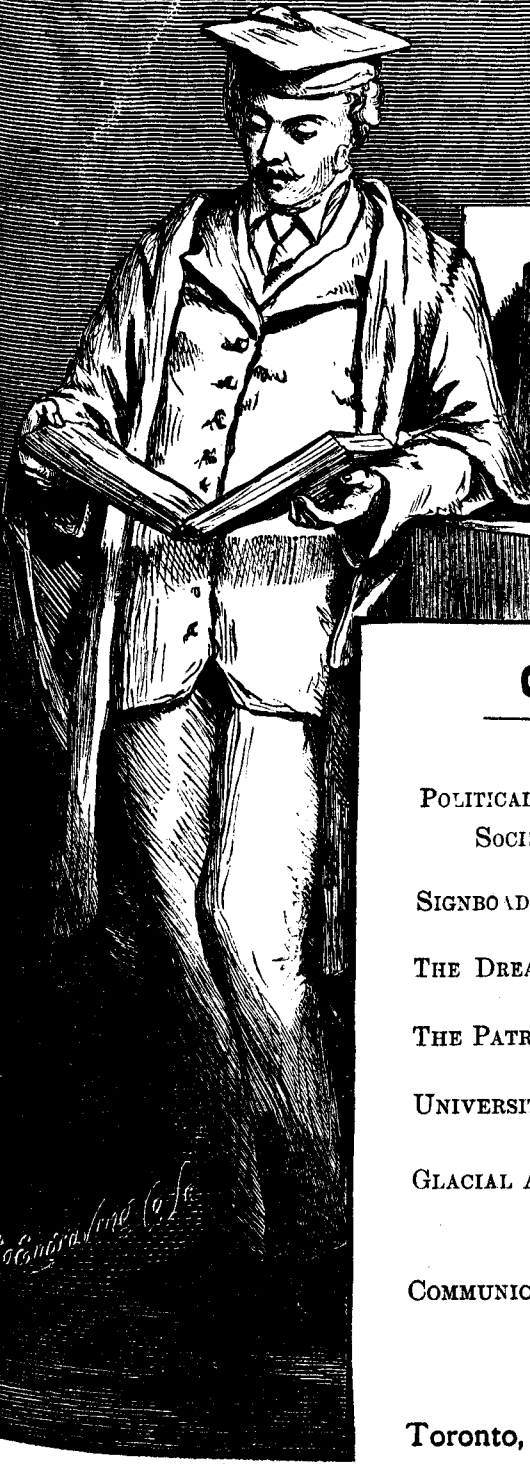
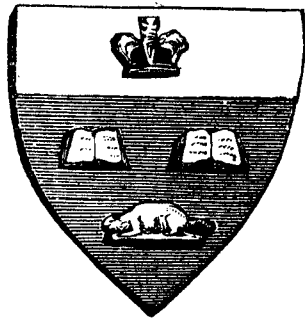


# THE UNIVERSITY



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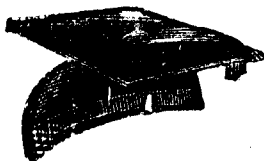
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# THE ' VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. 2. No. 19.

February 24, 1882.

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## POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS IN THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

We read in Tacitus that the schools of the rhetoricians which had at one time furnished the most valuable training of the Roman youth, were so far degenerated at the time when the spirit of freedom and patriotism ceased to breathe at Rome, that they were rendered ridiculous on account of the nature of their teaching. And the prime cause of this degeneracy was the change in the nature of the subjects discussed. Thus Tacitus explains:

*"Sequitur ut materiæ abhorrenti a veritate declamatio quoque adhibeatur. Sic fit ut tyrannicidarum præmia aut pestilentia remedia,—aut quicquid in schola quotidie agitur, in foro vel raro vel nunquam, ingentibus verbis persequuntur."*

His complaint was, that when the young men were sent to prepare for participation in the active business of the state their time was wasted by abstract discussion of questions of no practical importance, and they were not allowed to consider those subjects whose consideration would best train the faculties of which their after life required special training. Such a complaint would be scarcely less justifiable at the present day.

For example, what study could be of more interest and more practical advantage to the young men of Canada, than the study of Canadian history and Canadian politics? And what branch of study is at the present time pursued with less facility? The ignorance among Canadians with regard to their own history is lamentable, but little to be wondered at. One cause of it is the low state of our historical literature; the main cause is the absence of the subject from our educational system. In our own University, it is true, a few are now benefitted by a smattering of Canadian history. But more than this is required; and we cannot hope to obtain from the work of our curriculum any substantial information with regard to recent or present events and their bearings. Our College and University work must be supplemented by the use of our other advantages as Undergraduates.

What are those advantages? The one which first and mainly attracts our attention is, our meetings in a general debating society. It would naturally be supposed that in a society of this nature, from which many go out every year who are soon to enter the public or political arena, and whose advantages we enjoy at the very time when our academic education is being ended, the questions discussed would be essentially questions of the day, questions of burning interest and immediate importance. But such is not the case. And why? It is certainly not because the members of the Literary Society do not desire to discuss such questions, for they have often felt the iron law against them to be a painful restraint. It is because the ruling body under whose patronage the Society exists has desired that we shall not deal with any questions of Canadian party politics. Thus our school of oratory is somewhat in the position of the schools

whose oratorical displays Tacitus so strongly ridicules. For "subjects remote from all reality are actually used for declamation; . . . and such subjects, but never or very rarely those of public importance are dwelt on in great language." Freedom of thought, it has been said, may be checked in two ways; by seizing on the channels of education, or by subjecting their utterance to the control of a censorship. The former we suffer from in our confined course of study, whose evils are increased by the multiplication of examinations, and the bane of monetary rewards. The latter we suffer from in every way in which it can be exercised, and by no means least so in the nature of our debates.

