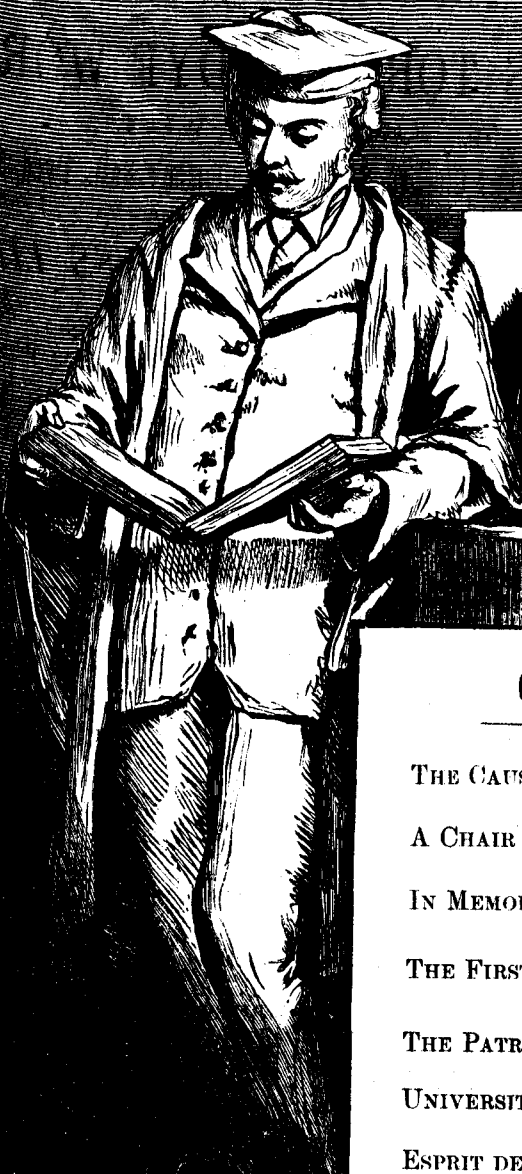
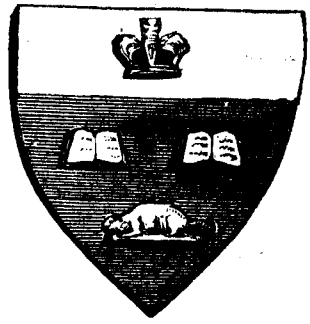


# THE WARSTORY



## CONTENTS.

THE CAUSE OF CO-EDUCATION.

A CHAIR OF PHYSIOLOGY. By S.

IN MEMORIAM. By HURON.

THE FIRST "AIRS OF MY INVENTION." By R.

THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

ESPRIT DE CORPS. By J. B.

OSCAR WILDE AND HIS CRITICS. By DON QUIXOTE.

COMMUNICATIONS.

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# THE ' VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. 2. No. 20.

March 3, 1882.

Price 5 cts.

## THE CAUSE OF CO-EDUCATION.

The question of co-education of the sexes is to come before the Ontario Government for consideration, and it will then be learned whether or not that august body known as the College Council has it in its power to exclude ladies from lectures at University College or not. MR. GIBSON, on the ninth of last month, moved for a return showing "what applications have been made by females for admission to any of the lectures of University College for the season 1881-2, and the results of such applications, together with all correspondence connected therewith." This motion was carried; and to set forth to the Legislature the injustice of debarring women as has hitherto been done from lectures, the following petition has been circulated through the Province for signature. All those interested in the question should aid in having the petition as numerously signed as possible.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the Province of Ontario in Parliament assembled:

The humble Petition of members of the Toronto Women's Literary Club and others,

SHREWETH:—

That women are excluded from the lectures of University College, Toronto, by the will of its Council;

That the University of Toronto has placed the honors and degrees in its bestowal equally at the command of women as of men;

That for want of the educational advantages of University College, women cannot avail themselves of the degrees and honors placed at their command by the University of Toronto;

That the exclusion of women from University College is unlawful and unjust, and has no basis in the Charter of the College;

That the Senate of University College refuse admission to women on the ground of "due order and discipline," as expressed in the Charter and Constitution of the College;

That the expression "due order and discipline," as used in the Charter and constitution of University College, has no reference to the class, race, or sex of its students, but applies solely and entirely to the management of the College;

That the absence from the Charter of any expression relating to women as students is no proof of their intentional exclusion by the founders of the College, since the Constitution and Charter of any Corporation are only formed with reference to the immediate circumstances of the time, and have no compulsory power over future demands on the usefulness of such Corporation, unless such authority in the future is expressly stipulated for;

That co-education in Colleges is no experiment, since it has been in operation in England and the United States for many years, and is now working satisfactorily in Queen's College, Kingston;

That there is no argument against co-education inherent in a College course any more than there is in those of Normal Schools, Art Schools, and numerous other places where both sexes mingle on an equal footing;

That it can be shown by respectable testimony that where co-education exists the Colleges are in a higher state of discipline than they were before the admission of women; and also that the admission of women has not injured discipline in any case.

