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COLLEGE TOPICS

Devoted to the interests of the Students in the Universities and Colleges of Toronto.

Vol. I.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 22ND, 1898.

No. 14

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A class in pulpit and forensic oratory for students has been formed for this term. Send for plan.

ASSAULT-AT-ARMS.

The Varsity gymnasium was packed to the doors last night and that in spite of the deep snow and stormy weather. The Athletic Association never fails to give an entertainment that is well worth seeing, and this year Instructor Williams and President Hobbs have excelled the exhibitions of all previous years. The inimitable pair of comedians, or clowns as they are familiarly designated, from the S.P.S., Messrs. Roy Stovel and Willie Boyd, were in especial fine form last night, and kept the house in uproarious mirth whenever they appeared, which was often but by no means too often. They gave a practical illustration of Mackenzie & Mann's proposed narrow gauge railway from Glenora to Lake Teslin, which pleased all immensely.

In the semi-final tug of war, which began the programme, the sophomores under the command of "Shiner" Ansley easily defeated the freshmen. Then the class gave an exhibition on the buck, followed by a fencing competition between F. A. Young and R. M. Chase; won by Mr. Young; score 5 to 3. The sword vs. bayonet contest between Sergt. Williams and Sergt. Wasson was won by the latter, score 5 to 3. In the exercises on the horizontal bar by the class Thrift Burnside especially shone, but all were excellent; the clowns adding the dessert to the feast. Sergt. Williams has on more than one occasion crossed bayonets with Private Stewart champion of the world, but never did he come so near lowering the standard of the champion as on this occasion. The score stood 4 all for an anxious time until at last the sturdy Stewart scored again. Messrs. Cartwright and Keele gave a very pretty fencing exhibition, and this was followed by the final tug of war in which S.P.S. won easily from '00 Arts. Messrs. McMorde and Gibson belabored each other scientifically and artistically with quarterstaves and won great applause. Mr. Keele defeated Sergt. Williams in the duelling contest; score, 5 to 3. This was followed by exercises in the parallel bar, and vaulting, which were especially good. Then Messrs. Stovel and Boyd artistically closed the evening's entertainment in a cocarde tourney. The Athletic Association is to be heartily thanked for giving such a good assault-at-arms. It was certainly the best ever given.

The most fashionable barber shop in the west end is Coke's, 464 Spadina.

NEW HALLOWE'EN DEMONSTRATION

A Play to be Given by the Students of this City Next Term

Committee now at Work

Proposed Plan Includes a Tour to Western Towns—Students who Have the Matter in Hand.

A subject of more than usual interest, which is now being discussed in college circles throughout the city, is the presentation of a play by the students at the Halloween demonstration next fall. The plan has been talked of very often but not until the present has any move been made to put it into execution. The first step was taken at the Varsity Lit Friday evening, when a committee was appointed by the society to make the necessary arrangements for the production. The committee is as follows: President Loudon, Professors Alexander, Hutton and Ramsay Wright; Messrs. G. Black, W. H. Alexander, W. F. Mackay, E. N. Armour, J. R. Bone, J. H. Fisher, T. A. Russell, G. W. Ross, J. R. Meredith, F. D. McEntee, A. N. W. Clare, G. F. Kay, J. J. Gibson, J. Little, N. T. Johnston, R. Telford, E. H. Malcolm, and Messrs. Adams, Carson and Lucas.

This committee held a meeting yesterday afternoon and discussed the project. It was decided that an English classic drama would be the most appropriate for the occasion, and although it has not been fully decided it is quite likely that Shakespeare's "A Midsummer-Night's Dream" will be the attraction. In regard to the selection of the cast the committee decided that an invitation would be extended to all students who would like to take part to send their names to the secretary, W. F. Mackay. The selection of the cast will then be made by the person who has the management of the affair. An invitation will likewise be sent to the Women's Literary Society for a committee to co-operate with the committee already appointed, should the ladies be willing to join in the undertaking.

The work of selecting the players will be pushed on rapidly, as it is intended that the cast should have a few rehearsals at least before the close of the spring term. An endeavor will be made to have every part filled before summer in order that each one may devote some attention to his part during the summer holidays.

The plan proposed at the meeting yesterday was that several rehearsals of the play should be given if possible this term. At the opening of next term, after a few rehearsals, an endeavor will be made to arrange a short trip to Western towns before the production is put on in this city. If this were done, there is little doubt but that the greater part of the amateurishness so noticeable in productions of this kind would have disappeared.

It was also considered that a trip to Kingston, Ottawa and Montreal was within the range of possibility in case the play was given successfully here.

The committee will begin work at once and do as much as possible this term toward completing the necessary arrangements.

TRINITY UNIVERSITY LECTURES.

The series of Saturday afternoon lectures begins this week at Trinity University. On Saturday Mr. J. F. Waters will read a paper on "Nathaniel Hawthorne, Illustrated from His Writings." The other lectures of the course are:—March 5, "Some Eastern Types," by Surgeon-Major Keefer; March 12, "Madrigals with Illustrations," by Dr. Albert Ham; March 19, "The Geographical Unity of the British Empire," by Dr. G. R. Parkin, and March 26, "An Afternoon With Dickens," by Mr. J. F. Waters.

