A. D. Creasor; Sec.-Treas., G. H. Duggan. Committee, 3rd Year, George, Campbell, G. Gordon; 2nd Year, Brown, Henderson, E. Wright; 1st Year, Coleman, A. B. Thompson, Vickers.

A VERY interesting French meeting of the University College Modern Language Club was held on Saturday afternoon. After routine business, M. Pernet took the chair, and gave a short address, dwelling on the position and influence of the French people, and the importance of acquiring a knowledge of the French language. Readings were given by M. Pernet and Messrs. Johnson and O'Flynn. An essay by Mr. H. H. Dewart on "L'Etude des Langues Modernes," insisted strongly on the necessity of oral practice. A very interesting discussion on La Fontaine's Fables followed, in which the majority of the members participated. M. Pernet's presence and assistance added much to the success of the meeting.

About sixty undergraduates turned out to Prof. Fowler's phenological lecture, Wednesday night, attracted, not by the lecture, which was a shallow and egotistic farce, but by the prospect of seeing a prominent undergraduate phenologically examined. They were not disappointed.

The conversazione has turned out financially successful. Though little canvassing for subscriptions was done among the graduates, there will probably be a surplus of between \$75 and \$100.

A QUESTION.

Here we are in youthful vigor, toiling amid the dust and heat of life's great battle for golden grains of learning. Buoyed up by an emulative spirit, or weighed down by pensive melancholy, we strive for some title of distinction or a mental education, that *soi-disant* refinement of the mind, as worthy of tireless effort.

Reflect a moment and consider. What avails this panting after something that always lies beyond, lured as it were by some promised greatness sung to our eager ears by that siren, Ambition? We are all like leaves clinging to the tree of our earthly life; one is born to unfold at the top, just as there are intellectual kings amongst us; others take their various stations up and down, all subject alike to the caprices of the fitful winds, which in the way of life hurt us not, for we are strong; but in the autumn one by one, we—faded human leaves—yield to the bitter blasts and sink—in vain we, pausing, flutter—sink to the earth which, opening, hides our decayed forms in its dark breast.

What then, undergraduates, avails your labor; you may shine as the glowworm, then lost to sight; one murmur of applause to you—then lost to fame?

B.

GLACIAL ACTION IN WESTERN ONTARIO.

(Continued from our last.)

This enormous accumulation of ice over the eastern part of our continent north of the fortieth parallel, which we were engaged in describing last week was not motionless, but had a perceptible movement southward. That such a movement does take, has been pointed out by Dr. Hayes, of Kane's Arctic Expedition, who states that a glacier covers a great stretch of country on the north-west coast of Greenland, the movement of which is quite apparent, even in places where the inclination of the country is scarcely discernible. The power of this solid mass of moving ice, over a mile in thickness and exerting a pressure upon the surface over which it passed of over 300,000 lbs. to the square foot, can only be measured by the debris of clay sand and gravel to which it gave rise, and which in Western Ontario alone forms a deposit ranging from 50 to 200 feet in thickness, covering the entire district. The rocky floor was split up by the frost and ice, and pieces torn away were rolled along beneath the foot of the glacier until they were crushed into powder, while the lower face, covered with embedded fragments, acted like an emery wheel upon the surface over which it moved. Of the detritus or ground moraine, as it has been called, thus formed, part was pressed into the hollows and depressions of the rock surface with such terrific force, that when met with now in railway cuttings and excavations, the workmen require to use picks to remove it. Beds of this material called boulder clay are very common in the Province of Quebec, and form the lowest member of the series of superficial deposits. In Western Ontario it is seldom met with. The remainder of the ground moraine in time became thoroughly kneaded up and incorporated with the lower 500 feet of the moving mass. It is impossible to say how long this action continued; but as boulders torn away from the Huronian Rocks north of Lake Huron have been carried 300 miles south into the State of Ohio, and as the movement of this glacier has

been calculated at one foot per week, it would require 30,000 years for such transportation alone to take place.

One would expect that the erosive action of the ice would have less effect upon the hard gneissoid rocks of the Laurentide region than upon the less hard Silurian and Devonian strata; and of the latter it would be most destructive to the soft Hamilton shales. This is precisely what took place. Lake Erie and the southern part of Lake Huron have been cut out of the Hamilton shales, and the central part of the latter lake out of the comparatively soft Onondaga limestone. It is to be remembered, moreover, that the preglacial Mohawk had already cut a channel through the present basins of the great lakes, and the glacial action would naturally be more energetic along the valley of this river than over the higher and more level districts. This forms the first great subdivision of the glacial epoch, being characterized by an elevation of land, accompanied perhaps by a maximum of eccentricity in the earth's orbit, and producing in the temperate zone all the physical characters and climatic conditions now found in the Arctic regions.