That several young women who have passed Toronto University examinations of the first and second years are unable to complete their studies for want of the assistance of the lectures of University College, from which they are at present excluded.

That in consequence of such exclusion these young women are compelled to relinquish those University honors and degrees they desire to obtain.

That they do this reluctantly and under a sense of hardship inflicted on account of sex.

That your petitioners, forming a respectable and important proportion of the educated men and women of the Province of Ontario, do sympathize with the young women at present suffering from their exclusion from University College.

And we regard the exclusion of women as students from University College as an insult to the sex and a wrong to the individual and to society.

We therefore pray your Honorable House to interfere in this behalf, and secure to an important division of the population their educational rights in University College.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

Five young ladies have at present passed as far as the second and third year examination, but are unable to proceed further without the assistance of lectures. The Council of University College, while anxious to advance the higher education of women, maintains that it should be accomplished away from that of the other sex, and suggest the erection of a separate building. It is not likely the Government will make a grant for such a purpose when it can be accomplished without cost, and when the money is so much needed in other educational quarters. Where, then, is the money to come from? Our already overtaxed Treasury could not erect such a building, and if one existed, our overworked professors could find no time to devote to its students. The Council would grant women access to the Library, to the apparatus, to all means within their control, but at the same time under peculiar monastic restrictions and unfair control. Young women claim, and we think justly enough, equal and the same privileges with young men. The only objection to co-education then, since this is the only possible present means for the higher education of women, is the want of discipline likely to be engendered by the mixing of the sexes. This objection, while unfair to the fair sex, implies a want of control on the part of the men, and a lack of disciplinary ability in the lecturers.

So many good reasons have been hitherto given in the 'Varsity for the co-education of sexes, and any objections to it so well answered, that it is needless to go over the ground again now. But we would urge upon the students the necessity of obtaining signatures to the petition in circulation, as a means of bringing pressure to bear upon any future motion in the Legislature that would secure to young women the same chances as they themselves are possessed of, and of repudiating the idea that the presence of the fair sex at lectures would exert any other than a beneficial influence over them.

## A CHAIR OF PHYSIOLOGY.

On the occasion of the last annual dinner of the Toronto School of Medicine Dr. Richardson, a prominent Senator of the University, clearly pointed out, in an after-dinner speech, the necessity for the establishment of a chair of Physiology. No further notice was then taken of the subject, but we are glad to see that it has again come forward, and this time more prominently. In the recent report of the Senate Committee on Finance it is stated that the available resources are altogether inadequate to properly equip the staff of the College, and that, owing to the extension of the curriculum, many new classes have been rendered necessary and the labor of the instructors largely increased, more especially in connexion with the practical courses in science; and in another paragraph Physiology is mentioned as one of the subjects on which there should be a separate lecturer or professor.

Although the necessity of increasing the staff is acknowledged there is no proposition made to remedy it; there is no additional professorship to be established in Science. This, in our opinion, is not so great an evil as may appear on first thought. There is a School of Practical Science quite close to University College, and it is there that all practical instruction in Science should be given. This school is supported from the Provincial Treasury, and we hold, that, since the Government has established it, the Government should maintain it in a state of proper efficiency so long as its existence is necessary and it accomplishes a good work.

Now, of the departments of Science considered necessary to be taught by the Senate, one, Physiology, is as yet unprovided for; and as this is one of the practical Sciences, we hold there should be a professor and a properly equipped laboratory for giving instruction in it in connexion with the School of Practical Science; and if it is established there it will be quite unnecessary for University College to expend any of her funds for the same object. It may be said that such expenditure by the Government would be a bad investment pecuniarily. But is that any argument against it? Do any of the departments already established yield an adequate pecuniary return? We think not; and we hope to show that this department, even in that respect, will be as advantageous as any other except, perhaps, engineering.