VARSITY LITERARY MEETS.

Quite a lively meeting was held at Varsity Lit Friday evening. The School of Science men were out in large numbers to cheer their men on to victory in the annual debate with the Arts men. The subject was, Resolved, that the Canadian Government acted wisely in the Yukon railroad deal. Messrs. W. F. MacKay and N. D. Sinclair, of Varsity upheld the affirmative and Messrs. McMillan and Stewart the negative. The school men displayed a deep insight into the situation out in the gold fields, and succeeded in convincing the audience that the Government had acted decidedly unwisely. Vice-President Carson was in the chair, and at the conclusion of the debate he made a neat little speech, in which he decided the debate in favor of the negative side.

Mr. Fred. McKay made a motion, seconded by N. E. Hinch, that a committee be appointed to make arrangement for the Halloween demonstration next fall. The names of the committee and other particulars will be found in another column. D. E. Kilgour gave notice of motion that at the next meeting of the Lit he would move that in case any obstruction be present at the polls of the election both this spring, the president shall have the power to forbid voting until such obstruction be removed.

Secretary of Committees "Fizzer" Smith gave notice that the elections for the nomination board of the Varsity will be held next Friday evening.

MATHEMATICAL OPEN MEETING

WILL BE HELD THIS EVENING IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE—THE PROGRAMME.

The open meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society to be held this evening in Room 16, University College, the following will be the programme:—

1. MANDOLIN, "Varsity March" . . . Le Barge Victoria University Mandolin Club.
2. VOCAL SOLO, "The-for-Tat" . . . Pontet Miss V. Kennedy, '99.
3. MANDOLIN SOLO, "Schleggiel" . . . Le Barge Silver Bell Overture. M. Le Barge.
4. ADDRESS, "Optical Illusions." W. J. Loudon, B.A.
5. VIOLIN SOLO, "Mazurka" . . . Ovide Musin Miss Grace Evans.
6. MANDOLIN, "Shower of Roses Gavotte" . . . Le Barge Victoria University Mandolin Club.
7. ADDRESS, "Mathematical Pot-Pourrie." Professor Baker.
8. VOCAL SOLO, . . . "The Flight of Ages" Miss A. Lick, '99.
9. BANJO SOLO, "Gipsy Rondo" . . . Haydn [Farland's] M. Le Barge.

The following are the officers for the year: president, W. J. Loudon, B.A.; 1st vice-pres., G. H. Balls, '98; 2nd vice-pres., Miss M. A. Harvey, '98; sec.-treas., E. T. White, '99; cor.-sec., R. H. Mode, '98; 4th year councillor, H. J. Dawson, '98; 3rd year, Miss T. Wooster '98; 2nd year, W. C. Good, '00; 1st year, R. M. Stuart, '01; councillor for department of physics and chemistry, Miss C. C. Benson, '99.

CLASS OF '98 MAY UNITE.

The first step towards a solution of the Year-Book difficulty in the class society of '98, Varsity, was taken at a meeting of the class Friday afternoon.

The meeting was called at the request of a number of students of both parties, and Mr. G. C. F. Pringle, who presided at the previous meeting after the officers had resigned, acted as chairman. The attendance was not large, but the feeling was intense, as most of those present deploring the rupture that had taken place in the year were anxious to effect a reconciliation. Mr. Inkster and others wished to hear the resolution of repudiation retracted then and there; but after a lengthy discussion a compromise was arrived at, and a motion to reconsider the objectionable resolution was carried unanimously, on motion of Mr. MacFarlane, seconded by Mr. Narraway.

The meeting then adjourned to meet this afternoon, when the matter will be reopened. On motion of Mr. Saunders, it was decided that at the meeting the resignations of the class executive will be reconsidered, and it was further decided on motion of Mr. Inkster, that the reports of the Editorial and Business Boards of "Torontonensis" will be received on the same occasion.

To-day's meeting promises to be very interesting, as the feeling of the opposing parties is still very strong; but there is a general impression that a solution of some kind will be arrived at in the near future.

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TORONTO, TUESDAY, FEB. 22ND, 1898

HEARD IN THE HALLS.

The Rev. Prof. Clark, of Trinity University, will give his famous lecture, "The Water Babies" in Victoria College chapel on Friday, February 25th, at eight o'clock, on behalf of the fund for a Residence for the women students of Victoria University.

The open meeting of the Union Literary Society of Victoria, held last week, was well attended, and proved a decided success. The first number on the programme was a debate between the juniors and the graduates, the subject being: "Resolved that the Franchise should be given to Women." The affirmative was supported by W. G. Smith, '99, and R. Emberson, '99; the negative by H. E. Warren, B.A., and John Clubine, B.A. Mr. J. R. L. Starr, honorary president of the society, acted as judge, and decided the debate in favor of the juniors. During the year a series of inter-year debates has been held. This was the first of the semi-finals. The final debate will be between class '99 and the specialists for the championship of the college.

