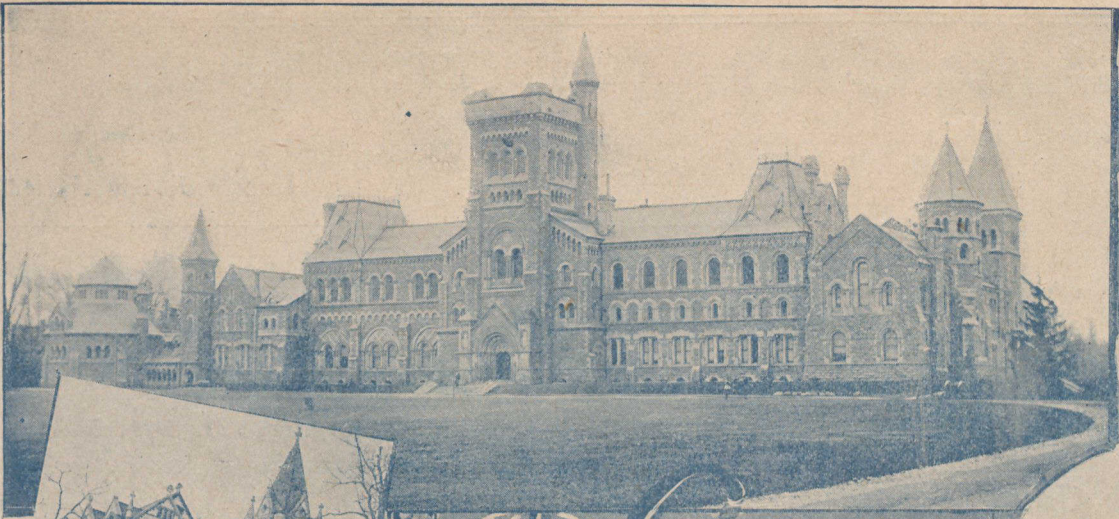


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THE VARSITY

VOL. XVII. No. 17

University of Toronto.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 24TH, 1898.

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THE VARSITY.

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XVII.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, FEBRUARY 24, 1898.

No. 17.

THE COMPLEXITY OF GERMAN CHARACTER.

It is strange that the English regard the Germans as phlegmatic, while the Germans hold exactly the same opinion of the English. "An Englishman," they say, "is all head and no heart; he has made up his mind that he has seen everything and 'nil admirari' is his motto; he is too cold and reasoning to enjoy life." "The German (generally "Dutchman") is heavy, slow and stolid," says the Englishman. Are both right? or are both wrong? What has secured this character for the German which is attributed to him pretty generally all over the world? Glancing first at the intellectual world of Germany we soon see how it is regarded as a heavy style. It has been said that German scholars are "the hewers of wood and drawers of water for the intellectual world." In other words they undertake the most laborious, and what the great majority would term the most disagreeable work in all branches of science. It is the German scholar who spends year after year of patient industry in his study, unheard of by the world, while bent on some great aim, making countless experiments, till at last the crowning discovery is made and the whole world rings with the name of the before unknown student.

Many people disrespectfully call the Germans "diggers." If "digging" means turning up the field of knowledge, they are surely the best gardeners of the sciences in the world. And whether we admire the line of work that the Germans as a body have adopted or not we must yield our homage to the persevering thoroughness with which they carry out their task. They have laid the basis for the editions of the ancient classics for the whole world. In philosophy they have collected and compiled scattered and seemingly hopeless fragments, and built up therefrom the teaching of the great minds of the past. Of course this is the style of work that a German delights in, and is just as happy when buried in a codex as the æsthetic Englishman writing his polished Latin verse. For from the "gymnasium" in its earliest stages the "digging" style is ever impressed upon the youthful minds; and it is not a case of choice, they must like it. So it is not hard to imagine how boys taught thus will grow up following the same path of their own choice. I would not maintain this of boys in general, for that class of individuals are not as a rule intellectually inclined. But the Germans have nothing that can be called "boys" in the English sense, but rather "little men." The German boy (for we shall use the name) at twelve years looks far too wise. It is a pitiable sight to see in a German gymnasium scores of boys at that age wearing strong glasses, their sight already greatly weakened by the long hours of study. Unfortunately they have few, if any, out-door games, and the consequence is their physical development is sadly neglected. An Englishman, who had been a public school master, once remarked to me: "You have only to look at the German men to know that they never played Rugby football or hare-and-hounds when they were boys." I once asked a youngster in Germany what he did in his summer holidays, and he replied proudly, "I study"; his principal exercise as far as I could learn was collecting postage stamps. The Emperor saw only too clearly in his young days what was the effect of this over-development intellectually, and there-

fore sounded a warning note in the convention of teachers some time ago. If we follow these boys to the university we find that it is not much better. True, there is the exercise of fencing, which, setting aside the question of its being a barbaric custom or not, is undoubtedly good for nerve, eye and muscle. But this is only done by the various "corps" which form, except in certain universities, only a part of the mass of students. There is also a gymnastic club among the students, but this does not embrace a very large number. Here we find not only the "heaviness" of the precocious gymnasium boy, represented in a more advanced stage by the student wearing more powerful glasses, and never seen on the street except with a vast pile of books, who takes his exercise by standing up to read when he is tired sitting, but also the "heaviness" of the student who works but little. Of course such a student is almost certain to be a member of a "corps," and therefore fences a little. After that his chief amusement is to sit hour after hour drinking beer. Monday night only differs from Tuesday night in that the "Kneipe" (for so these beer-gatherings are called) may be held in a different "Lokal." The inevitable effect of such a life is an antagonism to vigorous and healthy sport, hence the reputation of "heaviness."

And indeed the Germans look with a mild kind of pity on the Englishman who is willing to undergo weeks of careful training for a boatrace.

In Breslau a boating club was organized not long ago by a few enthusiasts. The so-called aristocracy frowned upon this, and declared it the sport of "tradesmen." Having shown the course of "heaviness" in the intellectual life of Germany, beginning with "hot-house" development in the young sage of the gymnasium, continued in the student life, and culminating in the laborious research of the professor—not casting any reflection on the latter, but in contrast to the æsthetic culture of Oxford, certainly a "heavy" style—let us cast a glance on the rest of the German people and see if we find the same characteristic. Generally speaking we find the same extreme moderation in out-door exercise. Fortunately, now, by the present military system, the men are forced to go through a regular routine of exercise, the object of which is to develop power of endurance. I once asked a German who had served part of his time to come for a walk. He replied: "No, thank you; I had enough of that kind of thing in the army."