Of course it will be urged as an objection to a change, that it is not advisable that young men who in most cases stick to the tail of a political party simply because their fathers and grandfathers were joints in that tail, should be given the opportunity of having their already prejudiced minds more and more narrowed by the discussion of questions which they could look at only through colored spectacles. But this is an objection which will now be given little weight. Such discussion, if increasing the narrow mindedness of a few, would then affect only those who could not be other than narrow-minded; while it would certainly have the effect of dispelling the unreasonable prejudices of many, or of adding reason and weight to opinions previously unreasonable and blind. It would probably also be adduced as an objection, that such debates would tend to lessen the spirit of sociability and mutual friendship, which is about at its lowest among us even now. This is an objection not worth dwelling on. Few would consider it seriously; and examples show that it is unworthy of serious consideration.

A notice of motion to amend the Literary Society constitution in this respect, has become a sort of standing annual joke. Such a notice of motion will be given again in a few weeks, and will doubtless afford members of the Society some amusement. Let them consider it seriously, and they will likely show a different vote. Then let them urge their opinions in the matter, and their opinions will prevail. Is the Literary Society at present such an institution as one would expect to find it in connection with a College of such pretensions? It is not. In its early history it was well attended, and looked upon by the body of Undergraduates as by no means the least important part of the College. And the men, who in those days conducted the debates, and held the offices, are well represented among the foremost public men of to-day. But at the present time, there is no doubt that the Society is rather looked on as an institution respectable through its age, and deserving to be kept up on account of its respectability, not as furnishing such a training as a debating Society among us should furnish.

Would not the introduction of debates on live political questions give life to our meetings, making men interested on the subjects under consideration, lead to discussions more

stirring and more interesting to listen to? "Great eloquence, like fire, grows with its material," and Demosthenes, Cicero, Pitt and Gladstone, became great orators because they had to do with subjects of vital importance to themselves and to their country, whose cause they had espoused. The clever author of "Endymion," was proud to look back upon his debating society experience, and say that his first debate in such a society was the turning point in his life. Let us then introduce political discussions into our Society, at least as an experiment. Let us have matter for debate which will interest us and develop our practical as well as our theoretical talents; and let us find what good can accrue to us through a lively interest in our country's affairs. We look forward to the establishment of a chair in political economy, Jurisprudence and Constitutional History, which has become a necessity. Such a course will fast become the most popular course in the University; and if, in addition to it, we are allowed as a Society, to consider the living questions of the political world, we will have reason to expect that results will rapidly show themselves, in the dissemination of a thorough knowledge of sociological principles in men prepared to discuss public matters in a reasoning way—men prepared to lead, instead of being led, by public opinion. W. C.

#### THE LATE MR. MARLING.

The sudden death of Mr. S. A. Marling, at his residence in Yorkville, removes from amongst us one who had become familiar to most university men, who, without exception, will deplore his untimely end.

Mr. Marling graduated with the highest honors in classics in 1854 (at the same time as the Hon. Edward Blake), taking his M.A. in 1856. After holding a position as headmaster of the Whitby high school, he was made an inspector of high schools, and was for several years examiner in classics in the University of Toronto. His son, Mr. A. W. Marling, graduated here a few years ago, and is now a missionary in Africa. Mr. Marling, though the most unostentatious of men, was a careful student and sound scholar. Every one who heard, at the last meeting of Convocation, his thoughtful and earnest remarks, must feel that in him the University of Toronto loses one of her best sons and firmest friends.

We draw attention to a communication from "S," in *re* "The Abolition of Scholarships." We certainly must, however, take issue with "S" on his assertion that the organ of the University is in any way responsible for the fact that the University of Toronto is still spoken of as a one-college University, simply by reason of the fact that it published an article which deals with a subject from one point of view. The article in question may or may not have been written by an Undergraduate in Arts; but even if it were, it is perfectly proper for the writer to confine himself to that faculty which forms the backbone of our University, and about which alone the writer of that article felt himself competent to speak. We presume that a signed article does not commit the paper to its views as "S" would seem to imply. With this exception, we heartily agree with the remarks contained in the letter from "S," and the more so as it is to be presumed he knows the requirements of the Faculty to which he belongs.

#### SIGN-BOARD POETRY.

It is of course the object of any one who has any wares to dispose of, no matter of what sort, to make other people aware of the fact. A great deal of ingenuity has frequently been expended in trying to discover the best way of doing this. In olden times—as the fairy tales say—when the number of people who wanted wares was more limited than at present, if any person wished to push his business, the best way to do it was to put his business on his back and go out to find buyers. When the number of those who wanted to buy became larger, and the number who wanted to sell also increased, it was found that there was more to be gained by standing by the wayside and trying by force of lung to induce the passers-by to come and try the goods than by taking

the goods to the customers personally. A man however cannot always cry his wares at the top of his voice, hence some less tiresome way of attracting the attention of passers-by to the merits of what was to be sold had to be devised. This could best be done by attracting the eye by some curious picture or figure. This figure generally, however, served but as a means of attracting attention to the metrical praise of the articles which was no longer sung but was now printed. Thus a rustic artist invites the villagers to patronize him by exposing a painting of some gorgeously-attired lady accompanied by a rhythmical invitation such as the following:

"Come one, come all,  
Give All a call,  
He pictures all,  
Both great and small,  
He makes them look  
Both handsome and neat,  
And for his work  
It can't be beat."

