

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

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No. 8.

"I HAVE A FRIEND."

The weary traveller in a desert land,
'Gainst whom by full-orbed sun from heavenly seat
Are launched his quivering shafts of yellow heat,
And scorching breath is blown from desert sand,
Doth madly long beneath the palms to stand,
Where kiss of waters cool his lips may greet;
But often tempted by the mirage fleet,
He wanders on where shadeless wastes expand.

Thus wearily I journeyed, many a year,
Athirst for ever by mirage beguiled;
But now no more the sand-choked well I fear.
The living spring whose waters undefiled
Can quench my life-long thirst I know at last—
I have a friend: the desert days are past.

WILLIAM P. MCKENZIE.

"THE HIGHER EDUCATION."

It is somewhat unusual, I admit, to offer views on co-education, but with a confidence born of similar failures, I flatter myself I have some original theories to advance—and for such I may be pardoned. I hope I shall not be misunderstood—my intention, like that of the general public, is to be perfectly clear—and to prevent misconception, I may be allowed first to state the negative side, that is what I should not do if I were writing on the subject of co-education. To plunge boldly, perhaps rashly, into this side of the matter seems advisable.

In the first place, my opinions would not be propagated in short stories with a purpose, reminding one of the old expedient of taking a disagreeable powder in a bit of jelly which might or might not be agreeable. But with that all resemblance ceases. The comparison cannot, with any fairness to the jelly, be carried out. The powder in the stories gets so hopelessly mixed with the imitation jelly, that to an ordinary palate one seems as bad as the other. The reason for this is doubtless to be found in the authors. Let us examine, for instance, some of these sketches which have lately been foisted on an unoffending public. In one, the author's views are made known by reports of conversations imagined (a long stretch of imagination is necessary) to have taken place between lady undergraduates, and by descriptions of such young ladies, needless to say, a wide knowledge of the subject or subjects is shown. These strangely fictitious damsels, who seem to be artificial in more senses than one, are evidently familiar studies to the authors and their dialogues are faithfully recorded. No trace of learning is discernible in their conversation; they are not permitted to talk as rationally as the everyday boarding-school girl, or even the talented young lady from the country who has taken a third-class certificate. The author is evidently labouring under the idea that the public generally consider college girls as prigs, and that it is his painful duty to prevent any misconception on the point.

He does so now. None would suspect his heroines of taking any other intellectual recreation than the "Duchess" or Miss Braddon. For instance, girl No. 2 blushes at the audacity of girl No. 1 in even mentioning the subject of marriage, whereupon girl No. 1 is called upon to become "prettily affectionate" and reassure the timid damsel.

From a scientific standpoint, too, the conversation is all that could be desired. "The invisible wall between the two worlds is never so thin" as in the environments of the University, is the flirtatious (the author is our authority) and at the same time learned remark of the heroine, at the end of which she finds it necessary to look up at the hero with the eyes of a nun. The connecting link is hardly obvious in spite of the pietistic tendency noticeable in the vague allusion to another and better sphere. But why an inoffensive nun should be dragged in here at the end of the sentence and robbed of her eyes to illustrate what the author rashly stigmatizes as a moralizing remark is not easy to determine. But no matter—the question is left open. The "invisible wall," moreover, seems to have a vague air of mystery which it would be profanity to disturb, so that we are limited to the conclusion of this same speech where Miss T— "moralizes" a little more and coquettishly begs the hero, Mr. F—, not to laugh at her for so doing. Mr. F— is evidently a man having an incurable lack of humour or else his facial muscles well under control. He does not laugh. This interesting dialogue is worthy of further note, but the young ladies themselves, who ought in all gallantry to have been introduced first, now claim our attention. There is something strangely unfamiliar about the girl of dusky red and white colouring who carries a note-book to match her dress, uses a brush to her bangs, has to look over both shoulders to see her skirt and makes a spray of asters (growing wild among vines around a stump!) tilt on its stem in order to hide her embarrassment. Yes, as the author says, she *is* original. No one will dispute the point with him.

Her companion, who has the regulation large eyes and fair hair, writes out 17 rules to guide her over the quicksands of a university career. These rules are, for reasons best known to the author, left to our imagination. From the keen analysis of female character he has given us we can easily evolve a few of them and suppose them to run as follows:

I. Always carry note-books to match your costume (it will be necessary, therefore, to patronize booksellers who will be ready to furnish books in the fashionable shades, such as terra cotta, eau de Nile, crushed strawberry, &c.).

II. Attend all lectures—as a delicate mark of attention to the lecturer.

III. Moralize when it seems likely to be "taking." This holds good even when science is dangerously tampered with in so doing.

IV. Always apologize for whistling in a gentleman's presence, he probably is not used to it.

We will stop here because it is hard to imagine where the author's flights would have led him to, and it is not kind to interfere with the working out of an idea. Such interference has been hurtful to great men before this.