One can always tell a German, when touring through a mountain district, by the extremely leisurely way he walks, and by his frequent deviations into the picturesque beer-garden. But watch how he delights in the scenery about him! And this brings us to the other side of the German character, which we may call the "emotional." Here indeed we have a peculiar and seemingly contradictory dualism, for, verily, the most phlegmatic and deliberate German is capable of an emotion that his appearance may belie. And in all ranks and classes it is alike in this respect.

The professor who has been buried all day deciphering manuscripts joins the students at their "Commers" (a grand reunion of a club), drinks his beer, joins in the toasts, sings the songs, and then rises and in glowing terms upholds the glory of the classics. In this uproarious

gathering who would recognize the hard-working "diggers?" But no member would be absent on such an occasion. Let us follow this club to one of its ordinary meetings. It may be a "corps," but as likely as not a literary club. Suppose it to be a classical club. The president calls on the member who has been entrusted with the work of the evening, namely, the interpretation of a Latin author. After the translation, pure and simple, into German, the speaker launches into an elaborate explanation in Latin. This is criticised by the members in Latin. The second part then begins, namely, the translation of a Greek author into Latin—rather heavy in the case of Thucydides. Then a precise business meeting follows. What next? Why, of course these sages go quietly home. But watch. The place where they are all repairing looks like a "Lokal"—a beer resort. Greek and Latin are heard no longer, and each student lovingly reaches for his own beer-mug. Very inconsistent, is it not? These songs have nothing in common with Thucydides, but remind one strongly of some of Horace's Odes. All are here "brothers," and each has a special club name. With songs and speeches, intermingled with peculiar drinking customs, they take no thought of time. But this does not often interfere with putting in an appearance at the eight o'clock lecture next morning.

Such a club celebrates Christmas enthusiastically. All members, past and present, from the student of twenty to the man of fifty, attend the meeting. The feature of the evening is the Christmas tree, from which all receive a present—in every case a suitable one—accompanied by original verses composed by different members. Here is a man rising in the world, who has brought his last book to be formally dedicated to his club. Beside him is a young man who has just passed his Doctor examination and is receiving congratulations on all sides. Another group are talking of the "good old days." Christmas songs are sung, capital speeches made, and finally, with vows of eternal friendship, they part somewhat late the next morning.

And how the whole people rejoice at this time of the year! The remark that "Christmas is a nuisance" is in Germany nothing less than sacrilege. Every town has its Fair—the delight of every child who dreams all year of gingerbread and "marzipan." Every family, high or low, has its Christmas tree. Every public square is crowded with trees for sale, and we see the "prince and the pauper," side by side, making a bargain with the owners. With the Holy Evening a general holiday begins, but this is the great night, and one sees the old grandfather suddenly grown young again as he stands with his toddling descendants waiting for the magic door to open and reveal the gifts of the Christ-child. Are these the "heavy" Germans? And in the humblest ranks of life the same rejoicing prevails, though the tree be smaller and hot punch not so abundant. The washerwoman joins the general holiday and declines to ply her trade in the week between Christmas and New Year's, but takes as an excuse the superstition that clothes washed in the old year and not dry by the new are sure to forebode a death in her family.

And this brings us to a most peculiar feature of the uneducated in many parts of Germany, that is, their intense superstition. To a great mass of German peasants of today the Giant of the Fiery Horse, evil witches, hobgoblins and spirits are a living reality. Their faith in medical skill is nothing compared to their absolute trust in the efficacy of magical incantations repeated the proper number of times at the waning of the moon. And even the educated German finds pleasure in spending a few moments with "Red Riding Hood" or "The Sleeping Beauty." Very undignified reading for a philosopher! But so it is, contradictory as it may seem. Blend poetry

and prose, romance and matter-of-fact, laborious industry and scientific revelling, and you have the German character

A. A. MACDONALD.

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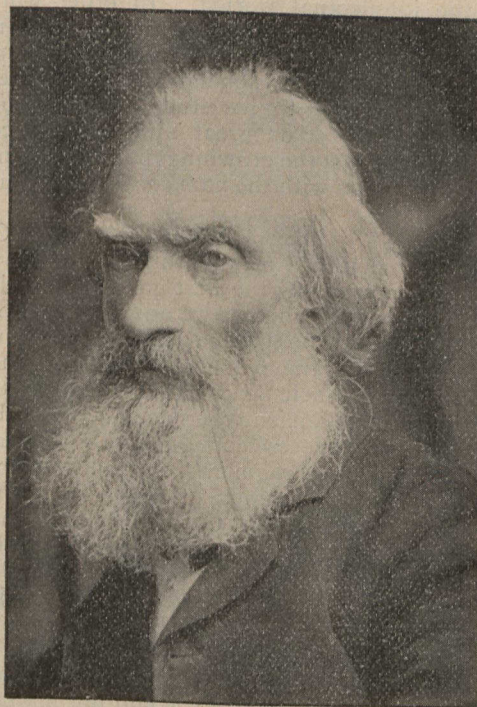
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SIR DANIEL WILSON:

THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

Sir Daniel Wilson was born in Edinburgh, January 5th, 1816, and was the second son of a dry-goods merchant of that city. One of his brothers was the famous Prof. George Wilson, known in the literary world as Christopher North. Sir Daniel was educated at the high school, Edinburgh, and subsequently graduated at Edinburgh University.

At the age of twenty-one, after he had taken his degree, he proceeded to London to make his way in the world, which he did, and most successfully too, with the aid of his pen. He thus seems to have decided upon a literary career, or if not that, a life of study and research; and we find him at this early period of his life contributing articles to many of the best and most influential periodicals of the day. The subjects which received his attention



were history and archæology—two departments of study in which he was to achieve a world-wide reputation later.

It was not until he was some thirty years old, however, that his first notable work appeared; it was entitled "Memories of Edinburgh in the Olden Time." This book dealt with his researches into the history of Edinburgh, and was unique in that the illustrations were from engravings executed by the skilled hand of its author. This was the first result of his fondness for historical and antiquarian research.