This, however, a purely Canadian specimen of sign-board versification, is too business-like in its tones to be of much general interest.

Although nearly everyone who had wares to sell, sang or had his swaying sign-board sing their praises in a metrical jingle, undoubtedly the best examples were to be found on the sign-boards of the ale-houses. Even the dramatist, however, must tack an epilogue to his drama in accordance with the all but universal custom.

The French barbers audaciously contrast their power with nature's in the following:

"La nature donne barbe et cheveux,  
Et moi je les coupe tous les deux."

This should bring plenty of customers considering the great love which their fellow-countrymen have for a *coup*. The English barbers are less audacious and recommended—a wholesome recommendation—sticking to one razor and strop. Beer however must be thrown in, or for many Englishmen even so wholesome a recommendation would not have much weight. Thus they say:

"Rove not from *pole* to *pole*, but stop in here,  
Where nought excels the shaving but the beer."

Thus even by the barbers must the bibulous desires of humanity be pandered to. And as bibulosity provokes poetry, or as the sign of the FLYING HORSE more elegantly puts it,

"If with water you fill up your glasses,  
You'll never write anything wise;  
For wine is the horse Parnassus,  
Which hurries a bard to the skies,"

it cannot be wondered at that nearly all the sign-board poetry is to be found on the sign-boards of the ale-houses.

Almost any person might feel welcome to the inn which bore on its sign:

"Good entertainment for all that passes,  
Horses, mares, men, and asses;"

but all the inns were not so hospitable, at least their invitations were frequently less general than this. Only to those who loved good ale would Tommy Burnett's sign of two men, the one pale and thin, the other jolly and rubicund, with the lines subscribed,

"Thou mortal man that liv'st by bread,  
What made thy face to look so red?  
Thou silly fop, that looks so pale,  
'Tis red with Tommy Burnett's ale,"

be a general invitation. The invitation in

"Stop, brave boys, and quench your thirst;  
If you won't drink, your horses murst,"

is sufficiently general, although the point may be lost to those who do not know how often many people have to stop to water their horses. The exigencies of the rhyme however have been too much for the spelling. The following might very appropriately be placed on the sign-board of some of the temperance houses throughout Canada:

"Walk in, gentlemen, I trust you'll find  
The Dun cow's milk is to your mind."

It would save the necessity for winking when the landlord is requested to bring some of his best milk—one could always be sure that the landlord understood without the customary *wink*. Those who have often wondered why the bull appears so frequently on sign-boards may get some light from the following:

"The bull is tame, so fear him not,  
All the while you pay your shot,  
When money's gone, and credit's bad,  
It's that which makes the bull run mad."

Inn-keepers have always been guiltless of such maudlin sentimentality as that any one should get anything without paying for it, and most of them would wait as long as the Italian verse,

"Quando questo gallo cantà  
Allora credenza si farà,"

written under a painted cock, recommends before supplying the thirsty with gratuitous draughts.

The following inscriptions on opposite sides of a sign-board at the foot of a hill could scarcely fail to draw customers, the reasoning is so human:

"Before you do this hill go up,  
Stop and drink a cheerful cup."

And—

"You're down the hill, all danger's past,  
Stop and drink a cheerful glass."

The meaning of the sign of the bee-hive might not be apparent without the inscription,

"Within this hive we're all alive,  
Good liquor makes us funny;  
If you are dry, step in and try  
The flavor of our honey."

There are many other specimens of sign-board poetry of some interest, but in the words of the young gallant who was about to reform we must say:

"Farewell unto the greyhound,  
And farewell to the bell,  
And farewell to my landlady,  
Whom I do love so well."

#### A DREAM.

Once on a hot summer afternoon, a little girl who had been given a mince pie by her mamma, sat down under the shade of a great oak tree that stood on the outskirts of a mighty forest, to eat it. This mince pie had been given her for much patient perseverance in well-doing, calm endurance under many trying circumstances and equability of temperament under troubles, and frequent provocations connected with a baby brother.

The green, green leaves waved over her, making a sweet rustling, oh! so pleasant unto the ears. To the little girl too it was so pleasant and restful, there, in the placid possession of great and eminent virtue—and a mince pie—to sit and hear the green leaves rustling.

So, that having finished the mince pie, and having contemplated duly and with sweet satisfaction, first, the great and unique virtue of which she was possessed, and then the eminent and sweetly delectable taste of the pie, she fell asleep—and then there came to her a beautiful dream. A little fairy sprite, she thought, flew down from the sweetly murmuring branches and sat upon her.

A sweetly precious little sprite it looked, with gossamer wings and mild blue eyes.

"Pray, who are you?" murmured the little girl in her dream; for the vision smiled pleasantly upon her and did not sit heavy—yet.