Much of the work that is already done in connexion with the department of Biology belongs to the more limited department of Physiology, and it is on account of this work that assistants to the professor in that department have had to be employed for several years past. Now, if this chair be established, and a properly qualified professor be appointed, both departments of the great science of Biology can be taught more efficiently; and besides, the present assistants will then be unnecessary. At present nearly all the Medical students who intend to take their degree from Toronto University take instruction in all departments of their work in which it is given in the School of Practical Science, and were a chair of Physiology established and a Physiological Laboratory properly furnished it is quite safe to say that there are many others who graduate elsewhere who would also take instruction in that subject, and much to their advantage, as it is quite evident that private unendowed medical schools will not provide the costly apparatus required for the proper equipment of such a laboratory. In this connexion we are reminded of an article on "Practical Teaching" in the last issue of the *Canada Lancet*, in which the writer, speaking of the effort being made in this direction, states: "The establishment of such a chair would not, as things are at present, be of any general service to medical education, but rather a detriment, as it would furnish an excuse to any parsimonious medical college for not equipping itself with suitable appliances for teaching practical Physiology. Trinity Medical College has fitted up, at her own expense, a well-equipped Physiological Laboratory." With any one who is acquainted with the journal in question these statements will not have much weight; but I intend to furnish proofs other than analogical, of the incorrectness of the above statement. It was my privilege recently to see the Physiological Laboratory in question, and found little purely Physiological apparatus besides a few models of the sensorium and sensory organs, all of which are at present in connexion with the School of Practical Science, but no one would think of saying it has a "well equipped Physiological Laboratory." Having thus shown that the establishment of such a chair would confer a benefit on medical education not at present obtainable in Ontario, let us look at the question in a more general sense. What is more necessary than that any one who professes to have a liberal education should be thoroughly ac-

quainted with the laws by which his physical functions are regulated? It is not too much to hope then that the Arts' students would be quite willing to pay a small fee for the advantages to be derived from such a training, and many others outside any Academical institution would also take advantage of it.

If, then, the establishment of such a class is necessary in the interests of liberal as well as professional education, what time can be more opportune for its establishment than now? The Government need fear no sectarian opposition, as the expenditure proposed would not be building up a rival institution to any already established. There is a large surplus in the Provincial Treasury; there is the prospect of a large accession to the Provincial territory; and may we not hope that amid such prosperity the Government will see their way clear at an early date to make Ontario the Empire Province in her resources for teaching Practical Science as well as in all other respects.

S.

The two months allowed to the Graduates and Undergraduates of the University of Toronto for securing seats for the Greek play have expired, and it is only fair that what seats are left should be offered to the public on the same terms. There are a great many persons connected with the University who have hitherto been debarred the privilege of securing seats, who are warm friends and supporters of the institution, and to whom every inducement should be offered to share in whatever little amusement or entertainment we are from time to time able to offer. These are the persons who are going to augment our present revenue if it is going to be augmented at all, and their wishes should be consulted.

When the Vice-Chancellor in presenting the Financial Report to the Senate, hinted that we might have some new chairs if we could but abolish the present scholarship and medal system, he irritated a sympathetic nerve in the Undergraduates system, and that body has been moved to action. The writer in two recent issues of this Journal has had things all his own way, and would abolish scholarships and medals whether or no. This may be the better policy: to which the main objection is, that men who are afforded a means of education by the existing system, would be deprived of such education altogether by the new. Against this, the only argument so far put forth is, that "the man who possesses sufficient ability and energy to take a scholarship through his college course, will not be prevented taking a University education because he did not receive a prize of \$150 a year." Now this implies either, that a man can save \$600 in two years, or that he can save it in eight. More likely could he do it in eight. A young lad about to matriculate at the University, has nothing to recommend him to a salary out of which he could save \$300 a year. The relative proportion of those who would if they could, to those who really would get the chance to, save \$300 a year is very large. I should think that about one man, in every ten who would like to earn enough in two years to save from their earnings the tax of a University education upon them, can. Yet the number of men that scholarships help through the University must be very small. The number of students who pass through College on their own means is ten times, or even twenty times that of the number who must get through at the expense of the college. Say that of these one fourth try for scholarships, then the chances of the needy students obtaining one are five to one against them. Then the advantages that money affords, such as text-books, apparatus, etc., further handicap him. It is probable that the needy student stands to win about one out of the ten scholarships offered, and I believe fact will bear out this assertion. This reason then should not stand in the way of abolition.

## IN MEMORIAM

OF THOMAS MOSS, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

What is life that we should murmur?  
What is death, that we should fear?  
Were we not for something sterner,  
For some holier atmosphere?

What is doubt, that we should falter?  
What is dread, that we should swoon?  
Groping blind to His great altar,  
To a calmer fairer June.

*What is time that sears our passion?  
Age that weareth all away;  
What are all the thoughts we fashion?  
Fires that burn their own decay.*

*What is all this nature teeming,  
Laughing upward, clothing all?  
Holy One, is all a seeming?  
Do we slumber where we fall?*

I.

Frost upon the blood-red maples,  
Watchers, watching stern old walls,  
Hiding half of towns and steeples,  
Windows looking from dark halls.

Light of soft moon dreaming downward,  
Gentle spirit of the night,  
Fleeing from the heaven sunward,  
Where the dawn will breathe his light.

Dream ye of an honored sleeper  
Gone out with a vanished year?  
He who cherished all that deeper,  
Grander knowledge we have here!