His next book was historical: "Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate." We come, however, in 1853 to the turning point in his life. In that year he published his great work, "The Prehistoric Annals of Scotland"; which attracted widespread attention and received this criticism from the historian, Hallam. He pronounced it "the most scientific treatment of the archæological evidences of primitive history that had ever been written." This work

was also important, indeed of pre-eminent importance to us, for it is said to have been the immediate cause of his appointment to the chair of history and English in our University.

Some have considered his coming to Canada as the most unfortunate circumstance of his life, averring that an exceedingly promising career in the yet comparatively unexplored regions of archaeology and antiquarianism was cut short. But when we consider the great influence for good which he had on higher education in this country, and especially in our own University, we cannot help but feel that whatever might have been his success otherwise, he chose an exceedingly useful field for his life's labors when he decided to come to Canada.

Sir Daniel Wilson began his academical career in 1853, soon after the passing of the act which amended the constitution of the university, making the teaching body University College and the degree-conferring body the University of Toronto. Immediately upon his installation as Professor he threw himself heart and soul into his life-work, the promotion of the interests of the university, and also the pursuit of his favorite subjects, history and archaeology, and only on one occasion, when he was offered the principalship of McGill University, do we find him wavering in his allegiance to Toronto. He, however, refused the offer, and from that time on his efforts were persistent and unremitting to advance the interests of the University, both in the capacity of lecturer and examiner, and also in the many important executive offices which he held in connection with the administration of the affairs of the University.

As a lecturer in history, Sir Daniel, with his "hence accordingly," was noted for the breadth and liberality of his views, and in ethnology and archaeology, subjects in which he was so intensely interested, he contrived to convey no small amount of enthusiasm and interest to his listeners.

He was always a ready advocate of the rights of the University, and we have ample evidence of this in his action when the effort was made by Queen's and Victoria, which was unfederated at that time, to secure what they considered to be their deserved share of the University of Toronto endowment. He met the representatives of these two universities at the bar of the House and was eminently successful in showing the fallacy of their position and preventing any such measure as they wished being passed in the House.

Dr. Wilson had not been long in Canada before he resumed his favorite study of archaeology; and the results of his labors in this direction were given to the world in his *chef d'œuvre*, "Prehistoric Man: Researches into the Origin of Civilization in the Old and New Worlds." This work was well received by scientists and greatly increased his reputation as an author and a man of keen scientific insight and judgment. His other publications were: "A Biographical Study of Chatterton and Caliban," "The Missing Link,"—a fanciful Shakesperian study; and finally a volume of verse. He, moreover, contributed to the Encyclopedia Britannica and to a number of Canadian periodicals.

Sir Daniel Wilson was at one time President of the Canadian Institute, and is considered to have been the founder of that important philanthropic institution, "The Boys' Home."

The retirement of the Rev. Dr. McCaul in 1880 was the signal for a bitter controversy for the vacant office. One party wished to "import" a president from the Old Country, while their opponents favored the appointment of Dr. Wilson, the latter winning the day.

Sir Daniel Wilson's *regime* is marked by many advances, both in the organization of the University and numerous improvements in its internal affairs. But the

most important single change that was effected during his presidency was the University Federation Act of 1887. About the year 1886 the Minister of Education called a conference of the representatives of the different universities to consider the question of university federation. Unfortunately, however, this scheme only commended itself to Victoria University, the directors of which decided to enter the federation and send representatives to the Senate of the University of Toronto; and the understanding arrived at then continues to hold to-day to the great advantage of a large student body who have the opportunity of the increased facilities, especially in scientific study, which the University of Toronto offers; and the latter, on the other hand, has no small amount of prestige added by the federation of Victoria.

Sir Daniel was a firm believer in higher education for women, and it was during his presidency that co-education was introduced into our University.

The year 1888 was made notable in the president's life by his receiving the knighthood.

In 1890, however, came the greatest blow of his life, when he saw in ashes the institution wherein he had labored so faithfully for thirty-seven years; but with his characteristic enterprise he at once directed all his energies towards the rebuilding of the university; and it is his tireless and persistent efforts which we in no small measure have to thank for the rebuilding and refitting of the universally admired structure of University College, the replacing of the library, and erection of the beautiful building for its accommodation. Indeed, it is said that his zeal in the completion, reorganization and reconstruction of the university overcame his physical powers and had the result of prostrating him in the spring of '92. From that attack the president never recovered, and on the sixth of August of that year death overcame his wonderful vitality.

His loss was greatly felt both by the university and the community in which he lived and also by the scientific world in which he had won such a high reputation.

I cannot do better in concluding than to quote Mercer Adam's estimate of Sir Daniel Wilson, found in a note on his life in a number of *The Week* published shortly before his death:

"Dr. Wilson enthusiastically identified himself with the country of his adoption and loyally accepted the duties and responsibilities of citizenship into whatever field these might call him, in common not only with his fellow-professors and students of the *national university*, but with the humblest representative of our young Canadian commonwealth.

"He who would trace Dr. Wilson's life in the sphere of his academical labors must do so with real enthusiasm, with loving sympathy and hearty admiration for the scholar and the man. His life-long interest in Toronto University, the many sacrifices he has made for it, his devotion to the subjects he has so ably taught in the college, and the inspiring and elevating influence he has had upon the students who have successively come under his care, are matters that do not require dwelling upon by any pen; nor is there any need to say a word to any graduate of the college at any rate of the learned doctor's courtesy, of his kindness of heart, of his simplicity of character or of his high moral worth."

G. W. Ross, '99.

SATURDAY LECTURE.

Professor McCurdy was the speaker at the public lecture last Saturday. His subject was "What We Owe to the East." In a very scholarly fashion, Professor McCurdy discussed what Japan, China, India, Persia and the Semitic nations, including the Babylonians, Phœnicians,

Jews and Arabs, had contributed to the great monument of human progress. While the other great nations of the East had left behind them great literatures, wide-spread religions and profound systems of philosophy, the greatest debt was owed to the Jew who bequeathed to the West the most potent factor in civilization—Christianity. Professor McCurdy was heard throughout with that close attention which is the surest sign of appreciation. The lecture next Saturday will be by Professor Ramsay Wright, and his subject is to be the "Great Lakes."

STUDENTS' VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

Last Thursday evening scores of students of both sexes wended their way to the mass meeting in the Students' Union Hall. The gathering was in connection with the Student Volunteer movement, and was intended to afford two of its best known and foremost men an opportunity of reaching the students of Toronto University. Both are university graduates, John R. Mott, '88, of Cornell, and Robert P. Wilder, '86, of Princeton.