The Champlain period, as it has been called by Dana, followed the foregoing, during which a gradual subsidence of land took place, corresponding to the previous elevation. The sun once more resumed its ascendancy, and the great ice sheet gradually retreated to the Laurentian Highlands, the line of its retreat being marked by a terminal moraine, or an accumulation of detritus which it had previously incorporated with itself, and by a turbulent volume of fresh water derived from the melting ice. As fast as the terminal moraine received additions from the retreating glacier, the finer materials, which consisted almost entirely of clay, and which formed the largest component of the glacial detritus, were taken up by the water which dashed about its base, and were carried hither and thither, and finally thrown down in a highly comminuted state. Deposits formed in this way extend over almost the entire area of western Ontario under the name of the Erie clay. These beds are of a blue or slate color, and are always stratified.

Dr. Dawson points out that the Leda clay of Quebec, which corresponds to the Erie of Ontario, was probably formed in a similar manner to the mud at present being deposited in the St. Lawrence valley, and thinks that the clay when held in solution was tinted red by protoxide of iron, but when deposited became deoxidised by the organic matter deposited with it, and reduced to a sulphide or carbonate of the protoxide, while at the same time its color changed to a blue or slaty hue. The coarser ingredients of the terminal moraine were broken up by the shore ice, and bergs broken off from the edge of the glacier, and by these were transported southwards. Crevasses, extending inwards from the limit of the glacier, became the channels of raging torrents, which rapidly decomposed the mass of rotten ice, clay, sand and gravel which formed their sides. The rush of the streams was too great to permit the finer materials being deposited, and beds of gravel and sand were laid down in a more or less obliquely stratified manner. Laminated beds arising in this way form a considerable portion of our superficial deposits.

The Champlain period seems to have been closed by a second elevation of land throughout the entire region previously covered by glacial ice: and especially was this the case along the line of the Niagara formation, where it was accompanied by a fracture of the earth's crust, technically called a "fault," by which the land on one side of the fracture sank many hundred feet. The Niagara limestone, forming a belt of varying width, begins in the eastern part of New York State, and passing westward enters this Province at the Falls. It continues in the same direction as far as Hamilton, thence proceeds north-west to Collingwood, and up the Saugeen Peninsula to Cape Hurd. It forms the central axis of the Manitoulin and other islands on the north shore of Lake Huron, and crossing over to Mackinac, continues southward along the west side of Lake Michigan.

Taking Lake Winnebago, in Wisconsin, as one terminal point, and Niagara Falls as another, this formation presents a somewhat bow-shaped appearance, the convex side of which is sharply defined by an almost unbroken line of cliffs originating in the manner previously described. Sir William Logan was of the opinion that the Niagara escarpment represented an ancient line of sea cliffs: but it is incredible to suppose that an irregular line of sea coast, nearly 1000 miles in length, should be entirely composed of one system of rocks; the more so as the Niagara is not a harder variety of rock than the adjoining systems. On the contrary, the soft dark shales by which it is underlaid would especially expose it to the destructive action of the inland sea, which he assumes to have washed its base. And in the Nottawasaga district, the many crevasses and gorges lying at right angles to the escarpment could never, as he admits, have resulted from the action of the sea, but must have been the outcome of some convulsion of nature.

It is certain that this elevation of the Niagara formation must have taken place subsequent to the great glacial age, because throughout

the Manitoulin Island, and in fact, wherever the escarpment faces the north, and thus lay directly in the path of the southward moving glacier, we find the cliffs quite as abrupt as in the Nottawasaga district, where the ridge has an almost north and south course. Now it is evident that a force, powerful enough to chisel out the basins of the great lakes, would have broken down this barrier, or at any rate rounded its outlines into a general conformity with the slope of the country. But this is not the case, for the summit of the escarpment is almost as sharply cut as when first it left Nature's hand. That this elevation was prior to the complete retrocession of the water, is shown by the detrital mat which covers its surface at the loftiest points along its course. During this gradual elevation, but before the crest of the ridge emerged above the level of the lake, flotillas of icebergs setting out from the north-east side of Georgian Bay, crossed that body in a south-westerly direction, and between Cape Hurd, and the Manitoulin Island, kept grinding up and tearing away the rocky barrier, which was probably fractured or broken up here as in the Nottawasaga district, and in their further passage southward had a remarkable effect upon the floor of Lake Huron. To thoroughly understand this, some explanation must be given of the character and disposition of the Onondaga and Corniferous limestones in the western part of the province. The latter formation occupies a very large and important portion of western Ontario. Entering the province at Buffalo, it follows the coast line as far west as Long Point, then strikes across the peninsula in a belt from fifty to one hundred miles in width, and terminates on the shore of Lake Huron, between the townships of Bosanquet in Lambton, and Colborne in Huron: and reappears in the northern part of the peninsula, which separates lakes Huron and Michigan, where it attains an average elevation of two hundred feet. Beneath the waters of the former lake it forms a reef, running in a north-easterly direction from Point Clark, on the Canadian shore to Presque Isle, on the American, the average distance of which from the surface is about one hundred and twenty-five feet. The width of this shoal varies from five to twenty miles, and its course more definitely repressed is as follows. Beginning at Point Clark, it strikes due north for ten miles, then bearing more westerly makes a small loop to the east, but soon resumes its original direction. At lat. $44^{\circ} 50'$, long. $85^{\circ} 35'$ the reef widens, and at the same time its course changes until it runs almost due west. This is the shallowest part of the lake: at one point, indeed, the water is only nine fathoms deep. At lat. $45^{\circ} 5'$, long. $85^{\circ} 5'$, the reef widens greatly, the southern portion running into the coast, while the northern passes up the straits of Mackinac. The soundings taken a few miles from the reef on the north side shows an average depth of three hundred and sixty feet. Directly off the nine fathom shoal, above mentioned the depth of four hundred and eighty feet is reached, and this gradually increases until at a distance of twenty-five miles, the greatest depth nine hundred feet is obtained.