Shall we, going after, meet him  
In some distant future state,  
Raised up, reverently greet him,  
Passing in some higher gate?

Grown above all human passion,  
Stronger than all earthly fears,  
In that grandest convocation  
Of the holier future years.

II

Come, sweet mem'ry from the ether,  
Lift old curtains from my sight,  
We will tread old halls together,  
We will bridge the past to-night.

We will visit dead old cities  
Sleeping down the far-off years,  
Whence the youthful half-sung ditties  
Come to us 'mid swelling tears.

Unused chambers we will enter,  
Softly tread on phantom floors  
Like the mists of some gone winter,  
Knock at hollow muffled doors.

But no loved old forms will greet us,  
From the world that used to be,  
Only bleak sad winds will meet us,  
Moaning from the midnight sea.

Dead old eyes we'll gaze upon dear,  
Cheeks that time has robbed of blush;  
Spirits that have slept alone here  
In these chambers' solemn hush.

III.

All the brown of leaves and golden,  
All the sad gray of the sky,  
All the red months ripe and olden,  
Watch this circle fade and die.

All the dark wet of the rain-time,  
All the moaning in the eaves,  
Watch us sit through human pain-time,  
Closing up old volume leaves.

Voices calling from the wild night,  
Voices—old and sad they seem—  
Wailing, fearing, as a child might,  
Waking from a midnight dream.

IV.

Take my hand, and we will listen  
To the storm—without—within—;  
Until ripe tears roll and glisten  
From the stained eyes sad and dim.

Until our hot hearts' loud beating,  
And our blanched lips, wan and white,  
Seem as some strange voice repeating  
All our weak fears to the night.

All our doubting, all our anguish,  
All our hot lives, nothing more,  
As some weak wreck left to languish  
In the surf of some wild shore.

V.

Region of red wines and roses,  
Dreamland of the moving sun,  
On thy rose-strewn lap reposes,  
He our cherished honored one.

Gales from Biscay raining on him  
Mists from hot Hispania's shores,  
Sleeping with thy spell upon him  
In thy Rhoneland's odorous bowers.

Veins where no hot blood is tingling,  
Ear that heareth no bell's clang,  
Deaf where orient airs commingling,  
Dream of Cid and Charlemagne.

VI.

But a life gone in its firmness,  
But a heart too strong to weep,  
All a great soul's moulded firmness  
As a shroud about his sleep.

Not to dream he went to slumber,  
When the day was scarcely noon,  
When the hot years' feverish number  
Filled his deaf ears with their rune.

VII.

Mute lips silent on gray portals,  
White stone hiding all this dust,  
Shred leaves from Times' wreathed immortelles,  
Ghost breath of old rime and rust.

Hot fires dwindled in dead ashes,  
Death of old life hid in death,  
Dead surf where no wild wave washes,  
Pale lips knowing not hot breath.

*Ye that come as rune of river,  
Sad weak phantoms of our pain,  
Coming, going, none know whither,  
Spirits of the dim inwre.*

*Ye can teach us nothing further,  
No new longing, no strange strife;  
Wail of wind and rack of weather  
Change—but never human life.*

*Wind of laugh and wind of sorrow,  
Ghosts of what can never be,  
Yesterday, to-day, to-morrow,  
Time and all eternity.*

VIII.

Little ends but half accomplished,  
Tapers that consumed themselves  
Chronicles of lives unvanquished,  
Left to moulder on Time's shelves.

Years that enwrap all our being,  
Cycles parts of what we seem,  
Noon and midnight coming, fleeing,  
Making all the real a dream.

Rain that rises up in vapor,  
Wind that passes to the west,  
Sunlight that becomes a taper,  
Death that kisses into rest.

## IX.

Strong life on Time's roadway graven,  
What thou wast is but a type  
To the weakest—of a heaven,  
Of a higher better light.

Of some hope—not a mere seeming,  
But a calmer, sterner road,  
From all weak agnostic dreaming,  
To the holy, living God.

Gray walls, loved old Alma Mater :  
Till the crumbling of thy stone,  
Minds may live, but never greater  
Than the spirit that is gone.

Moonlight on dark tower and turret,  
Shine down on our human fear,  
Till the weak faith we inherit  
Makes our lives and deeds sincere.

Till the fire of human madness  
Burns out from the hearts of men ;  
And an age of rest and gladness  
Visit this dark earth again.

Meanwhile, through hot pulse and fever,  
Groping blindfold up the way,  
To the sun that shines forever,  
To the light of endless day.

HURON.

## THE FIRST AIRS "OF MY INVENTION."

## JOY.

Peal ! peal ! ye merry bells,  
Like laughter gay and singing,  
Your gladsome music ringing,  
Over hills and through the dells,  
Carry happy, happy greeting,  
That slow time may change to fleeting :  
And to maids and lovers' meeting,  
Add the charm of your melodious delight,  
That, when parting till the morrow,  
All be joy and naught be sorrow,  
Which dreams away, with them, the sleepy night.