The former was made chairman of the Executive Committee two years after the inception of the movement in 1886, and has held that office continuously ever since. He has travelled extensively in different parts of the world, visiting mission stations in India, China and the Levant, and earnestly devoting himself to the up-building of college missions. His associate, Mr. Wilder, has made India the chief scene of his labors, and his efforts in that field have been marked by the greatest success. They are on their way to take part in the great Student Volunteer Convention to be held this week in Cleveland, and took a run up to Toronto in the interests of the organization.

A short song service was held while the audience was assembling, after which Professor McCurdy took the chair and opened the meeting. Miss A. Lick, '99, gave a vocal selection, which well merited the hearty applause it called forth. The meeting was then addressed by Mr. Wilder. He spoke concerning his work among the students in India, about the difficulties in the way, such as scepticism, which had to be overcome and of the various trends of thought of the Indian student. In his field there are 100,000 students and he aims at making them an unlimited power for good.

At the close of Mr. Wilder's address Professor McCurdy recalled some personal reminiscences of the times when he and "Bob" Wilder were students together at Princeton. The latter was then deeply interested in missionary work, the young man's inclination being no doubt fostered by his father whose name is prominently associated with missionary work as the founder of the *Missionary Review of the World*, the first journal to give reliable, extensive and detailed information regarding mission work in all quarters of the globe.

Mr. Mott gave a most interesting address, dealing with his tour around the world in the interests of the Student Volunteer organization and with the student life in the various countries. The students of Asia and India are especially numerous and exercise a powerful influence in all matters, much more so than do students in this country. At the present time in India one in about every forty of the population is a Christian and among the students the proportion is greater, there being one Christian in every twelve. Mr. Mott showed himself most enthusiastic in his work and considers the interest in and progress made in missionary work one of the prime features of this age.

A quartette, composed of Messrs. Anderson, Robb, Rowland and Merritt, favored the audience with a selection, after which a most interesting and instructive meeting closed with the benediction.

ROBERT BURNS.

In the following somewhat desultory paragraphs I do not lay claim to any great originality of view with regard to Burns' writings or his personal character. I have mainly endeavored to give in epitome what has been said of him by the most penetrating interpreters of his genius.

There is, perhaps, no name so well known throughout all English-speaking countries—certainly none more loved—than that of Robert Burns. The secret of his extraordinary hold on mankind lies in two words: inspiration and sympathy. Let us try to reconstruct Burns as he was. A peasant, born in a cottage that in these days no sanitary inspector would allow; always struggling against poverty, sometimes in vain; snatching at scraps of learning in the midst of his toil, as it were with his teeth; a heavy, silent lad, conscious of abilities superior to those of common mortals—withal, proud of his plowing. Suddenly and without warning he breaks out into song like the nightingale and continues to sing until he dies. The nightingale sings because she cannot help it; sweetly, exquisitely, because she knows no other, and so it is with Burns. What is this but inspiration? In the words of Scott, "He wrote from impulse, never from effort." We have many men of high poetic talents, but few of that ever-gushing and perennial fountain of natural waters. But if his talents were universal his sympathy was not less so. His tenderness was not a mere selfish tenderness for his own family, for his great heart embraced all humanity. He loved earth and her children, indeed all mankind, except the cruel and the base. One may go further and say that he took all creation—the suffering and despised part of creation under his protection. The daisy—"wee, modest, crimson-tipped flower,"—was to him an object of worship and admiration. In that modest flower, the mountain daisy, he discerns a "soul with human lips." The upturning of the mouse's nest in the furrow elicits his compassion. We find him pitying even the devil. Few will gainsay Carlyle's words when he calls him the "largest soul in all the British lands." Only the oppressor in every shape did he regard with direct and personal hostility.

Burns' greatest poems are, perhaps, the "Cottar's Saturday Night," "The Vision" and "Tam O'Shanter," but it is hard to particularize where all are good. "Tam O'Shanter" is really an epic in its way. To write a poem like this required a union of sympathy and a grasp of the weird and supernatural, such as are rarely found combined in a single intellect. There are passages in this work that would not be unworthy of Shelly or Byron. For example the lines description of pleasure:

"But pleasures are like poppies spread:
You seize the flower—its bloom is shed.
Or like the snow fall in the river,
A moment white—then melts for ever,
Or like the borealis race
That flit ere you can point their place,
Or like the rainbow's lovely form,
Evanishing amid the storm."

But it is in his songs that we regularly find Burns at his best. In him we have an inspired lyricist, as great in his gifts of song as Shakespeare is in dramatic genius. The wealth of minstrelsy, which he left as his undying legacy to the world, is without a parallel in literature. To this work of song-writing Burns set himself as to a congenial task, knowing that he was writing himself into the hearts of unborn generations. His songs live and are immortal because everyone is a bit of his soul. They are not like most songs of the present day—feverish jingles of clinking verse, dead, save for the animating breath of music. They

sing themselves, because the spirit of song is in them. The love he sings appeals to all—it is elemental. His song craft dealt with the passions of the universal human heart, and is, therefore, as universal as humanity itself. He has a song for every age, for every mood. Love, distress, hope, fear, joy, grief as phases of affection were never by any other poet embodied in words of such tuneful melody. Not all the songs he wrote were of that superb quality of excellence, which his best work shows, but perhaps there is not one in which the prayer was not abundantly answered:

“Give me a spark o’ nature’s fire;
That’s all the learning I desire.
Then, tho’ I drudge thro’ dub and mire
At plough or cart,
My muse, tho’ hamely in attire,
May touch the heart.”

There is the secret of his power—he does touch the heart to its depths.

The real literary value of Burns’ work has been ignored by those who regard all literature from the purely aesthetic standpoint. What place he occupies as a poet has not been determined so much by criticism as by the way his fellow-men have taken him to their hearts. The summing up of a judge counts little when the jury has made up its mind. What matters it whether a critic argues Burns into a first, second, or even third rate poet? His countrymen and brothers the world over, who read in his writings the trials and temptations, the sins and shortcomings of a great hearted man, have accepted him as a prophet, and placed him among the immortals. We have been told our love is unreasonable—but love goes by instinct—not by reason, and who shall say it is wrong? Yet Burns is not loved because of his faults and failings, but in spite of them.