Another very interesting feature of the evening's programme was an address by Mr. Tekagi, on "University Life in Japan." Mr. Tekagi gave some interesting facts regarding the system of education in Japan. Schools, he said, are of three grades, modelled after the plan of the schools of Germany. In the elementary schools an eight-year course was given. Five years were spent in the intermediate schools, and five more in the university. Tokio is the great centre of learning. As many as 50,000 students attend its schools. The course most popular in the university was political science, but the result of the overproduction of lawyers was that there were a great many of what the Japs call "three-cent" lawyers. Japanese students had one great incentive to study. The most eligible man in the matrimonial field was the man who had taken the highest honors at graduation; while the man who failed was doomed to inevitable celibacy. The sports most popular among Japanese students were boating and football. Many of the students take military training, and prove the best soldiers of the nation. In closing, Mr. Tekagi congratulated the members of his audience on the fact that they were born in this country, where co-education was in force.

The unveiling of the picture of the graduating class of specialists was the occasion of an interesting address by Prof. McLaughlin. Both he and Mr. Starr indulged in reminiscences of old Victoria. Music was furnished during the evening by Mr. A. E. J. Jackson, Mr. A. B. Steer, and the Mandolin Club of the College.

The fact that the Trinity conversation was dispensed with this year gave a distinctive tone and an added appreciation to the public debate and dance on Thursday evening. Everyone enjoyed the affair and every credit is due to the committee of the Literary Institute, which consists of President Rev. J. F. Rounthwaite, B.A.; First Vice-President C. Heaven, M.A.; Second Vice-President H. T. S. Boyle '98; Secretary, A. Lee Ireland, '98; Treasurer, H. J. Johnston, '98; Librarian, H. S. Muckleston, '99; Curator, L. McLaughlin, '99; Councillor, H. C. N. Wilson, '97; and First Year Councillor, A. S. B. Lucas, '00.

A very interesting debate was held last week between members of the Varsity and the Victoria Women's Literary Societies. Misses Stovel and Hughes, of Varsity, upheld the study of science, and Misses Kerr and Wilson, of Victoria, the study of literature. The debate was decided in favor of Victoria.

The Classical Association of Varsity will hold an open meeting this evening. The following will be the programme: Some metrical versions of the Odes of Horace, Mr. Crawford (Parkdale C.I.); The Silver Age of Rome compared with Modern Times, Mr. Kingsford; Oxford Types, Professor Hutton.

A large audience of students attended the mass meeting of the S.V.M. in Students Union Thursday afternoon. John R. Mott and Robert P. Wilder addressed the meeting.

The open meeting of the Political Science Association of Varsity will be held Thursday afternoon of this week in Room 9, University College. Deputy Minister of Agriculture James will address the meeting. Mr. James is an able and interesting lecturer, and a large audience will undoubtedly be present.

"Billy" Greenwood, B.A. '97, is now business manager of the *Leamington Post*.

At the Varsity Athletic Directorate elections last week, Gibson and Whitely were the successful candidates for '00, and Smillie for '01.

A large turnout of students is expected to greet W. J. Thorold, B.A. '95, McMaster, who appears at the Grand Saturday evening, March 19th, with Julia Arthur in "A Lady of Quality." It is intended that a programme of college songs will be arranged for the intermissions between the acts.

The Varsity Lit elections will be held Friday evening, March 18th.

At the meeting of the Modern Language Club last week Miss Flavelle, '98, and Miss Alexander, '99, read interesting papers on Keats and Wordsworth.

B. K. Sandwell, B.A. '97, who is now in London, Eng., is preparing for the spring exams at Cambridge.

Ross Gillespie, '00 Arts attended the conversat at the Whitby Ladies' College Friday evening.

The convention of the C.S.M.A. held at Trinity the past few days was largely attended by students of the city.

The programme for the Varsity Philosophical Society Thursday afternoon of this week, will consist of an essay by H. L. Partridge, '98, on "Spinoza," and one by F. C. Malotte, '99, on "Wundt's Theory of Hypnotism."

At the meeting of the Modern Language Club yesterday afternoon, interesting papers were read by Miss E. M. Fleming, '00, on "Racine and the Greeks" and by Miss H. E. Downey, '99, on "Voltaire and the English."

The Saturday afternoon lecture last week by Professor McCurdy, on "Our Debt to the East," was largely attended. Next Saturday Professor Ramsay Wright will lecture in the Biological building on "The Life of the Great Lakes."

Messrs. Inkster, Birmingham and Narraway, Varsity, made several speeches at the conservative rallies last week.

The Varsity Glee Club give a concert in Massey Hall, March 7th.

S. Temple Blackwood, '00 Arts, was in town last week.

WHAT SHALL I DO?

A QUESTION WHICH COMES TO EVERY STUDENT.

—PRESIDENT ANDREWS, OF BROWN, DISCUSSES IT—THE IMPORTANCE

OF THE CHOICE OF A PROFESSION.