"I am the Spirit of the Mince Pie, little girl," said the radiant vision with a gentle voice that sounded strangely as if it had raisins in its throat, "and I have slid down to have a little chat with you—a little chat, you know, about—about—shall it be pies?" and here the spirit closed one of its blue eyes and looked solemnly up to heaven with the other."

"Oh! yes," said the little girl, "pies—let it be pies!" and a radiant smile spread over the little girl's face, and a sigh of delight rose to her lips.

"It shall be pies, then," said the spirit, and he brought down his fist with delight on his knee and gave a little spring, "it shall be pies," and he came down with his whole weight.

The little girl gave another smile of—a—delight.

"Pies," said he, "were invented by our grandmothers," and here the sprite leaned forward and looked with a gently diabolical smile at the little girl.

"Ah, yes!" said the little girl, "I know that is so; I see my grandmother now, she has on a dress of grey and green, and she has a rolling-pin in her hand, and oh! she actually is making a pie!"

"Ah!" said the sprite, "is it even so?" and here his grin grew hideous, "and by and by she will whisk her rolling-pin around her head, and even brandish the same and pretend to strike thee, little girl; but be not afraid. I will take care of you!"

The little girl curled up a little bit, and the radiant smile became so fixed on her sweet upturned face that one might have called it ghastly, but the spirit smilingly approved and whispered gently, "I can grow very big and fierce at times, quite a match for a grandmother; little girl, look here!" She looked, and lo! the sprite swelled and puffed himself out so that he seemed to fill the heaven.

"I feel quite safe," she said, and curled up a little imperceptible bit more, "but let us not talk of pies any more, please don't."

"Ah, well! nor we shall," said the sprite, and a melodious little chuckle seemed to fill his throat; "shall I talk about—about myself, then, little girl?" and here he leaned forward and looked with great gravity at her face.

"Oh! yes, that will be so nice! tell me what you are, great spirit, and how—and how—I hope you will not be angry, sir;" and here a look of suppressed pain grew for a moment over her features; "don't be angry, sir, but tell me how it is you are so—so—heavy?"

"Ah!" he said, solemnly, "that is because I bear such heavy secrets in my breast. For I am mighty and have sway in a world far other than this, little girl. Mine is the kingdom of those who have passed; mine is the realm of the dead. Into this world of present men and things, mine it is to summon those whose footsteps echo now upon another and a distant shore. I traverse the Plutonian Halls and summon classic ghosts to men. I—"

"Oh!" said the little girl, "what dreary things you speak of, what—a—oh!—a—painful themes you dwell on."

There was a good word, and the little girl had been to school, you know.

But the sprite did not seem to notice this, only he smiled and winked a very solemn wink; after that he clapped his hand on his waistcoat and proceeded.

"Ah! little girl, there are other things too more especially dear to children, which I, a spirit, do. I am he, indeed, who summons to the reckless husband the shade most horrible of her, his mother-in-law, but am also he who brings the fairies back to children."

The violent facial contortions of the sprite were now frightful to behold, and the solemn winks he winked were terrible.

"I bring the fairies back to children, oh! and the brownies, and the goblins, and ghosts, oh! and broomsticks, and old women sweeping the sky, whoop! whoop! broomsticks, mother's slippers, stand in the corner, go to bed, naughty, whoop! whoop!"

And here, oh! how hideous was the goblin's leer!

"Oh! Oh!" said the little girl, and she curled and curled and curled till she was almost a circle; "oh! don't talk of such horrible things! I am afraid I am keeping you, oh! don't stay, good bye! good bye, oh!"

"Oh, no! not at all," said the sprite, and grinned; "would you now, would you now like to see your grandmother? your grandmother making pies? Whoop! broomsticks, ghosts, goblins, mother's slipper, go to bed, naughty thing! whoop! de doodle! whoop! whoop! pies, pies, PIES!"

"Oh!" said the little girl, sighing, "oh!"

Then her father's voice sounded in her ear, saying: "get up little girl, whatever made you fall asleep under the trees, and in such an uncomfortable position, too? all curled up in a circle!"

"Oh! father, I have seen the Spirit of a Mince Pie, and I have seen my grandmother!"

"Oh! I am afraid you have been eating mince pies; mince pies are not good for little girls!"

D. B. K.—rr.

#### OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

A LILY by any utter name would smell as sweet.

\*\*

ON these fine, bracing, foggy mornings many charming girls' noses are in the pink of fashion.

\*\*

CHURCH choirs seldom harmonize altogether; and the debates in the Glee Club often baritone of contention, which is de-bass-ing.

\*\*

WANT of memory is considered one of the strongest proofs of insanity. The sad fact is beginning to dawn upon the tailors in the city that most of the Undergraduates of Toronto University are crazy.

\*\*

I ASKED the girl whom I adore,  
The wittiest of maids,  
If from her brain-box she could pass  
My pen a simile for grass;  
She said, "It's like a penknife, for  
The Spring brings out its blades."

WINNIE.

\*\*

A FACT, generally suppressed on account of the advanced age and previous respectability of the sufferer, is that the Emperor William's recent illness was caused by an over-indulgence in lobster. Even an Emperor on his throne is not so mighty as a lobster; and not the



Spartan regime of the German army can insure immunity from internal pangs. I know of only one perfectly safe guarantee against such little troubles—a month's probation on Residence rations.