There has been much sentimental moralizing over his unhappy fate, but as a poet we think Burns fulfilled his mission and delivered his divine message to the world. He was born to be Scotland’s poet—not to add new ideas to the school of Pope or Thomson. It was for this his whole early life fitted him, even his hardships and misfortunes lent their aid to this end. In boyhood he had felt the desire to realize the vague but burning wish:

“That I, for poor Auld Scotland’s sake,
Some useful plan or book might make,
Or sing a song at least.
The rough burr thistle spreading wide
Amid the bearded bear,
I turned the weeder clips aside
And spared the symbol dear.”

“No nation, no station,
My envy e’er could raise
A Scott still, but blot still,
I knew nae higher praise.”

And well has Scotland honored his abiding faith in her forgiveness of his frailties and in her recognition of his genius. He is loved by the Scottish people as no poet was ever loved by any people; for the love of Scotland for her poet is a passion, a love that forgets all, and forgives all.

But although Burns’ work and genius were necessarily Scottish, there was a good deal of the cosmopolitan about him. In him all the nations have a moral teacher whom no fanatics can draw down from his lofty pedestal. He taught the lesson of the essential equality of all men. He showed how empty rank and wealth are not to be compared with the dignity of manhood. He advocated the

cause of “honest poverty.” “To him an honest man was the noblest work of God.”

Much has been said about the follies and errors of his life. The broad fact remains, however much we may deplore his sins and shortcomings, they are the sins and shortcomings of a large-hearted human being. Those who still denounce him as the chief of sinners and without mercy condemn him out of his own mouth, are those whom he has pilloried to all posterity. To the puritans of every age he has thrown down the gammet. “Let him that is without sin among you cast the first stone.” It is certainly unjust to subject a man of Burns’ nature to the strictures of a rigid moral code. Had he loved less he might have been accounted a better man in the eyes of the world. After all it must be remembered that his failings have been constantly exaggerated. His relations with Jean Armour, though they proved his frailties and hers, were in the end honorable to him, for he left nothing undone to repair the error of his youth. His intemperance arose from a strong social disposition and not from any vicious propensity. In the occasional excesses of his later years he did not degenerate into drunkenness, and the sense of his responsibilities as man, husband, or father, was not less clear than it had always been. Moreover he made no attempt to conceal his delinquencies and transgressions, but confessed them again and again. One might almost say that he paid the penalty of his sins—with his life.

Before rashly condemning him we should ponder over the divine precept he gives utterance to in these lines:

“Then gently scan your brother man,
Still gentler sister woman,
Tho’ they may gang a kennin wrang,
To step aside is human
Our point must still be greatly dark,
The nooin’ ‘why’ they do it
And just as lamely can ye mark
How far perhaps they rue it.

Who made the heart, ’tis He alone
Decidedly can try us.
He knows each chord—its various tone
Each string—its various bias.
Then at the balance let’s be mute,
We never can adjust it,
What’s done we partly may compute,
But know not what’s resisted.”

SCOTIA.

The second open meeting of the Classical Association was held on Tuesday evening. Mr. Rupert E. Kingsford, M.A., LL.B., read a very able paper on “The Silver Age of Rome Compared with Modern Times,” and Mr. Crawford, the classical master in the Parkdale Collegiate Institute, read an entertaining essay on “Some Metrical Versions of Horace.” Professor Hutton followed with his second series of “Oxford Types,” written and read in his usual delightful style.

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The Varsity

TORONTO, February 24th, 1898.

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It has often been remarked that while the University of Toronto is provided with almost every conceivable kind of club and society, that it yet lacked one organization which, it might reasonably be supposed, would be the last to be wanting. We refer, of course, to the curious absence of a Dramatic Club. It is understood that efforts have previously been made to awaken an interest among Toronto students in the drama from the practical standpoint, but they have never had any permanent success. Some few years ago the undergraduates produced "Antigone," and it is a wonder that the great good fortune of that attempt did not stimulate the formation of a Dramatic Club. It is indeed somewhat hard to understand why such a club was not in existence long ago. We do not think it can be said that there is any lack of material out of which to make good amateur actors, for surely we have a large enough number of students to draw upon? Moreover, the continuous and successful careers of the various musical societies which seem to find no trouble in recruiting among the student-body would go to prove that the artistic element is not dead in us altogether. And it would seem fair enough to suppose that there are at least a few out of the great number of students enrolled who have been endowed by nature with a passable amount of histrionic talent. It is very likely, too, that the fear that a Dramatic Club would make too heavy a demand on the time of its members has been in the way of its formation. But such a fear is surely groundless. This would, too, apply with equal force to the Glee Club, or the Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club. Now, we do not think that anyone who is at all well acquainted with the work of these societies would urge for one moment that the students who belong to them waste their time in devoting a

reasonable amount of attention to their duties as members. It is a fact, which no one will gainsay, that the man who, during his college course, in addition to the reading provided by the curriculum, has interested himself in some form of amusement or consistently taken up some hobby, is at the end of his course a really far better educated man than the mere "plug" who grinds joylessly and hopelessly at his texts in order to win a place in the class lists. But the member of a Dramatic Club need not fear that his mind would be too much distracted from his work by his belonging to such an organization. For a Dramatic Club would be, to a greater extent probably than any other society about the University, a real supplement to the curriculum. The latter provides that Literature shall form a considerable part of our studies. Now we study the drama as literature. In particular we read Shakespeare. But Shakespeare, it is well known, never wrote his plays to be read; he wrote them to be played. Surely, then, it would add greatly to our own appreciation of good literary drama if we had a club among ourselves which would make it its business so to study the drama as to put it to its natural use; besides such a club would be certain to cultivate the taste in dramatic matters of the outside public. There is one more reason why we believe there is room for a Dramatic Club at the University, and it is this: A Dramatic Club would provide a hobby for those students who not having an ear for music can neither sing nor play, and not possessing the necessary physical strength, or perhaps not being so inclined, do not enter the arena of sport.

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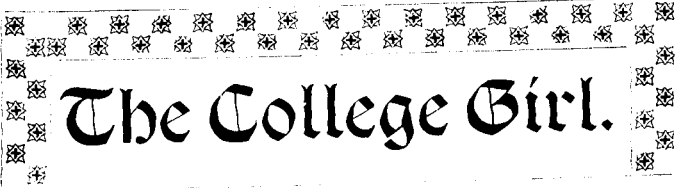
We wish Mr. McEntee every success in his effort to organize a Dramatic Club. We believe he deserves success; we are confident he will be successful. A strong and representative committee has been nominated which is to examine the question. If the club is founded it seems likely that its first public appearance would be on Hallowe'en. And we are convinced that any who do not at present endorse the scheme—and they are probably very few—would be the first to congratulate the University Dramatic Club on its success.