In the February number of the *Cosmopolitan* President Andrews writes a very interesting article on the choice of a profession. He says:—

The selection of the field in which one's life-work is to be done is a momentous act. A wise choice in the matter is in itself a fortune; an error in it can hardly ever be recalled, and nearly always involves losses and pain for which no good fortune afterward can make amends. In about every community one meets victims of ill guidance in this all-important matter; men who, at the critical point in the journey of life, took the wrong road. Some of them succumb quickly and die. Others wander aimlessly and hopelessly about hardly attempting to advance. Many another bravely struggles on only to find, when all his strength is wasted, that the path is too rough, crooked or long for him, or that it traverses a country which he is constitutionally unable to love. Is it not inexpressibly sad that thousands of human lives should be rendered useless and unhappy in these ways? Cannot something be done to abate the evil?

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At first glance it is surprising that comparatively little has been written on a subject so important. The explanation probably is that the choice of a life role constitutes in each instance a highly personal affair, in which it seems folly for any but the man himself to take part. And, certainly the choice must finally be made by each for himself. Outside advice or hints, the best saws of sages or philosophers, can never, in this weighty business, take the place of our own insight, discretion and will.

Yet few solve the problem of a life-calling wholly without counsel. Consciously or otherwise we are, in our decision, helped by what we know of others' decisions. Reflections on the subject by students of human nature seeking to ascertain the causes of success and of failure in life, greatly aid many. It is believed that helpful direction of this kind may be extended further than it has yet been. There may also usefully be given some account of the special advantages and disadvantages of each several profession or calling, the rewards and amenities to be hoped for in it, and the temptations, hardships and other infelicities which its devotees must brave.

Certain favored spirits are never under the necessity of choosing their path in life. Most geniuses are such. They are fore-ordained to this or that mission and somehow become aware of it in good time. From his earliest boyhood Robert E. Lee, like young Hannibal of old, felt called to the profession of arms. Before he was ten Thorwaldsen carved beautifully in wood, excelling his father whose trade it was, and evoking from many observant ones the prophecy that the lad would make a great sculptor. Probably no artist ever becomes famous who is not moved in the direction of his destiny quite early. And many a man neither a genius nor an artist is so obviously fitted for some particular occupation that he need never worry or even deliberate over the question in what field he shall earn his bread. All these cases, however, are exceptional; the majority of human beings are not so fortunate.

A man may be far from sure what profession he ought to adopt, yet really have a pronounced aptitude in some special direction. In such a case the proper precept is: Follow your bent. If the subject possesses various species of ability but is peculiarly brilliant in some one, this his main forte is the thing to give him his cue. Highly versatile people, mentally alert, interested in all the departments of science and of fact, and having considerable but nearly equal powers in various ways, are in much danger of vacillation between two or more forms of endeavor, dawdling awhile over each, till all their richness of faculty is spent and success impossible. The man preaches, we will say, till some reverse overtakes him in that work. Cast down, and aware that he can teach, instead of redoubling his efforts to succeed in the activity first chosen he throws it up and crosses over, a beginner, to the school-room. Sooner or later he becomes discouraged here as well. Having once yielded to depression he probably falls prey to it again, now exchanging the school for the law-office. How many potentially invaluable lives are wasted in such fatal meandering!

Your dull fellow, lacking all special mental interest and without any sense of function or of power, may quite possibly turn out much better than that. If, somehow, he once gets launched in a given enterprise, being single-minded and free from distraction, he is likely to develop triumphant concentration of attention and energy. But how is he to make the start? Perhaps arbitrarily, by a sort of flop, lunging for the first opportunity to work. Splendid results often wait upon such a choice. Better, however, go by friends' advice. President Francis Wayland used strongly to insist that a man's friends are often, if not always better judges of his qualification for a given career than the man himself. Only when he puts his hand to the craft picked out for him—this, too, formed part of Wayland's philosophy—he must determine to succeed, and hence work like a demon. Interest in the undertaking, even devotion, will then come.

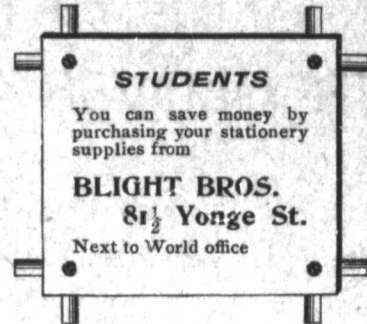
If there are some who deem themselves suited to a calling when they are not, a much larger number foolishly dread suggested callings out of a belief that they could not succeed in them. I am no speaker, a man says: I cannot make either the law or the ministry my orbit. But you have vocal organs, and they can be cultivated. You may also possess all the necessary logical powers. Perhaps all you lack is training information and hard work. The majority of men have greater versatility than they imagine. Within pretty large limits any fairly bright candidate can succeed reasonably well in any occupation to which he gives himself with sufficient preparation and energy. It cannot be too often or vehemently urged that in these days of desperate competition any man a genius even, however perfectly adapted to his branch of activity will fail unless he starts with a good outfit and then works hard early and late. On the other hand, in our era of specialization, every profession has a number of phases. It may be true that you would fail as a pleader, but you might succeed splendidly as counsel, and perhaps rise to be a judge. You might successfully argue civil cases yet find it well to avoid criminal cases. One clergyman does best as a preacher; another, not a star in the pulpit, accomplishes vast good as a pastor. Nearly every profession is thus cut up, making place for diverse tastes and talents.