\*\*\*

I UNDERSTAND a society rejoicing in the title of "The Owls" has been formed amongst the undergraduates in the department of Mental and Moral Science, which has for its aim the propagation of theories which will some day startle the world. At each meeting a philosophical paper is read, and discussion on the same is indulged in. The title of the society is certainly appropriate, meeting as it does in the midnight hours, and Cam says they hoot, and in his humble opinion are of the horn-ed variety. I might observe in this connection, that the classical men are all out of the swim, their department being the only one which has not that useful appendage—a society.

FOR undiluted conceit commend me to the following, which I clip from *The Queen's College Journal*:

It is not too boastful to say that the undergraduates of Queen's represent a higher type of muscular manhood than is found in any other college on the continent.

It is rather difficult to see the outcome of this superior physique, which is thus claimed for the young gentlemen at Kingston. It certainly is not exhibited on the foot-ball field, or why do we not hear of some challenge travelling westward? Perhaps it may be that their physique is so fine they are afraid of having it broken in a friendly encounter at foot-ball.

#### UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

CAMBRIDGE. The election of a Hulsean Lecturer took place last Tuesday. The lecturer holds his office for one year only, but is capable of re-election after an interval of five years. He is required to preach at least four sermons during his year of office, at such times as shall be prescribed by the authority of the University, but he is not required to print or publish his sermons. Candidates must be thirty years of age or upwards, in Holy Orders, and be Master of Arts, or of some higher degree in the University of Cambridge. Candidates must send their names to the Vice-Chancellor on or before February 10th. The value of the lectureship is about £60.

THE Military Academy at Chester, Pa., was burnt on the 16th. The cadets organized themselves into a bucket brigade, but efforts to save the building were soon abandoned. There were 143 students at the Academy. The loss is about \$200,000, and the insurance \$75,000. The cadets were summoned in drill soon after the fire, and were given sufficient money to take them home.

THE faculty of Williston Seminary (East Hampton, Mass.), has expelled seven students. Most of the senior class are in rebellion. The faculty propose to hold firm. The members of the senior class are preparing a statement for publication.

PROFESSOR LAMAR has gone to New York to solicit aid for Marysville College (Knoxville, Tenn.) Fifty students have left or been expelled on account of troubles about negroes.

LAVAL. A Montreal paper says the Archbishop of Quebec has received an autograph letter from the Pope on the Laval question. It also states that the missive from His Holiness is very severe on Bishop Laflèche.

AT the Annapolis Naval Academy ten midshipmen have been found deficient in their studies and dismissed on the recommendation of their academic board.

McGILL. The Sophomores had their annual dinner on Friday evening last, at Pelaguins. The drive out was most enjoyable, and after the repast we were treated to some excellent speeches and singing. Mr. Pedley, in responding to the toast of the Professors, elicited much applause by his humorous oratory, while Mr. G. C. Wright fully upheld the honor of the Undergraduates' Literary Society, by the able way in which he thanked those present for the enthusiasm with which they received the toast.

THE Freshmen have their dinner on Friday next, 24th.

THERE was no meeting of the Undergraduates Society on Friday. The public debate of the University Literary Society which came off on that evening, in the Ladies' Ordinary, Windsor Hotel, was a great success; some five hundred people, principally ladies, being present. Mr. Archibald, M.A., B.C.L., President presided; while on his right sat Mr. J. R. Murray, President of the Undergraduates Society. The subject of debate was the "Rebellion in Canada of 1837." The speeches on the whole were rather poor, with the exception of Mr. McGoun's; Mr. Ritchie's was humorous, but wanting in argument;

while Mr. Guerie's may be described as decidedly lugubrious. Mr. J. H. Rogers read Lockley Hall in good style, and the President gave an address on the subject of Education in the Province. His remarks were very much to the point, but we think he would have been wiser not to have referred to the Roman Catholic Church in such strong terms as he did.

A MEETING of the Football Club was held on Wednesday, 15th, and a financial statement submitted.

THE eighteenth public debate of the University Literary Society comes off on Friday next, 17th inst., in the Ladies' Ordinary, Windsor Hotel. The president, Mr. John A. Archibald, will deliver an address, and Mr. J. H. Rogers, give a reading. "Was the rebellion in Canada in 1837 justifiable," forms the subject for discussion.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. The Antigone rehearsals are progressing very favorably under the able tuition of Mrs. Morrison, who has kindly undertaken to drill the bashful gentlemen who are taking the ladies parts. Professor Hutton has undertaken to translate the choruses to the members of the Glee Club, both before and after the practices, so that the members may be thoroughly conversant with the meaning of the Greek, and render it with due expression. If the same amount of energy be shown by those who are to take part, as is at present displayed by those of our professors who have charged themselves with overseeing the production of the play, the representation is sure to be a grand success, as those gentlemen have evidently entered upon their rather arduous labors with an evident determination to do or die. A thorough recognition of the fact that the play must be produced now or never, may act as a wholesome incentive to exertion by the despondents.

Tuesday being Shrove Tuesday the Residence men were regaled with those time-honored reminders of the commencement of the Lenten season, *nie* pancakes, the specific gravity of which will doubtless remind those luckless wights of their earthly nature for some time to come, and cause them to fast against their will.