*
* *

There are already signs that the dread first of May is coming appreciably near. The Library is even at this date very well patronized and, instead of being turned out at five o'clock as formerly, the grateful student may now stay till six. It was proposed on one occasion to keep the Library open all night and to provide a free lunch in the basement. But, perhaps owing to low state of the University funds, this plan was never carried out.

*
* *

In the latest number of *The College Times* there is a very timely article by Mr. A. A. Macdonald, on the regrettable tendency to professionalism in sport. We are sure that all those who hold healthy views on athletics will agree very cordially with all that Mr. Macdonald has to say.



The College Girl.

The time is fast approaching, which is one of terror to the idler, for the season of millinery openings will shortly be here, and the creak of the watering-cart will soon be heard in the land. Not in fact that the flowery month of May is so very near, but procrastination makes the time of really short value. All this was borne in upon my consciousness on going down town and seeing new displays of artificial flowers, that had a horribly spring-like air about them. The notice that the library will henceforward be open until six o'clock, also sends a chill to the heart of the ill-regulated student.

Seeing that there is not much news this week, I would fain accept as material the spicy remarks and dialogues called forth by the Athletic Elections, which were so kindly offered to us last week in Corridor Cullings—only I am afraid they would not amalgamate well with the Y.W.C.A. reports, which form so important a part of this column. As it is, I find it hard to restrain the carnal mind within the proper range of subjects. The topic that creates so many brilliant satirists, and teaches the pen to write so many sprightly malicious sentences is alas! denied us for exposition.

Not many gowns are to be seen at lectures and in the halls, and only a few girls adhere faithfully to the wearing of them. There is no doubt that there is nothing more becoming if worn with an air. It is a pity that the members of the other side of the house, the theoretic successors, if not the lineal descendants of the Oxford and Cambridge undergraduates of the olden time, do not preserve the good old custom, seeing that they above all should uphold the time-honored usage. Among the girls, the class of '01 keep most rigidly to the custom. Perhaps the higher years feel diffident about donning academics before having attained a certain degree of collegiate honors. At any rate it is much to be regretted that the custom is not more prevalent.

Last week was rather a quiet one, compared with the immediately foregoing ones, and there are no events of much importance to chronicle. The next meeting of the Woman's Literary Society is to have the program of the season. A comedy is to be enacted and some of our best actresses are to appear. The different parts of the play are to be taken by graduates. Miss Bessie Cowan will contribute a piano solo, and Misses Wegg and Lang are going to play a duet upon the same instrument.

Y. W. C. A.

The meeting of the Y.W.C.A. was addressed last week by Rev. A. H. Baldwin, of All Saints' Church. One of the largest meetings we have had this year assembled to listen to Mr. Baldwin's most interesting and practical address on "How to visit the sick." The suggestions as what to do and what not to do were eminently practical and presented the matter to many in an entirely new light. Much harm is done by injudicious visitors owing to the fact that so few people are ever taught how to visit the sick. Some never learn; others learn by experience, but this experience is sometimes dearly bought.

Among the various announcements special mention was made of the girls' morning prayer meeting at 8.45 o'clock in the lunch room. All are cordially invited.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

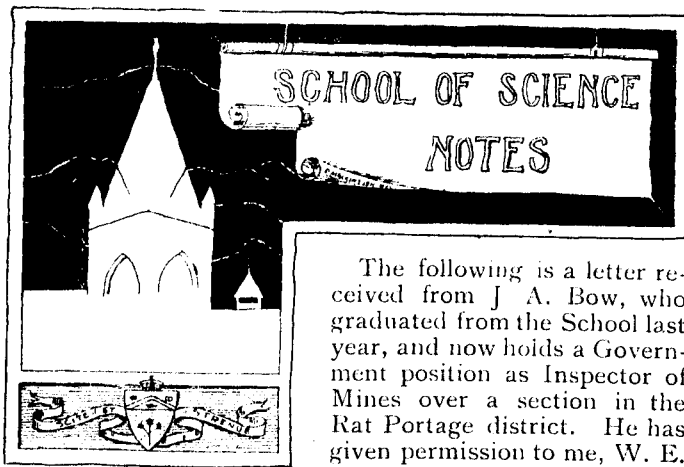
The Osgoode At-Home last Friday night enticed many Varsity men from the meeting of the society, but the annual debate between University College and the S.P.S. brought out a goodly crowd. Mr. C. M. Carson, Vice-President of the Society, occupied the chair in the absence of President McGregor Young. Mr. Wager read the minutes of the last regular meeting and they were confirmed. Notice was given that next Friday night the nominating committee of the Editorial and Business Boards of VARSITY would be elected. The Conversazione Committee announced that their report would probably be ready for the same meeting. W. F. MacKay moved, seconded by N. E. Hinch, and it was resolved, that the following committee be empowered to proceed with arrangements for producing a play at the Grand Opera House from college talent next Hallowe'en: 1st year, Messrs. Malcolm, Lucas Adams and Carson; 2nd year, Messrs. Clare, Kay, Gibson, Little, Telford and Johnston; 3rd year, Messrs. Armour, Fisher, Bone, Alexander, Ross, Russell, McEntee, Meredith and MacKay; 4th year, Mr. G. H. Black.

D. E. Kilgour gave notice that at the next meeting of the Society he would move the following resolution: "Resolved, that this Society regards the fight for the possession of the door at the annual elections of this Society is opposed to the best interests of the Society, and that the president be instructed to close the polling booth at the election this year, if at any time obstruction be offered to voters, until such obstruction be removed." This delightful fragment of literature will be fully discussed next Friday night, and no doubt the arguments pro and con will be delivered with fulminatory eloquence. This is the first rumbling of the storm which will soon burst upon the horizon of the Society and which will culminate on the night of the 18th of March.