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(Paul Armstrong, in Chicago Times-Herald.)

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"DRIFTWOOD."

Education, science and cold common sense have made the superstitions the beliefs and the bogieboos of the past appear curiously humorous to this age. We laugh at the people who are afraid of certain numbers, and those in whom we observe the touch of the mariner by their abhorrence of Friday. We smile indulgently as we read of the beliefs of past generations and wonder how people that appeared in every other way to be intelligent could have treated such weird nonsense seriously. Charms and spells have faded into fables. The witches have vanished, and with them their craft. In this age even the oldest and most dishevelled hag fails to do mischief with her most violent curse.

But in spite of all the education, discoveries of science and thought which have dispelled the illogical things of an old civilization, there is still a force which even the most learned mind does not understand or explain. It goes by many names. To the religious it is "the workings of an all-wise Providence." Again it is fate and destiny. But to the world it is luck.

It is a curious thing which cannot be depended upon, for those who trust to luck seldom have sought but a humdrum, miserable existence. Its workings are as uncertain as the lightning. It makes a stroke here and there for good or ill and passes on—leaving the thoughtful mind to blink at its mysterious flashings.

A man works and struggles. He gives himself no play spells, but in spite of his constancy to his task he barely lives. Another man with no more ability, because he happened to turn a certain corner or crossed a street, succeeded.

Two men once had bachelor apartments together. For the same evening they had two invitations to house parties. One man wished to accept one invitation his friend the other. Neither could induce the other to attend the one he favored. Each went his way, and on that evening met for the first time the woman whom he afterward married. The marriage of one and his latter life has been ideal. The other found he had been mistaken and died by his own hand within the year. A man once stood at a ticket office in a railway depot. He had just secured the last lower berth in the sleeping car, and was putting the ticket in his pocket when a man rushed up and asked for a lower berth. The agent informed him that the last one had been sold. "I'll give \$5 for a berth," said the man.

The man who had bought the last one, feeling that he could not make \$5 easier, sold the man his ticket and returned home to wait until morning. The train was wrecked and the man who paid \$5 for the ticket was killed.

A man had been invited to enjoy a trip on a private sailing yacht. The hour for the departure of the party was 10 o'clock in the forenoon. Being late in finishing up some important business, he hired a cab to take him to the wharf. He explained that the time was short and that the driver of the cab must hurry. In consequence the cab collided with a street car and a policeman arrested the driver. The occupant of the cab made every effort to have the driver released. He offered the officer \$10 and his card as security that the driver would appear, but all in vain. He then ran all the way to the wharf, but the yacht had gone. She was lost, with all hands on board.

A veteran of the war tells this story. During a battle the firing became so hot that everyone either lay down or sought shelter. Seeing a small tree which would partially protect him from the murderous fire, he ran toward it. Something tripped him and he fell. A comrade, who had also started for the tree the same time, reached it and was shot dead.

A man walked into a building which was being raised a story and rebuilt to watch out of idle curiosity, the men at work. He was

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smoking a cigar. A man who was employed in the building looked up, and, seeing the man smoking, it reminded him that he wanted to smoke. His pipe was in his coat in a tool box on the opposite side of the street. He dropped his tools, walked out and had reached the middle of the street when the building collapsed. The stranger was killed, while the workman who at any other moment in eight hours would have been there to meet the same fate, stood scarcely twenty feet away, white to the lips as he realized his escape.

A child, who lived with his parents near a river, finding the gate unlatched, toddled off toward the docks. He walked upon an old wharf and stumbled through a hole into the water beneath. The occupants of a row-boat passing a moment afterward, seeing something which looked human rise to the surface reach out a hand and pulled the youngster into the boat. Had he found the gate unlatched thirty seconds sooner he would have sunk for the last time—thirty seconds later the boat would have passed.

A young man looking for employment saw a sign fall from its fastenings in a storm. The accident called his attention to the firm who owned the sign. He applied for a position, it was given him, he suggested some new ideas to the firm and is now in good circumstances.

There are few men whom I have known whose success in life has not at some time hinged upon an accident over which they had no control. An illustration of this is found in Tom Reed, who is now one of our country's greatest statesmen. It was a speech, and a very short one at that, which opened his way to fame.

It was delivered not long after he began his career in congress. He had not up to that time taken much part in debate, but one day, while he was making a somewhat labored argument, an older member tried to break him up by putting a question to him suddenly and demanding an immediate answer. Reed gave the answer readily. Then he paused, turned toward the speaker's desk, and drawled out:

"And now, having embalmed that fly in the liquid amber of my remarks, I will go on again."

The house roared. The galleries took it up. The newspaper correspondents sent it flying all over the country, and to his own surprise more than any one's else Reed found himself a man of note from that hour.

HOW "THE RAVEN" WAS WRITTEN.