The brunette is decidedly more interesting from a psychological point of view. She skips about in a gazelle-like manner from one topic to another, and possesses, we are glad to know, "feminine fingers." It is also a relief to note that this phenomenal young lady thanks her escort for helping her out of a difficulty with the elastic of her hat. These little details are what bring her down to a sordid every-day world. It sounds a little *outré* now-a-days to talk of the elastic of one's hat being caught by hair-pins, but it is too much to expect of one novelist to keep up with the intricacies of feminine fashion as well as of the feminine mind—though I would suggest in all kindness that he try the former now. It is easier.

Talking of feminine fingers naturally makes one think of lady's fingers, five o'clock teas, of trifles light as air and by a natural application, of poetry—I trust this easy graceful transition will be noted. It is of poetry I next wish to speak.

That is the next thing I should not do were I to write on the subject of co-education. I certainly should not indite verses on the "golden-haired girl graduate," and represent her with a trifling incongruity of time and place, as tripping demurely through the corridors to the lectures. Nor would I beg the vision of brightness to linger as she lightly treads on the cold grey stone of the college steps and gladden them with her beauty. If it were possible to infuse any practical idea into a poet, it might be delicately suggested that the charms of lunch are sometimes even greater to the average college girl than the charm of posing for admiring students. But that is merely a suggestion. I must pass on to the next thing I would avoid.

I hope I should not write dialogues *à la* Howells, meant to be character sketches of the class of young ladies who attend college. Poor Howells! as the unacknowledged source—if he be it—of these dialogues he has a good deal to be responsible for. The festive damsels contained there—I trust they exist nowhere else—alive—go to watering-places like ordinary people, and are only to be distinguished from society young ladies by being much more frivolous and susceptible. Why a college education should have this result is a problem which the author ought to solve. It is usually supposed to have the opposite effect. They introduce Latin promiscuously into their conversation and read Tolstoi because a high-church clergyman, who wears a becoming eye-glass, recommends him. They are learned, we are given to understand, but all traces of erudition (always excepting the Latin and Tolstoi) are kept carefully hidden and are never visible in their conversation. One feature of Howells—the delightful vagueness as to purpose and ending—our present author has succeeded beautifully in catching. Of course, though, in Howell's there are other redeeming features; one can usually see why his sketches are written. Lest any unpleasant inferences be drawn, I might say that it is also easy to see why the dialogue under consideration was written.

Lastly, I should not write letters of the waste-paper basket series, or letters that should be of that series, and expect to see them published. I should not write *any* kind of letters on this subject. There is not time to go into details as to the various kinds of letters possible to write; all this, I would *not* do were I writing on co-education. Destructive criticism, I am aware, is easy; a beautiful opportunity has been given the general public. I, as a member of that "numerous" body, have probably abused such opportunity, but I certainly should

do none of these things. What I should do is another question. It is a delicate matter and one that must not be harshly dealt with. But if it came to the actual question, and I had to answer what I would do, I think, yes, I am sure, I should reply that I would leave the task to an abler writer.

GRETA.

DOWN WITH THE TIDE.

Down with the tide. The black'ning waters flowing,
Bear swiftly seaward from the fading west;
Past rocky peaks in transient glories glowing,
Ere yet the sun has, wearied, sunk to rest.

Down with the tide. Yet downward, where the village,
Half hidden by the hills, securely lies;
Where, in the fields, now rests from toilful tillage,
The work-worn sower as the daylight dies.

Down with the tide. With Gothic windows gleaming,
The cross-crowned steeple rears its modest height;
Wide through high doors the altar-light is streaming,
And throws a chastened glory thwart the night.

Down with the tide. Still, still the night is falling;
The holy light fades from the distant shore;
Far through the gloom the vesper-bell is calling;
We hear unheeding, till we hear no more.

Down with the tide. While fast the shadows darken
In silent sadness o'er the river side;
The bell we hear no more. 'Tis night; and hearken!
The sea roars louder. Downward with the tide.

Eoin.

FROM MY BOARDING-HOUSE WINDOW.

When in the Fall of 18—, I found myself at the University a lonely, homesick freshman, I hunted up a room in a boarding-house on — street, which had been recommended me by a fellow-townsmen. The house had originally been a lath and plaster concern but had been covered over with a skin of brown tin sheeting, and, with the little turrets and balconies that had been added, presented quite an imposing exterior. When I first entered my room to take possession, and contemplated the dingy and dirty state in which everything had been left by my predecessor, I began to repent that I had so indignantly spurned my mother's offer to come up with my sister and settle me comfortably in my new quarters. However, the landlady promised me to get to work at it that afternoon with broom and scrubbing-brush, and next morning, when I awoke and saw the sun streaming cheerily in across the foot of my bed, I felt that, with a little labour and planning on my part, the place might be made quite presentable. The first thing to be done was to hang up a few prints, which my sisters had framed for me (to adorn my town mansion, as they laughingly said), a proceeding which demanded no small care and tact, as I wished to make them go as far as possible towards concealing the short-comings of the wall paper. This had originally consisted of a white ground, with very pale blue flowers and very bright green leaves running up broad red streaks, presumably in imitation of trellis work, but the symmetry of the design was very much impaired by marks of

heels, splashes of beer-stain, and, in one spot, by a row of figures in charcoal, which had evidently been the ledger of the banker in some long-past game of poker.