All the musicians of the Society had gone to Osgoode, so the debate was called. The subject was, "Resolved, that the action of the Canadian Government with regard to the proposed all-Canadian route to the Klondike is commendable." The affirmative was led by N. R. D. Sinclair, '98 Arts, seconded by W. F. McKay, '99 Arts. The negative was led by A. N. McMillan, seconded by Mr. Stewart, both of the S.P.S. From both sides we learned much of the Klondike and of railroad building and incidentally of the Government's policy. Mr. Sinclair was sure, steady and heavy in his speech and lacked that fire and animation which marked the leader of the negative, Mr. McMillan's reply, which was loudly applauded. In fact his map of the district, as well as his belligerent manner of speech were greatly appreciated. Mr. McKay made a very clear and pointed speech in favor of the Government's policy, and when he finished I thought surely the Government is wise and commendable. Then Mr. Stewart spoke in a manner peculiar to himself, and after the audience had given him credit for some twenty odd points they stopped, but the speaker made many more before he sat down. Then Mr. Sinclair spoke in reply and summed up; but when the chairman had gone over the count he declared that the S.P.S. men had won the debate. Mr. Sinclair proposed three cheers for the S.P.S. men, who at once returned the courtesy and the meeting broke up with college yells and cheers.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

At the meeting of the Modern Language Club on Monday afternoon very interesting papers were read by Miss Downey and Miss Fleming. The former dealt with "Voltaire and the English," while Miss Fleming discussed "Racine and the Greeks."



The following is a letter received from J. A. Bow, who graduated from the School last year, and now holds a Government position as Inspector of Mines over a section in the Rat Portage district. He has given permission to me, W. E. H. Carter, to whom he writes,

to publish any part of it that will be of interest to the S.P.S. men, and as it is all very interesting, only the first and last have been reserved.

“RAT PORTAGE, Feb. 16th, 1898.

There is a great deal I would like to tell you about this country, having had some interesting experiences in travelling about; but probably you would prefer to hear something of the country in general.

Considering how tremendous has been the influence of the Klondike over a great part of the world, you will probably be surprised to hear that people up here are taking very little interest in that place. People here are interested in their own country (from a mining standpoint) and nowhere else. You seldom hear “Klondike.” I, for myself, do not know personally of anybody who intends leaving here for the Klondike. We are all surprised at how little people of the east know of our country, and what little interest they take in it. Of course it is no doubt all due to the fact that it has not been properly advertised. But, however, we do not want the place “boomed.” We have been very slow in starting, but are now going ahead very surely. The income of capital is being gradually accelerated, but we are constantly hearing of new properties being sold to companies, and the commencement of actual development work on same; and at the present moment there is more actual mining going on in the country than ever before.

A number of years ago you would doubtless have been able to get many discouraging opinions of this country; but now, I venture to say, that *no one* who has travelled over it sufficiently to be able to form an opinion would speak disparagingly of the place. The worst you will get is ‘I don’t know,’ and that is because, considering the vast area of our gold-bearing formation, some of the most competent men are *afraid* to venture an opinion on the possibilities of the district in general. Although hundreds of thousands of acres have been surveyed into mining locations, yet you have only to look at the ‘location map’ to see what a small part of the country has been taken up. And you have only to see a small amount of the latter in order to realize how little is known of even the surveyed part, and the amount of room still left for prospecting the same. And it must not be forgotten that these localities represent more than one vein each. It is true that many have been surveyed without any prospecting having been done, but on the other hand, where a location has been prospected there has in most cases been found several veins on same, and sometimes as many as twenty and thirty. The pessimist can only fall back now on the argument that the gold will not extend to any great depth. Well, the deepest mine we have so far is three hundred and seventy-five feet, and there are others over two

hundred and three hundred feet, all in entirely different sections of the country, and none of them give evidence to sustain such an argument. On the other hand, they appear to improve with depth. But another year will go a long way towards proving what our country contains.

From all appearances mining will receive a considerable impetus here next summer, although business in general (outside of mining) is not brisk just now. Nor will there likely be any great stir until the snow leaves and the ice breaks up. No doubt a number of the School fellows contemplate coming here in the spring. And all I can say is that although at the present stage of developments the practical miner is the essential man in the country—a graduate in mining or civil engineering, with reasonable “push,” would be almost sure to get employment at something around a mine, or at surveying, for a start. One of the rare chances for young persons, especially graduates of the School, is to be sent up by capitalists to prospect. Such an opportunity should be taken without second thought. What a person has not learnt at school he soon will learn up here, and he need have no fear about being able to do the work, provided he can rough it. Quite a number of fellows furnish their own capital, and are quite successful at the work. It is not necessary for me to give any advice to intending prospectors; the best way is for them to come up here and learn the facts for themselves, without wasting time reading books, etc., on the subject. All I will say is: Don’t bring anything with you in the way of an outfit, unless you think you can more advisably pay sixteen or twenty dollars express on your own canoe than buy a new one for thirty or thirty five dollars up here. For this work the canoe should be about fifteen inches deep, and similar to the ordinary canoe in other dimensions. Sufficient depth and lightness are the principal features. Basswood is the best material to stand the rough usage. With regard to prospecting apparatus, before I came up last spring I asked Dr. Coleman’s advice as to what to take. He said: ‘All you require practically is a pick or hammer, a pan and a mortar and pestle.’ I thought he was cutting it down rather fine as I expected to get a long list of testing appliances, but soon learned, when up here, that his list was quite sufficient. Don’t waste money on field testing or assaying outfits; you will never use them. And as I intimated before, you can more profitably buy everything up here where you can find out exactly just what you want.

I would like to give you an account of some of my trips, but am afraid that this letter is too long already, and will reserve such for a future occasion.”

F. C. Smallpiece attended the Osgoode At Home last Friday night as representative from the S.P.S.

J. A. Stewart was elected by acclamation to represent the S.P.S. at the Queen’s University dinner given in Kingston last Tuesday night. It is certain he had a good time, because he is an old Queen’s man. We will all be glad to hear an account of his trip at the next meeting of the Engineering Society.

The debate on Friday night was quite a success for the School, though more of the boys ought to have turned out.

Mr. Sinclair opened the debate for the affirmative, describing briefly the proposed route, together with the terms of contract, and then passed on to give his arguments. Mr. McMillan, for the negative, then took the platform, and proceeded to refute each statement of his predecessor, with numerous windmill motions of the arms, proving to the entire satisfaction of all, by means of countless clippings from the *Telegram*, the route to be impracticable, and the region through which it passed to be worthless for agricultural purposes. He referred to the smallness of the work, which he described as a “narrow gorge road with 25-lb. rails (he was evidently speaking of

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the fence rails), and built of second-hand materials," as compared with four million acres of mining land given in exchange, each acre of which was worth at least five dollars. To vindicate this latter statement, he offered to eat certain parts of his wearing apparel. Altogether he made a very good and effective speech. Mr. Stewart closed the debate for the negative, dealing with the whole subject in a manner which reflected great credit on himself and the School.