One day when I was a child of twelve or thirteen I stood tiptoeing in my uncle's office: my eyes were caught by an engraving hung high over a lamp-bracket at one side of the chimney-place, writes Frances Aymar Mathews in the *Bachelor of Arts*. It was the portrait of a man's face, dark, sad, proud, irresistible almost in the attraction of its deep eyes and the suggestive curve of the weak though haughty mouth. Underneath the picture was written in a beautiful, firm, small, even hand: "To my friend, Cornelius Mathews, from his devoted friend, Edgar Allan Poe."

"Is that the man who wrote 'The Raven'?" I asked, breathless in my gaze at the weird, spiritual face, it seemed to me, flickering with suppressed life at that very moment, in the flare of the smoky little lamp below it.

My uncle nodded, laid down his pen and wheeled his chair nearer to the fire.

"Do you want to know how 'The Raven' was written?" he asked me, as I drew a bit nearer to him and the blaze.

Of course I did. Hungry for the eerie and the strange, I fairly shivered with delightful anticipation, then, over its first hearing as I have many a time since when I have begged for its repetition at my uncle's lips. It is because I have heard it so often that I am able to put down so accurately the picturesque little history of at least one of (if not the) inceptional phases of a poem that has run the gamut of the world and ensnared its every reader.

"It was in the winter of 44-45," began my uncle, "a drizzling night full of chill and murk, and shifty with freaks of an east wind that shivered against lamp-posts and rattled the swinging signs all along Broadway. Broadway was not then what it is now, and on such a night years ago the warm flare of the gas at the entrance to the Park Theatre—the old Park Theatre down yonder on Park Row—seemed very attractive to a young man still in his twenties, and with a play of his own in his desk, into which he had put his best. I crossed over and went in. I found Edgar Poe in the seat beside mine. We shook hands, we had known each other for some years by letter, and for some months face to face.

"He was one of the most courteous and attentive listeners I ever encountered, and,

with a delicacy and interest unbounded, he inquired as to the play I was then so intent upon. It was 'Witchcraft,' and as briefly as I could I outlined the plot to him. As I came to the close of the fourth act, depicting the anguish and horror of my hero Gideon, on being convinced that his mother is in truth a witch, beholding as he does the signs in the elements and in the sky, Poe, his gaze fixed before him, said in his low, melodious voice, 'Mr. Mathews, why do you not at this point have a raven, that bird of ill-omen, flit across the stage over the witch's head. Do you know,' he went on, his eyes still immovably riveted on the glowing space before him, his voice so low that it could not disturb even his nearest neighbor, 'that that bird, that imp bird, pursues me mentally, perpetually. I cannot rid myself of its presence. As I sit here I seem to hear the melancholy of its croak as I used to hear it in my boyish days at school in Stoke-Newington. I seem to hear the sordid flap of its wings in my ears. I wonder, Mr. Mathews,' he said, looking at me now squarely in the face, 'if Dickens has ever been haunted by the raven as I am; I wonder if the raven in 'Barbaric Rudge' in his expression of the monotonous power the bird has had over his mind—what do you think?'

"Candidly," I answered, "from a long correspondence with Dickens, I take him to be a man so little inclined to the introspective that his presentation of Barnaby's raven is likely to have been more for its effect than the result of a deep cause." "I see," Poe responded; "that is precisely it. Some men away trifles, foibles, or events to their own shaping; others—he shifted his gaze back to the space no doubt peopled by his fancies—are swayed and swung hither and fro by whispers heard only by themselves."

"We talked much more, and on many themes about many people, issues, schemes, books and friends, until the audience, rising in a mass, we knew that the last curtain had fallen for that night. I put out my hand to touch my companion's arm, and bid him under the shelter of my umbrella (I observed that he had none and but a thin overcoat), come across the street and join me for a hot oyster supper. But my hand met nothing, my friendly eyes and invitation were to be useless—Poe, like a spirit, had dissolved seemingly in the murk of the night and left me standing alone. I started out and searched everywhere about for him, well understanding his rare delicacy of feeling, which, half anticipating my hospitality, thus sought to elude it. I could not find him so I went over and took my supper by myself.

"Half an hour later I came out jumped into the omnibus, and away it went rattling over the wet cobble-stones—oh, yes nothing smoother in those old days!—up through the mirth of Broadway. We had reached Bleeker street, when there in the circle of a sickly yellow light, under the lamppost, I beheld Edgar Poe standing, writing on the margin of a paper, apparently oblivious of everything around him. I pulled the strap and dashed out, and yet, even then something made me pause as I saw him—a something that shone, like a glitter of stars in a hot summer sky, in the depths of his gray eyes—a something that exuded from his white brow, where the dark curls gemmed with the frozen raindrops, sparkled in the meagre light of the almost deserted thoroughfare; but for an instant, when common-sense came to my aid combined with common feeling for a man standing in inviting disease in such weather as this—

"'Poe!' I cried, touching him lightly on the shoulder, as I held the umbrella over his head.