ACCORDING to announcement, the Rev. H. M. Parsons delivered an address at the regular prayer meeting of the University College Y. M. C. A. on Saturday, 18th inst. There was a large number of students present, and the marked attention paid the speaker showed that his earnest words and practical teaching were not without their effect. Taking as the basis of his remarks, Heb. xii. : 1 and 2, and in connection with these, Titus ii. : 13, and Rom. viii. : 24, Mr. Parsons dwelt with much emphasis on the influence on Christian life and character exerted by the principles of faith in the *living person* of our Lord and Hope in His glorious appearing. The address cannot fail of being of lasting benefit to many who heard it. The meeting next Saturday will be led by Mr. W. P. McKenzie, the subject being "The New Life," 2 Cor. v. : 17. Let members make it a point to give one hour to this meeting.

AN open meeting of the Literary Society was held in Moss Hall last Friday evening, Mr. Creelmen, First Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. Squair read an essay on "The Subjection of Women," dwelling mainly on the question with reference to higher education, and favoring co-education. Readings were given by Messrs. Wigh, McPherson and Hagerty. The debate on "Annexation vs. Independence" was one of the best ever heard in the Society. Mr. Davis lead on the affirmative, and Mr. J. McKay on the negative. Messrs. Bristol and Irwin followed on the affirmative, and Messrs. G. W. Holmes, Clark, and O'Meara on the negative. The chairman left the decision to the meeting, and it was given in favor of the negative. It was then decided to hold an open public meeting on March 10th. Mr. McIntyre was chosen essayist, Mr. McPherson, reader; and Messrs. Blake and Ames leaders of the debate. There were about one hundred members present.

DR. WILSON held an "At Home" for the First Year last Saturday evening: a number of the Fourth Year also were present.

WEDNESDAY being Ash Wednesday the College was closed.

MANY of the sayings of the philosophical Residence porter deserve to be recorded. A few mornings ago, seeing a junior looking at the thermometer, he called out, "Where does the frazing-point stand at this morning?" And with true politeness, in answer to a question in the dining-hall, he said, "Mr. H., I ordered your hot milk to be executed."

MANY Residence men have of late had pleasant bedfellows in the persons of playful rats. There are scores of these harmless animals about, owing, it is said, to the careless disposal of garbage by one who is not an undergraduate.

THE lottery is now dead in France; in future it is not to be permitted. The following is by Spot:

The lottery's breathed its latest sigh,  
And made its latest prance;  
Well, 'tis no wonder that should die  
Which only lived "by chance."

AN adjourned meeting of undergraduates was held in Moss Hall last Friday evening, after the Literary Society meeting, to decide the form of the petition to the Senate *in re* Medals, Scholarships, and Prizes. Mr. Creelman occupied the chair, and both those in favor of and those against the petition were well represented. After several motions against the petition were put and lost, the following form was agreed on:—

To the Senate of the University of Toronto:

WHEREAS it is at the present time recognized and admitted that the University of Toronto and University College urgently require funds for carrying on the work of both more efficiently; and

WHEREAS it is proposed to obtain these necessary funds either by an increase of College fees, or by the abolition of Medals, Scholarships and Prizes, in which no less a sum than \$5,605 is annually expended; and

WHEREAS it is the undergraduates who are most interested in this matter, as reaping all the advantages, as well as all the evils, of Medals, Scholarships, and Prizes;

WE, undergraduates of the University of Toronto, do therefore humbly petition, that such Medals, Scholarships, and Prizes be abolished, and that the proceeds be devoted to University College purposes; and furthermore, that for the present system of ranking be substituted that followed at the University of Oxford.

A committee of thirteen was then appointed to circulate the petition for signatures; and it is now being rapidly signed. It is hoped that a large majority of the undergraduates will sign before the petition is presented.

THE University College Natural Science Association met on Wednesday Evening; the President, Dr. Ellis, in the chair. Dr. Ellis, on behalf of the Committee appointed to discuss an article for the constitution, relative to the McMurrich Medal, brought in the following revised report:

"Through the generosity of W. B. McMurrich, Esq., M.A., the Association has in its power to award a medal, known as the "McMurrich Medal," subject to the following provisions:

1. The competition for said medal shall be open to undergraduates of Toronto University, being members of the Natural Science Association, or of the Literary and Scientific Society.

2. The said medal shall be given for the best essay on some scientific subject, preference being given to those indicating original research.

3. The said papers for competition to be sent in on or before the first day of March in each year, to a Committee of the University College Natural Science Association, to be nominated and appointed by the members thereof, and the said committee, so appointed, shall award the said medal, and bring in their report in regard to the same at the annual meeting of said association.

4. The donor to be, *ex-officio*, a member of said committee.

5. No medal shall be awarded unless the committee deem the paper worthy of such an acknowledgment.

6. The Medal Committee to be appointed at the first meeting of the association, to be held in the month of March.

7. The winner of the medal will not be allowed to compete a second time."

This report was received and adopted, and the Secretary instructed to send a copy of the regulations to the Literary and Scientific Society.

The night of meeting was changed from Wednesday to Tuesday evening.

Mr. Geo. Acheson, B.A., then read an instructive and exhaustive paper on Bacteria. A number of forms were shown under the microscope.

Mr. Lawson read a paper on the Rocks of the Niagara Period, with more special reference to the Niagara Escarpment. He showed the distribution of the rocks of this formation throughout Canada and the United States, and attacked the existing theories concerning the Escarpment. Both papers drew forth considerable discussion.

A committee consisting of Professors Chapman and Wright and Dr. Ellis was appointed to examine the essays for the McMurrich Medal.

TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. The regular meeting of the T. S. M. Medical Society was held on Friday evening, 17th inst., the President, Dr. A. H. Wright, in the chair. After routine business, during which the members of the society expressed themselves as strongly opposed to co-education in medicine. A paper was read by Mr. S. Stewart, B.A., on "Bacteria, and their relation to diseases." The subject of the paper was discussed by Mr. J. T. Duncan and Dr. A. H. Wright. It was announced that at the next meeting Dr. Richardson would read a paper on "Science—falsely so-called."

An interesting relic has lately been presented to the museum of the school by Mr. Henry Montgomery, M.A., B.S.C. It is a human femur, obtained in 1878 from an ossuary of the Huron Indians in the township of Medonte, county of Simcoe. It differs from an ordinary femur in having its lower half twisted upon its axis, and in having the patella ankylosed with its inferior epiphysis. Immediately above the inferior epiphysis is a groove about an inch in depth and the same in breadth, running in an oblique direction. The groove is very regular and smooth in outline, and was probably caused by a bullet from one of the old French rifles.

'**VARSITY MEN.** Mr. W. Houston, M.A., is a candidate for election to fill one of the vacancies about to occur in the Senate of the University.

We notice that the talented author of "Clinker" has again achieved distinction; but this time by his social qualities, as the following clipping from a morning paper will show:

Yesterday afternoon the students and clerks of Messrs. Blake, Kerr & Cassels presented an address and a piece of plate to Mr. Cayley, on the occasion of his leaving that office to accept a partnership in another prominent city firm. The recipient replied in a few happy and well-chosen words.

## GLACIAL ACTION IN WESTERN ONTARIO.

(Concluded.)

The close of the Champlain period seems to have been marked by a luxuriant vegetation wherever land was reclaimed by the subsidence of the waters. And as the rivers during their annual freshets, carried on their surfaces trunks and branches of trees, these were buried in the silt which the opposing currents of the lake piled up at the river-mouths. Fragments deposited in this manner, associated with the mollusca which inhabited these estuaries, are occasionally met with in the later blue clays of Ontario. The evidence upon which the existence of an interglacial period is based, is not very satisfactory, yet there seems no other way of accounting for the driftwood and shells of *Unio* and *Lymnea* found in the upper portion of the Erie clay. As there can be no doubt of a subsequent recurrence of glacial ice, it seems probable, that this interglacial vegetation flourished during the period of time which elapsed between the emergence of the land, and its elevation a second time to the region of perpetual frost.

The second appearance of glacial ice, although accompanied by all the phenomena which characterized the first, had nothing like its erosive effect. It served by its weight to consolidate the underlying deposits, and gave the clays a much greater coherence and consistency than they previously had.

Had the ice at all reached the thickness of the former period, the underlying clays and gravels would have been completely removed. Instead of this, the glacier slipped along over the ancient deposits without much disturbance. It was accompanied by a ground moraine just as the earlier was, as is shown by the unstratified deposits of clay and gravel which are found here and there to overlie the stratified Erie. The close of this period was marked by a melting of the glacier, and the introduction of a second Champlain period, during which stratified deposits were formed similar to the preceding. The clays of this period, commonly called Saugeen clays in Western Ontario, are quite distinct in physical characters from the Erie. They have a red or yellow color from the presence of iron in a highly oxidised condition. They are moreover much less compact than the Erie, and are less pure, containing generally a large percentage of sand and angular fragments of rock. Although in discussing the two great glacial ages, I have referred to the phenomena which were the outcome of the gradual melting of such enormous accumulations of ice, it must be borne in mind that during both periods, there seem to have been spasmodic attempts made by the glaciers to regain their former influence. Perhaps a number of causes combined to produce long periods during which the mean annual temperature fell very low, and as a result the ice sheet was able to regain some of its lost ground. A careful analysis of the drift deposits in almost any part of the country will be found to bear out this conclusion. For example, in boring for salt at Southampton, at the mouth of the Saugeen River, the following strata were met with between the rock bed and the surface:

1. Thirty feet of hard boulder clay, evidently a remnant of the ancient ground moraine which formed beneath the first great ice sheet.

2. Seventy feet of blue clay and boulders. By this time it is apparent the ice sheet had departed, and the turbid waters were depositing their sediments, while occasional boulders dropped off from the melting bergs and floes.

3. Fifty feet of soft marly beds. The climate must now have so far moderated that the lower types of animal life flourished in the greatest profusion in the shallows of the lakes and rivers, and many years must have passed before this immense deposit could have been formed.

4. Five feet of boulder clay. We have here again the remains of a ground moraine formed beneath the ice sheet, which seems to have regained for a short time its pristine vigor.

5. Sixteen feet of sand and gravel. This deposit may have been formed in the following way. The valley of the ancient Mohawk probably marked the line of the retreating glacier, and a crevasse extending eastward up the valley of the Saugeen River seems to have been swept by a powerful current, which only permitted the coarser portion of the debris being deposited.

6. Five feet of blue clay. Calm waters replaced the ice sheet, and the fine materials which were previously held in solution quietly sank to the bottom.

7. Thirty-six feet of unstratified Saugeen clay holding occasional boulders. This is part of the ground moraine formed under the second and last great glacier.

8. Twenty-four feet of sand and gravel, which may have originated in the manner pointed out in paragraph five, or the contour of the county may have induced a strong lake current to pass over this neighborhood.