## GRIEF.

Toll ! toll ! O gloomy-sounding, deep-mouthed bell,  
The world grows dark. She, whom I loved so well,  
Hath ta'en the light of her pure life away ;  
Now reigns sad night, where all before was day.  
My spirit longs to follow hers in flight,  
And bid this shadow-haunted world "good night."  
Sorrow, Despair my heavy heart control—  
Mourn on ! great bell, and let thy parting toll  
Free from this clay my grief-imprisoned soul.

B.

## OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

MR. BUCHAN is pursuing a more liberal policy towards the boys at Upper Canada College than his canny and birch-loving predecessor did. A Debating Club has been organized, and it has been decided to resuscitate the *College Times*. These are signs of revived spirit and 'go' in the place, and, though the change may not be wholly due to the Principal, I suspect it would not have taken place under Mr. Cockburn's reign. True, to the latter gentleman's Scotch aptitude for business is owing the present sound financial condition of the College. Nevertheless the fact stands out that not a dollar has been spent in improvements which would be direct attractions to the boys. The provisions for their physical well-being have not been added to, and, as I

pointed out before, amelioration is required as well as addition. This selfish neglect has borne its fruit. The moral tone of a youthful community is largely dependent on the encouragements afforded to physical recreation. The governing body of the College is therefore partly responsible for a state of things which has provoked certain exaggerated but not wholly-false charges. From his previous career it may be presumed that Mr. Buchan has a better acquaintance with modern theories of education than was betrayed by Mr. Cockburn. He should, then, be able to convince the public in a practical way that Upper Canada College deserves a higher title than that of the First High School of Ontario.

\* \* \*

THERE is a slight coolness between two prominent members of the "Owls." He was telling a rattling good story in one of the numerous smoking-rooms of the Residence; when it was finished the second bird of wisdom said: "That reminds me of an anecdote," and proceeded to take his innings. Said the first speaker: "I don't see how what you have told us was recalled by my story." "It was," replied the other, "because mine is on the same page of Green's Almanac as yours."

\* \* \*

A NEW book is announced called "The Great Mistake." It is probably written by a fellow who never tried to run a university paper.—*Ed.* Or who never started one.—*Ex-Ed.* Or who never ran for an office in a debating society.—*The Gen. Com.* Or who never was struck by the broad views of the college council.—*Undergrads.* Or who never admired the equally broad views of the Residence steward.—*The Forty Skeletons.* Or who never compared the young men in the University to children.—*A Member of the C. C.* Or who never sent a love-ditty to the girl's father, and the letter about "how much money she was to have" to the girl herself.—*Spot.*

\* \* \*

OLD X., who's sick at the sight and name of lawn-tennis, was told by a friend at the Club that an excellent substitute for the nets and rackets might be found in quoits. Accordingly a set was bought. Atalanta, who claims to be a muscular Christian, went to work with "the rings," as she called them, at once. She threw two. The first grazed her pa's head and went into an apple tree. The next went over a wall behind her, broke a vase of plants, and cannoned on to a hen's back, killing a constant layer almost immediately. The quoits were put away, and the odds are now in favor of Miss X.'s stay at Whitby being prolonged.

\* \* \*

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Brooklyn Eagle* went the round of Oxford and writes a good letter thereon. It was during commemoration week, when the degree of D. C. L. is conferred. The writer explains that it is not supposed that a man should know anything of law to become a D. C. L.; critics, poets, politicians, inventors, noblemen—for being noblemen—are doctored. The candidates are marshalled up the hall from the door in single file, all dressed in red gowns; the professor of civil law introduces each in a Latin speech, which contains some happy characterization; the chancellor then addresses the candidate in another Latin speech, applying to him some complimentary expressions, and, finally, the bar is raised and he shakes the candidate by the hand, who sits down a D. C. L. The bad behavior of the undergraduates in the gallery is famous. At the last commemoration they kept up an incessant howling from beginning to end. It is said that when Tennyson presented himself in his usually-uncombed condition, some undergraduate asked him: "Did your mother call you early, Mr. Tennyson?" The scant wit is supplemented by the more widely-diffused qualities of 'cheek' and vocal volume. When the vice-chancellor—Dr. Liddell—was reading a Latin address, on the last occasion, some one would call out: "Now, construe." A man who violated the canons of dress by appearing in a white coat was fairly stormed out of the place. He stood it for an hour or so, during which he was addressed as follows: "Take off that coat, sir." "Go out, sir." "Won't you go at once?" "Ladies, request him to leave." "Dr. Brown won't you put that man out?" (Then in a conversational and moderate tone): "Just put your hand upon his shoulder and lead him out." After an hour of it the man withdrew. Each successive group of ladies was cheered as it came in. The young men would exclaim: "Three cheers for the ladies in blue." "Three cheers for the ladies in white, brown, gray, etc." The poor fellows who read the prize odes and essays were dreadfully bullied. One young man recited an English poem, of which the burden could not be heard, but from the manner of its delivery it must have been upon the saddest subject that ever engaged the muse of mortal. His physiognomy and his tone of voice alike expressed the dismal and the disconsolate. I think that possibly the extreme sadness of his manner may have been induced by the reception rather than the matter of his poem. They catcalled, hooted, and laughed immeasurably at him.