"With a curious urbanity, a gentleness which yet spoke to me another language and told me of his chagrin at being interrupted, he greeted me and thanked me, and said, answering my earnest queries as to why he had given me the slip and deprived me of the pleasure of his company at supper:

"'I thank you very much; I could not have eaten, or drunk, or slept, or gone a step farther than this, or waited a moment longer than now.' (Poe then lived in Amity street, only a few blocks distant.) 'It is 'The Raven,' he went on, pushing his dark hair back from his forehead, and with his feet almost frozen in a puddle; with my umbrella beating now this way, now that, by the fierceness of the wind; with the rumble of a solitary cart emphasizing the solitude; with the creaking of a board sign at the corner—Poe said in a hushed, strained voice, a voice where some pent-up, surging sorrow seemed slipping from his control:

"'Let me read you a stanza or two here, now will you?'

"'Go on,' I answered quickly, as eager as he in my attitude. Truth to tell the fantasy of his mood was communicated to me in force, and that freezing quarter of an hour in December, '44, I shall never forget.

"He began in a low monotone the well known lines. A blast keener and more cutting than any that had come before nearly turned the umbrella inside out, and made

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his slight figure away against the post while the paper fluttered in his fingers. As rapt as he, was I. The melody incomparable and the magic rhythm of 'The Raven' had seized upon my soul as tensely as it held his and, reckless of the storm of the December night, I repeated, 'Go on go on.'

"He read on from the scrap of paper that he held as far as the words,

'Perched, and sat, and nothing more,' when lack of mere physical strength, I believe, made him stop and I came to a realizing sense of our surroundings and position.

"'It is cold,' he said with a slight tremor, while he looked half inquiringly at me.

"'The poem is superb, Mr. Poe,' I cried, 'but it is madness for us to stop out here in the street in the storm.' We walked along together, and all the while his lips were framing snatches of the poem destined to win him immortality. More often the fatal refrain coming to my ears of

'Quoth the Raven Nevermore.'

"We reached the steps of his residence, and then he turned and thanked me with the peculiar grace and charm of manner which in my acquaintance with him always distinguished Edgar Allan Poe. 'Be sure to finish this Raven poem,' I said.

"With a melancholy sigh, the insensible, impalpable waft of a restless and imprisoned spirit, he answered:

"'I shall have to—it has not let me rest; it will not let me sleep until it is completed. Perhaps if I have once put it on paper the ill-omened fowl will quit my ear and leave me in peace.'

"Not many weeks after, my dear, I bought and read that very copy of 'The Raven' which I now give to you, and a little later it was the most admired and wondered over of the productions of the day.

ALL THE NEWS OF ALL THE COLLEGES

OSGOODE HALL BRIEFS.

The At Home was well attended, and everyone had a very enjoyable time.

Sir William Ralph Meredith lectured to the third year last week on Municipal Law. Hon. Justice Moss lectures next Friday on "Guarantees."

Some of the law students will go home to vote on March 1st.

The spring exams will begin on Tuesday, May 3rd.

The Lit season is about over now, and it is not likely any more Saturday meetings will be held.

The annual elections of the Osgoode Hall Amateur Athletic Association will be held on Saturday, March 12th. Nominations a week earlier. The retiring Board of Directors are: President T. L. Church; Secretary, H. A. Burbidge; Treasurer, R. F. McWilliams; Directors—E. H. McLean, J. D. McMurrich, A. C. Macdonell, A. C. Kingstone, C. W. Cross, J. G. Merrick, W. E. Burns, W. R. Wadsworth, R. Temple, M. B. Tudhope, T. Healy, H. G. Kingstone, D. Mills, S. S. Sharpe, Joe McDougall and A. Boddy.

The retiring President of the Athletic Association suggests that two election tickets be formed; one a Reform party—in favor of economy and "playing only strictly bona fide students on teams," and the other party opposed to the latter idea. A hot election is expected.

The President of the Athletic Association is always a barrister. Among those who will likely run for the place are Crown Attorneys Dewart or Curry, Claude Macdonnell "Jack" Moss, or McGregor Young.

Students who intend to enter the Law Society in the spring should see Secretary Macbeth about filing admission papers before April 1st.

Varsity and Osgoode played a practice game last Friday night. Varsity won. There was not a single "Osgoode man" on the black and white team. This will be the subject, no doubt, of a platform in the elections.

Allan McLean Howard, Esq., has donated \$10 to the Athletic Association. He is one of the Association's old reliable friends.

Lectures changed last week and the various years are now hearing lectures on "New Subjects" again.

The picture of the Rugby team of '97 is a "daisy." The popular Hon. President, Judge Morson, took a perfect picture. President J. W. Curry looks as young as a Varsity III wing man. Half the team are in uniform, half in no uniform at all.

President J. H. Moss, of the "Lit," announced at the last meeting that the Benchers of the Law Society would allow no more "mock trials" at Osgoode Hall, saying that they deemed such sham proceedings a mock on the Administration of Justice, which would bring the latter into contempt. So no more "mock trials" will be held at Osgoode.

At the last meeting of the "Legal and Lit" Society, the "catch speaking contest" was held for Principal Hoyle's \$25 prize. Several orators entered the contest, and the critic reserved judgment as to the winner.