We now come to the last epoch, that of the lake terraces.

Upon the final retreat of glacial ice to the Arctic regions, the gradual subsidence of the water to the level of the Niagara ridge gave rise to three great inland seas. Firstly, a western body covering the area at present occupied by the Lake Superior and the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin; the abrupt line of the Niagara escarpment forming its eastern boundary. Secondly, a horse-shoe shaped sea bounded on the west, north and east by the Niagara ridge. And thirdly, a triangular body lying in the trough between the eastern section of the same ridge and the Laurentian highlands, covering the area now occupied by the Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario, and the country lying intermediate.

Some hydrographical investigations, carried on at Chicago and along the coast of Lake Michigan, brought to light the fact that the bottom of this lake inclines very gradually from the shore for a few miles, when a sudden and almost precipitous descent takes place; and that from the base of this declivity the inclination is gradual and unbroken to the centre. It is a mistake then to suppose, as most writers on this subject do, that the terraces which we are about to describe, and found throughout the Province at varying distances from the shore, correspond with the present lake beaches. They are really analogous to the sub-lacustrine terrace above mentioned. The next clearly defined epoch was introduced by a subsidence of the land in New York State, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, which had previously held up those inland seas on the south. From this point the history of the inner and eastern bodies becomes quite distinct. In the former there seems to have been a continuous movement downward to within a short distance of the present levels of Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan. The first stage of the movement being accompanied by a very active grinding and breaking up of the boulders along the entire coast line. This deposit of gravel forms a belt from five to thirty miles in length, extending from Brantford to Collingwood, under the name of the Artemisia Gravel; and a corresponding belt covers the long peninsula which separates Green Bay, Lakes Huron and Winnebago from Lake Michigan.

Had the water on retiring remained any length of time at one level we should find this level marked by a sub-lacustrine terrace, but nothing of this kind has been discovered west of the Niagara escarpment, save that adjoining the present coast line. During the formation of the last mentioned terrace, the water level of Lakes Huron and Michigan must have been some 100 feet higher than at present. And this elevation would suffice to drain both lakes into the Mississippi by way of the Miami Valley. At the close of this period it seems probable the first break was made through the superficial deposits in the region of the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers, which was followed by a rapid subsidence of Lakes Huron and Michigan to their present levels. Lake Erie, it seems probable, greatly swollen by the emptying of the other lakes into its basin, leaped its barriers along the Niagara River, and having deepened its channel, soon sank to its present level.

The history of the eastern subdivision differed much from the foregoing. The subsidence of the waters here seems to have been periodic rather than continuous. As many as fifteen terraces have been discovered between Lakes Ontario and Simcoe, which must correspond with as many successive changes of level in the lake. The highest terrace is about 670 feet above the former lake. The Davenport ridge, back of Toronto, has an elevation of about 270 feet above Lake Ontario, and its analogue on the other side of the lake, of corresponding elevation, has been traced from Oswego to Niagara.

We have no evidence pointing out which of the lake terraces was formed synchronously with the forcing of the barriers between the Laurentide and Adirondacks at Kingston, and the opening up of a new communication with the Atlantic by way of the St. Lawrence; yet there can be little doubt that the sudden subsidence of the water from above the Davenport ridge to its present level, must have been caused by a further rending asunder and deepening of the St. Lawrence outlet.

R.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—In your last issue an article appears under the above heading, and while agreeing in the main with the sentiments expressed, I must take exception to the egotism of the writer. "W." is evidently an undergraduate in the Faculty of Arts, and while engrossed with his

little world, he either forgets or does not know that there are other faculties in Toronto University, and that there are scholarships offered and won in these faculties. It is not surprising that men of other universities should continue to speak of this as a "One College University," when even its own undergraduates speak of it in the same way; and when the journal which purports to be the organ of the University publishes an article in which the Arts' Faculty is represented as comprising the whole institution. Granting then that the other faculties have also some rights in this wholesale abolition, let us look at how it will affect them:

I think I am correct when I state that there are annually offered for competition six scholarships in each of the Faculties of Law and Medicine, amounting to at least \$1,200, a sum more than sufficient to pay one of the proposed lecturers. Now, gentlemen who take a degree in either of these faculties, do so for the honor of having it, and are able to do so without any additional expense, since they generally pursue their professional studies at the same time. Thus, it seems to me this money is wasted, as I can conceive of no good purpose which it secures; on the contrary, in the Faculty of Medicine it is a positive injury. The examinations in this department are largely theoretical, though not so much so now as formerly; and while scholarships are offered men will strive to obtain them, and hence devote themselves to books and neglect practical and clinical instruction. Any one who has had an opportunity of observing, can vouch for the truth of this statement, and, indeed, the laity have also begun to observe it, and it is quite common to hear it remarked of a Metallist in Medicine, "he is not practical." Even men who have taken scholarships, and who have a prospect for more, know they are not working for their best advantage. A friend of mine, of this class, said to me not long since, "I do wish they were abolished; then I could go home and sleep soundly and attend the hospital every day hereafter." Trusting that the Senate will see their way clear to abolish the scholarships in both Law and Medicine, especially the latter, this very year,

I remain yours, etc.,

S.

## NOTICE.

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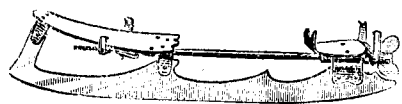
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