One young gentleman with an eyeglass leaned over the gallery and in a colloquial tone inquired: "My friend, is that the refrain that hastened the decease of the old cow?" In the intervals of the horrible hootings, I could only now and then catch a word like "breeze" or "trees." It was too painful to laugh at. One felt so for the poor fellow, and more still for his mother and sisters, who were probably there.

\* \*

EXTRAVAGANT billing will attract larger audiences to see a play than its performance deserves, or Keene would have played his "Shylock" to empty benches last Wednesday afternoon. With a voice ill suited or incapable of being adapted to the character, and a bad make up and deportment, you have always Keene but not Shylock before you. At the end of the first act he bolts around a wing and "comes on" shaking his stick at the retiring Antonio like an old woman a broomstick at her retreating son; and when he enjoins Jessica to lock up his house, he would seem to have her do it rather to save him the trouble, than for fear that he might be a loser by his absence. Ye Gods! what a scene when he leaves the Court room. The old Jew tumbles about as though he were about three parts sprung or learning to tumble. The third act was not so bad though there was a good deal of ranting.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

HARVARD.—The second year of the so-called Harvard "Annex," for women, has successfully closed. The managers intend to continue their experiment at least two years longer, perhaps four years. Secretary Gilman says that they "have conducted themselves in a manner so exemplary, and in all respects satisfactory."—Ex.

The Junior class at Williams' gave a negro minstrel entertainment last Wednesday night.

Fifteen Lasell girls propose starting on June 17th, on a European tour, to cost \$575 per capita.

VICTORIA COLLEGE. The meetings of the Literary Society, which have hitherto been closed to the public, are in future to be open once a month.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. It has now been decided, we may almost say, finally, to postpone the production of the Greek play for a couple of weeks later than was originally intended, the dates now proposed being Tuesday and Wednesday in Easter week, April 11th and 12th. It is impossible to hold it later in that week owing to the fact that the Hall is required for the Medical Examinations. The preparations are "booming," the number of rehearsals having been increased to three a week; and everything now points to success, the members of the Glee Club even having "enthused" to almost the proper pitch. The choruses are being rapidly mastered by the Glee-men, which fact ought to be sufficient to convince these despondents that they can do something—when they try; and it is to be hoped that with the longer time for preparation which they now have, the 'songsters' may set to work with a will, lest it should be said of them, "They were worsted by a woman."

The University College Natural Science Association met in the School of Practical Science on Tuesday evening. A motion was passed that an annual report of the proceedings of the Society be printed, together with the more important essays read before the Society. Dr. Ferguson read an essay on the anatomy of the brain, describing the membranes, gyri, sulci, lobes, ventricles, and the situation of important ganglia and commissural fibres. He also described the physiology of important ganglion centres as determined by experiment on lower animals, and pointed out the general characters of the medulla oblongata; spinal chord; optic thalami, &c. Mr. D. S. Skinner read an essay on the acclimatisation of the human species, giving the evidences, conditions, and effects of such based on the history of races and experimental data. Considerable discussion arose out of it, in which several of the members took part. Mr. Geo. Acheson, B.A., then gave a lecture on the mechanical parts of the microscope, describing the Ross, Jackson, Beck, Continental and other models. This lecture is the first of a series to be delivered on microscopy.

Dr. Wilson is president of the department of English Literature, of the Royal Society, now being established by the Governor-General in Canada.

TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. The regular meeting of the T. S. M. Medical Society was held on Friday, Feb. 24th, at 7.30 p.m., the first Vice-President, Mr. J. T. Duncan, in the chair. After nomination of candidates for membership Dr. J. H. Richardson read a long and interesting paper entitled "Science falsely so called." The paper consisted of a critical and scientific review of the arguments of Darwin, Tyndall, &c., in favor of the evolution of man, in which the author showed that the theory of evolution was not yet proved. An interesting discussion fol-

lowed, in which Messrs. Stewart and Patterson argued in favor of the Darwinian theory as a boon to Science, and the best we could adopt to account for existing facts in the present state of our knowledge. Drs. Workman and Richardson replied, opposing the theory on the ground that it was not yet proved, and because an acceptance of it seemed to shake the belief in revealed religion as evidenced by the atheistical tendencies of its leading supporters. Drs. Daniel Clark and Joseph Workman, Toronto, and Dr. Wm. Osler, Montreal, were elected Honorary members. A committee, consisting of Drs. Richardson, A. H. Wright, and McPhedran, was appointed to examine the essays handed in for the Smith prizes. The nomination of officers for the ensuing year took place, and judging from the popularity of the men nominated to oppose each other, a lively time may be expected at the Annual meeting on the 10th inst.