Among those mentioned for the Presidency of the Osgoode Legal and Literary Society for next year, are the following young barristers: Neil McCrimmon, C. A. Moss, T. L. Church, J. T. C. Thompson, D. Lally McCarthy and others.

Election talk is warm these days at the School.

TORONTO UNIVERSITY MEDS.

Colors. The students have awakened to the fact that the "Red, White and Black," the colors of the University of Toronto Medical Faculty, are essentially a meaningless combination. Why they did not do so before is past all argument, and can only be placed to an indifference inherent in young men; and, perhaps, to a lack of someone with the initiative—that important "boldness" of which the great essayist tells us.

But the students are now alive. It is a well-understood fact that the Medical Faculty is a most important part of the University of Toronto. Therefore the medical student body may lay claim, without plagiarizing (if the term may be used here) to the "Blue and White" as a distinctive combination of colors.

However, to argue in a legal manner, usage may have settled forever on the Arts'

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faculty those colors which are being admired now, as never before, by the Medicos.

Messrs. Corcoran, Brethour, Rogers and Dixon, of Toronto, and Mr. Fred Walker, of Trinity, attended the annual conversazione of the Ontario Ladies' College, Whitby, on Friday night. A large number of ladies and gentlemen went from the city and an excellent programme and promenade, with refreshments, were encountered. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Oliver Mowat, was a distinguished guest.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE.

Rev. Prof. Cody lectured at Trinity Church Galt last evening. The subject of the lecture was "Walks in Rome."

At a special meeting of the Literary Society held last week Mr. W. A. McLean, M.A., was elected as the representative to the conversazione at Whitby Ladies' College, and Mr. W. F. Carpenter to the public meeting in Knox College.

Rev. W. McLean, B.A., of Elmvale, has been visiting in the College during the last few days.

The Rev. F. H. DuVernet, B.D., is expected to attend the Student Volunteer Convention in Cleveland this week. Mr. DuVernet was a professor in Wycliffe for some years and is dearly beloved by the students. The Wycliffe delegates are very much pleased that he is going to accompany them in attending this convention.

Mr. Maurice J. Goodheart has been visiting friends in Brantford during the past week.

Many of the students are attending the meetings of the Church Students Missionary Convention which is being held this week at Trinity College.

There was an unusually good attendance at the monthly Prayer Circle held in the College chapel on Saturday evening last. Appropriate addresses were delivered by Messrs. Mott and Wilder of the Student Volunteer Movement.

The regular meeting of the Wycliffe Theological and Literary Society took place last Friday evening. The following programme was rendered: violin solo, Mr. Beardmore; essay, Mr. Perkins; duet, Messrs. Covert and Benoliel; debate, "Resolved that England's greatness is due to her religion"; affirmative, Messrs. Simpson and James, negative, Messrs. Rushbrooke and Armstrong. Prof. Hague acted as chairman and decided the debate in favor of the negative. After the programme was finished refreshments were served, and thus was ended a very enjoyable evening.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE.

There is a movement on foot to establish an Iota Eta Phi Association. The membership is likely to be a large one especially since many might hold positions on the honor roll in that department, "The Athenian."

The Professors were entertained on Friday evening by a lecture by Dean DeLury of Varsity. Great interest was manifested on the part of the auditors and expressions indicate a desire to hear the professor again in the same capacity.

Berney Tighe met with a painful accident during last week. While at play with some of the boys he was thrown violently by one of his companions. As a result his shoulder bone was dislocated.

There will be a debate in the St. Michael's Lit in the course of a few weeks. "Resolved that, 'Let us hope the day is not far off when any college in Canada and United States will have no matches outside its own campus' is incorrect." Affirmative, Power and Torpey; negative, Walsh and Hayes.

Dan Pickett was called home during the week owing to serious illness in the family.

Mr. Torpey, of medical fame, is slightly under the weather. J. McPeak is dispenser of drugs *pro tem*.

Rev. Father Trayling, of Fort Erie, dined at the college Saturday.

Rev. Father Madigan, of Dundas, was a guest of the college last week.

At the Washington birthday celebration to be given by the American students of the college this evening Mr. John Fay will deliver the panegyric on Washington.

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY.

The annual reception at Moulton College on Friday evening was a decided success. A large number of McMaster men were present.

A fast game of hockey was played last week between '01 and '00. After a hard struggle '01 succeeded in winning by the close score of 6-5.

McMaster will send six delegates to the convention at Cleveland. Professor Farmer will accompany them.

At the meeting of the Camelot Club last evening the Life and Works of Charles G. D. Roberts was discussed.

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The Theological Society held its annual sleighing party last week. A very pleasant time was enjoyed by all.

The debate at the last meeting of the Tenynsonian Club was: Resolved that Great Britain is not justified in carrying on the present war in India. Messrs. H. E. Jordan and E. Sayles upheld the affirmative; and J. A. Faulkner and R. W. Eeklin the negative. The negative side won. At the meeting, Friday of this week the debate will be "Resolved, that departmental stores are injurious to the country." Messrs. R. F. Guyatt and L. C. Lanchland will speak for the affirmative, and A. Morston and P. F. N. Gable for the negative.

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