At the meeting of the Engineering Society last Wednesday, February 16th, Mr. Stull read a paper on the "Cyanide Process." He gave a history of its introduction and rapid development, and also showed what bright prospects it had for the future. He pointed out that by it the gold can be recovered from tailings and low grade ores at a very moderate cost, and that already seventeen million dollars worth of gold has been thus obtained. Then the chemical reactions involved in the process were taken up and illustrated by a blackboard full of giant equations. At the close a few questions were asked by some of the gentlemen especially interested in that line.

Mr. Elliott also read a paper on the "Cost of Electricity," that is, he made a short address touching on the principal point in the paper, saying that as there were too many equations and diagrams he would leave it for us to read in the pamphlet.

PHYSICAL CULTURE.

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And no spring sun may borrow
The power of his vanished reign.

So I sang when the year was wizen,
And the wet wind swept the skies.
But the sun's strength shook the prison
Where the seed of the summer lies.
And the seed broke forth into flowers,
In the length of the April hours,
And I found delight re-risen,
In the depths of thy violet eyes.

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

APRIL

1. Applications for examination for Specialist certificates other than Commercial, to Department, due.
12. Annual Meeting of the Ontario Educational Association at Toronto.
25. Last day for receiving applications for examination of candidates not in attendance at the Ontario Normal College.
28. Art School examinations begin.

MAY

2. Examinations for Specialists' certificates (except Commercial) at the University of Toronto, begin.
- Notice by candidates for the High School Entrance and Public School Leaving Examinations, to Inspectors, due.
6. Arbor Day.
23. Notice by candidates for the High School, forms I., II., III. and IV., University Matriculation and Commercial Specialist Examinations, to Inspectors, due.
- Application for Kindergarten Examinations to Inspectors, due.
25. Examination at Ontario Normal College, Hamilton, begins.
26. Inspectors to report number of candidates for the High School forms, University Matriculation and Commercial Specialist Examinations to Department.
31. Close of session of Ontario Normal College.

JUNE

23. Kindergarten Examinations at Hamilton, London, Ottawa and Toronto, begin.
28. High School Entrance Examinations begin. Public School Leaving Examinations begin.

JULY

4. High School Examinations, Form I., begin.
6. High School Form II. and Commercial Specialist Examinations begin.
8. High School Forms III. and IV. Examinations begin.

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CORRIDOR CULLINGS.

E. T. White has gone to Venezuela.

VARSAITY this week is edited by W. A. R. Kerr, '99.

D. G. McCracken, '98, has returned to Varsity and taken up his year again.

"Bob" Mullin, '99, has started to work again, feeling much better after a week's rest.

"Freddy" Cleland and "Don" Ross have both added a very studious air to their appearances lately.

W. H. Greenwood, '97, is managing *The Leamington Post* and making a big success of it if rumors be true.

"Dick" Greer since last Wednesday is again wearing a pleasant smile. It may be owing to some baseball deal.

Rev. Dan. Norman, grad. '96, has gone to Japan to do missionary work among the "heathen Japanese."

F. H. Lloyd has returned to College much the better for his rest and with firm resolves to "plug" till exam time.

A. E. I. Jackson, '98, and J. H. R. Gillespie, '00, both took a trip to Whitby last week. Both are said to have enjoyed themselves.

A. W. Smith, '98, left on Saturday on one of his mysterious visits to an

eastern town. He returned yesterday in the very best of spirits.

The class of '98 held a meeting last week and there is a very good prospect of its two factions becoming reconciled. They are to meet again this week.

"Count" Armour had a birthday last week and several members of the third house celebrated the event by having a *quiet little tea party in one of their rooms.*

The enterprising girls of the senior year have arranged for a unique party on Friday afternoon. They will take luncheon in the College at two o'clock, and an hour or two afterwards will be spent in speech-making and other entertainment.

The elections for the Athletic Directorate have resulted in the following men being returned: Messrs. Snell, Russell and Douglas '99, Gibson and Whitely '00, and Smilie '01. The election for the '99 representatives was the hottest that has taken place for years.

Messrs. Inkster, Narraway and Birmingham are acquiring more than local fame as trenchant political orators. It is said, however, by those in "well informed circles" that their present efforts are only a preliminary canter for the "Lit" elections next month.

Mr. W. G. McCallum, B.A., '94, and M.D. Johns Hopkins University, is now one of the house surgeons in the

latter University. Mr. McCallum is one of the brightest of the younger generation of graduates from Toronto and is much thought of at the great University at Baltimore.

For the past few days there has been a special policeman detailed for duty in front of Park's window on Yonge street in order to keep back the crowds of people who would otherwise break their way through the plate glass: there are portraits of two '98 men on exhibition.

It is rumoured that the third year Natural Science are anxious to get on a boxing contest with representatives from any other department. The Natural Science scrappers are: *Heavy-weight*, Armstrong or Dinning; *middle-weight*, Dakin; *light-weight*, "Art" Snell; *feather-weight*, "Billy" Ross.

At a recent Sunday afternoon meeting in the Pavilion one of the speakers—a lady—made a remark which was meant as a compliment to the students of Toronto. She said that while passing along the street she met two long files of students who, as soon as they came up to her, considerably parted and allowed her to pursue her way between the lines, and—what was more—every student raised his hat as he passed. Such courtesy as this the speaker had not met elsewhere.

There was no intentional irony here.

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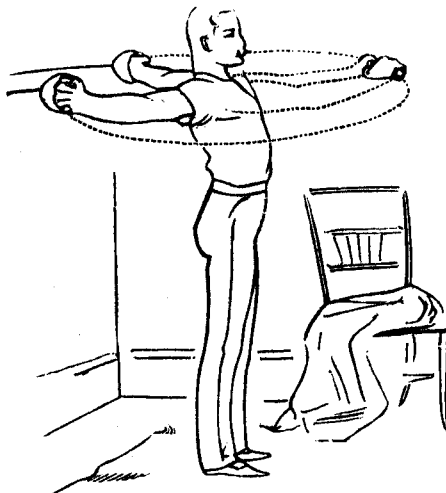


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