The duty on anatomical specimens is in the future to be removed.

UNIVERSITY MEN. Mr. N. Quance, B.A., '81, has been appointed Classical Master of the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute.

Mr. C. C. McCaul, B.A., having severed his connection with Bethune & Co., has gone to the office of Fuller & Nesbitt in the "Ambitious City."

'ESPRIT DE CORPS.'

Probably no enlightened person will assert that the main object of University life is to get what is commonly known as book learning; nor, we hope, does any student set out with the intention of becoming a book-worm. And yet it is a lamentable fact, that presumably enlightened students devote themselves to their text-books, as though the sole object of existence was to master the mysteries of Conic Sections, or to write faultless Latin prose. Conic Sections and Latin prose are excellent things in their proper place, but it is a sad thing for any University when its students think more of Mathematics and Classics than of their fellow-students, with whom they should mix freely. Students are as much a distinct class as lawyers or doctors,—they have a special interest, their special customs, and their special rights,—they form a class of beings, not perfect perhaps, but a class that should devote itself to the Alma Mater, and to the interests of each member of the class.

In some Universities this spirit, this *esprit de corps*, exists. In our own University it exists only in a very slight extent. It is not hard to discover the causes of this unsocial spirit, which must strike every careful observer. In the first place, very few students have any knowledge of what University life really is. A student comes to his lecture, and returns home, having gained some additional knowledge of his subject perhaps, but very little additional knowledge of his fellow-students; those in the Residence have the best, perhaps the only, idea of genuine College life. But if the spirit of reform that has displayed itself so much this year, would bring about a change by which a Residence four or five times as large as the present one, would be built, we should then find *esprit de corps*, for the students would eat together, live together, and would form those bonds of intimacy that exist long after College days.

And in the second place, there is a fatal tendency at our University—one that will exist as long as scholarships and medals—to neglect physical exercise in any form whatever. England's greatness has been attributed to many different causes. Might it not be justly attributed to the healthful physical exercise at schools and colleges, of which every student partakes more or less? Friendships are never formed more quickly than on the play-ground, and health is never so firmly established as by athletic sports.

It may seem mere sentiment to deplore the absence of *esprit de corps*. But, when we have left the University—when we have grown old and careworn in life's battle, which will be the most pleasant recollection for us—the recollection of the hours spent in studying for medals and scholarships—gained too often at the expense of health—or the thought of the true-hearted friends whom we had—friends such as we shall never see again? For friends we gain in the world are more or less worldly than the friends we make when students together are generous, warm hearted, and true.

J. B.

OSCAR WILDE AND HIS CRITICS.

A remarkable movement has been going on in England during the past few years, having for its object the awakening and cultivation of a national appreciation for the beauties of nature and of art, and aiming ultimately at the social and moral improvement of mankind. This movement is clearly the beginning of a reaction against the grossness of that wealth-worship which is so prominent a characteristic of the English nation of our day.

Owing principally to the wonderful improvements which have been made during the last forty years in industrial and agricultural processes, and to the removal of legal restrictions on trade, wealth has been

accumulated with such unparalleled rapidity, and to such an extent that a very large number of Englishmen have come to look upon wealth as the chief, if not the only, good, and the attainment of it as the sole end of life. But it must not be forgotten that this immense national wealth has been acquired at a fearful price. For the sake of her merchant princes England sacrificed the national honor in that most disgraceful, most unrighteous war with China, known as the Opium War. For the benefit of those of her capitalists who held Turkish securities, England sacrificed the lives of many thousands of her bravest sons in the Crimea. To aggrandize her landowners she has made a perpetual sacrifice of the miserable inhabitants of the sister island, and at home her policy has been such that though the rich have been made richer, the poor have been made poorer, and that falsely called prosperity of the nation has not been the prosperity of the people.