Again the same formation extends north-east from Colborne to the Township of Bruce, a distance of 40 miles, and the Onondaga in a long narrow strip about ten miles wide lies between it and the coast line. This arrangement may be thus explained. It has been found that the rock matter of the Corniferous is much harder than that of the Onondaga: the latter formation being essentially composed of soft dolomitic limestone containing extensive beds of gypsum and rock salt, whereas the former holds a large amount of silicious material in the form of modular masses and interstratified bands of chert, and is very rich in silicified fossils. Now the denuding action of the great glacier along the valley of the ancient Mohawk, excavated the surface of the Corniferous to the depth of over two hundred feet between the Canadian and American shores: but this erosive action was much more strongly felt by the soft Onondaga, and in course of time a great difference in level arose between it and the adjacent Corniferous. At length the latter, having become so much higher than the formation to the north of it, acted as a rocky barrier in the way of the floating ice masses, making with their course an angle of 60° . Such an obstruction, although not formidable enough to completely bar their way, still tended to change the direction they were pursuing to one more in accord with its own. So we imagine, that the ice becoming jammed up against the reef, forced back the masses following, and caused them to change their course, and attempt a crossing further south. From this the following results have arisen. The border of the Corniferous was ground up under the mighty forces brought to bear against it, and fragments becoming cougealed in the icy foe, some were carried along until its final dissolution, and others dropped off here and there along the way. For this reason also we find the underlying drift so particularly rich in fossils, and the shores of the lake, rich in fragments of larger boulders disintegrated by the long continued action of the waves. In the second place, the icebergs and floes, owing to the change in their course, ground up and removed the superficial portions of the formation which lay in their new course; and by this means the Onondaga was stripped of its covering of

Corniferous over the area already mentioned, and a bay was formed between Point Clark and Point Douglas thirty miles apart.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—I would like to express through your columns a sentiment which has now become pretty prevalent through the College; it is the postponement of the Greek play. Of course, there will be many opponents to this step, which several now think to be imperative.

The first reason I would mention for this act is the want of time of the actors, &c., on account of the May examinations, and the short time (seven weeks) between this and the end of March, the time proposed for bringing out the play.

Many of the actors have not yet begun to get up their pieces, and have only the faintest idea of what to do. The Glee Club have got up 12 pages out of 80, and that in the English. Yesterday they for the first time tried the Greek, when they managed to get an idea of two and a half pages.

In getting up the Harvard play they had rehearsal every day here beforehand for six weeks. The actors are practising once a week, and have only got seven weeks before them. I think that any person will admit that, to give a representation of this play and spend \$2,000 on it, and then to be a failure, would indeed be a disgrace to the University. My opinion is, that the representation should be postponed till next December, or perhaps February. In the meantime, the actors may be chosen; they will have plenty of time to read up their pieces and the characters they represent, and also improve their knowledge of acting. In addition to this, the Glee Club will have an opportunity of getting thoroughly acquainted with the music, the most important thing of all. Hoping that this will bring out some letters from the originators of the scheme,

I remain, yours, &c.,

JUNIUS, JR.

NOTICE.

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

The Annual Subscription, including postage, is \$1.50, in advance, and may be forwarded to MR. A. F. LOBB, University College, Toronto, to whom applications respecting Advertisements should likewise be made.

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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, University College, Toronto.

Rejected Communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the WRITER must always accompany a Communication.

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It has been decided to produce the *Antigone* in the original Greek, in the Convocation Hall of the University, during the month of March next.

The University Glee Club will sing the choruses, arranged to the music of Mendelssohn, and the characters will be taken by gentlemen connected with the University.

There will be two representations.

Applications for seats will be received from Graduates and Under-graduates up to the 28th day of February next, after which date other applications will be received.

Applications to be addressed to H. S. Osler, Esq., Secretary Finance Committee, from whom all information can be obtained.

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MAURICE HUTTON,
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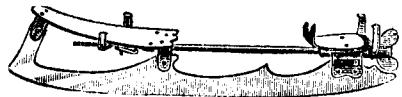
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