But the present movement is being carried on with the view of changing all this, by setting before the English nation a higher aim than the mere accumulation of wealth at any price. The object is to displace the worship of gold by the worship of beauty in its widest and fullest sense, and although this is only the substitution of one secondary end of life for another, few persons would hesitate in deciding which of these two ends is the higher. The apostles of this great movement, which has been fitly termed the English Renaissance, are Professor John Ruskin and Mr. Oscar Wilde. Ruskin represents the philosophical and conservative side of the movement; Wilde represents it rather on the progressive and practical side. Like all practical young men and all radicals in the early stages of any movement, Mr. Wilde has perhaps exaggerated the importance of the doctrine which he advocates; but this error, if error it be, is too harmless to merit censure, and too common to merit ridicule. Yet Mr. Wilde's lot has fallen in an evil time. Probably no modern innovator has met with so much unreasonable and persistent abuse. This results in a great measure from the fact that people have formed their opinions of this gentleman and his theories from the misleading representations of comic illustrated journals, comic stage plays, and the one cent evening newspaper. Now, while all will recognize the invaluable services which have been rendered at times by such agencies to social and moral reform, yet it by no means follows that the authors of these productions are to be taken for infallible guides on every great question that may arise, and this for several reasons. A comic journalist who is actually compelled to say something funny every week, is not always so scrupulous as might be wished in selecting subjects of his satiric pen, and whenever he makes an unusually lucky stroke the temptation is very great to follow up his success by wilful misrepresentation of the subject he has chosen. American witty writers have been more especially affected by this pernicious influence. They had completely exhausted themselves on mothers-in-law, fat men with bald heads, orange peel, tacks and bent pins, mules and goats; and the whole race of American wits would speedily have become extinct had not the fortunate arrival of Mr. Wilde and his famous sunflower brought them relief at the last moment. As for the writers in our ordinary daily newspapers, none of them have the time, and few of them have the ability, to deal with this subject of art cultivation as its merits demand. An article which is written, printed, read and forgotten almost before the ink has dried on the manuscript, is hardly the place where we could expect to find any very weighty opinions on important and somewhat abstruse subjects. When in addition to these considerations we remember that we ourselves, as well as newspaper writers, are only too prone to ridicule what we do not understand, simply because we do not understand it, we might come to the very sensible conclusion that it would be much better for us to refrain from judging Mr. Oscar Wilde too severely until we know at least something about him.

To all those who have not allowed themselves to be prejudiced against Mr. Wilde by the bitter attacks of the *profanum vulgus* of the newspaper world, we commend the following extract from his Boston address. He would be a clever critic indeed who could find anything ridiculous here, either in the language or in the sentiment. On the contrary, we think that for richness of diction, wealth of imagery and general beauty of expression, this extract stands unsurpassed by any writer on the same subject: "And so with you; let there be no flower in your meadows that does not wreath its tendrils round your pillows, no little leaf in your Titan forests that does not lend its form to design, no curving spray of wild rose or brier that does not live forever in carven arch or window of marble, no bird in your air that is not giving the iridescent wonder of its color, the exquisite curves of its wings in flight, to make more precious the preciousness of simple adornment; for the voices that have their dwelling in sea and mountain are not the chosen music of liberty only. Other messages there are in the wonder of wind-swept heights and the majesty of silent deep—messages that, if you will listen to them, will give you the wonder of all new imagination, the treasure of all new beauty."

DON QUIXOTE.

## COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—Now that a spirit of wise reform and well-considered innovation seems to have overtaken the Senate, a few remarks from the point of view of an undergraduate may not be out of place in the organ of University opinion. Before any extensive changes are made it would be wise to consider well whether the principle of specialization which underlies our Honor courses, is a safe one when carried as far as the Senate seems inclined to push it. While this plan is not so faulty as the opposite extreme of dividing the energies of students over the whole field of knowledge, yet in many respects there are grave objections to it. The true path here, as in so many other cases, lies in the golden mean. The undergraduates should spend their time *principally* not *exclusively* on one department. To illustrate what is meant, suppose the whole field of knowledge to be divided into six departments, we think that the true plan is not to have the student spend one-sixth of his time on each department, nor, as is now the case at least in the higher years, spend nearly the whole of his time on one department, but to allow him to spend, say, two-thirds of his time, in one department, and the remaining one-third on a wise selection from the other five departments. In view of the tendency to break up the present Honor courses and of the necessity of establishing new ones, there is more than usual need that the dangers of exclusive devotion to one department should be avoided. Many of the examiners by preventing the examinations of Honor men in their Pass subjects from becoming a farce, and by setting papers which shall require a deeper knowledge of these subjects than can be attained by a mere cram, have it in their power to do a great deal in this direction. Of late years one can notice a laudable improvement in this respect. Though this, like all reforms, involves a little inconvenience to many parties, yet this should not influence examiners to abandon their work of elevating the standard, till in a few years it will be generally understood that the Pass work has to be mastered. Then no longer will the fair fame of Alma Mater be tarnished by disgraceful boasts about spending half a day on important and interesting subjects.

THOROUGH.

## NOTICE.

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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.

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

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.

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