When the evident tendency of the walls to small-pox had been thus artfully concealed, there was the photograph of my father and mother, taken especially for me, to be hung up just at the right height and exactly in the centre above the painted chimney-piece. I call it painted, though there remained only a few patches of the original colour, and I call it a chimney-piece although there was no chimney, my room being heated by the pipe of the hall-stove.

Besides this, I had to spend incalculable energy in smoothing out the wrinkles and tacking together the edges of the holes in my two-ply carpet. It wasn't much of a carpet but it seemed to me quite a fine thing to have a carpet over the whole floor, for at home I had only had a narrow strip by the bed and washing-stand.

Finally, I devoted two or three afternoons to hunting through all the furniture-broking establishments on Queen and York Sts. for an easy chair. When I had secured this all-important article, and had got it actually removed to my room, I felt that I was now indeed settled down, and that I could allow myself a little time to look about me. I was especially curious about a neat red-brick house just across the road, for when I first came to my house I had been struck with the cheerful brightness of its windows, with their pots of geraniums and mignonette, and, besides, I remembered that, on the morning when I rushed down to close the bargain for my arm-chair, I had seen a very kind-looking old gentleman and lady come out of the door together, whose mutual tenderness and affection warmed my heart towards them, reminding me vividly of my father and mother, from whom I seemed to have parted ages ago.

By interrogating the grocer at the corner I learned that this aged couple were named Mr. and Mrs. Erle, and that they had a daughter who had gone away a long time ago, before he had moved into the neighbourhood, and had come back just lately, he didn't know from where exactly, but he thought from Europe. When I saw the young lady, my interest in her parents assumed a very secondary importance, and I gradually came to regard the red-brick house solely as her dwelling-place. How pleasant it was, on the mornings when I had no lectures at the college, to see her starting off cheerfully to do the shopping for the house; or in the afternoon, to watch her walk slowly down the street with her mother leaning on her arm, seeming to combine in her protecting affection for the old lady all the strength of youth, with the tender considerateness of age. In a short time I learned to know her tall figure and her gliding wave-like walk wherever I met her, and I took pains to meet her whenever and wherever I could. I remember telling some dreadful lies to one of the lecturers in an attempt to get him to change the hour of one of his classes, which fell just at the time when Miss Erle usually went out in the afternoon. The lecturer, however, was obdurate, and so I had to give in and rest content with seeing her on the remaining days of the week, for the idea of a freshman skipping a lecture never so much as entered my head.

What a picture she made at the window as she watered the plants in the morning! To steal out of bed at eight in the morning to enjoy this picture became a part of my morning's programme, and there always seemed a great relish in the ham and eggs or mutton-chops,—the staple articles of food with my landlady—when I had succeeded in obtaining this glimpse.

I was perfectly happy in thus worshipping my goddess from

afar, for the idea that I should ever make her acquaintance and actually speak to her, though it did sometimes occur to me, seemed so bold that it almost made me tremble. I felt that if such an occasion were to arise, I should yield to an irresistible impulse to throw myself at her feet or to do something else equally unconventional. Still it caused me a vague uneasiness to see her sometimes escorted home by a young man, perhaps two or three years older than myself, with whom she seemed to be on very easy terms of familiarity. What business had the fellow to be so attentive any way? I would ask myself sometimes, and I would feel like going out and kicking him then and there; or again I would exclaim involuntarily, "What a handsome couple they make, to be sure!" and then I would curse myself for my absurd jealousy, and reflect that, since I did not so much as dream of any hope for myself, I ought to be glad that the young man was so gentlemanly, and I would endeavour to take a sort of proprietary pride in Miss Erle's good taste. Still, it made me feel a little lonely, as if something were gradually slipping away from me, which I had prized greatly and which I could make no effort to retain.

During the winter months I never saw Miss Erle on the street, and but seldom at the window. I think she must have been very ill, for I used frequently to see the doctor's carriage at the door, and on the few occasions when she appeared at the window she looked very pale and weak. "That fellow" (I always thought of Miss Erle's friend as that fellow) used to come pretty often to see her, and stay a long time, while I would torment myself by picturing Miss Erle lying on a sofa, listening to him as he read her a novel, or perhaps, and I would almost grind my teeth, perhaps some of her favourite poetry; while I, poor, lonely devil, dared not even enquire how she was.

One day I resolved to go and ask after her health at all costs, and actually got as far as the steps, but then I thought perhaps her kind old mother would come to the door, and give me such a glance of courteous astonishment as I dare not face, and so I stole back to my room in ignorance. One thing I did, however, I went to a florist's and ordered him to send up a bouquet of roses, giving him the number of the house. How I banged the door when he told me that he was just sending another order to the same place!

I can still remember well my feelings when, one fine morning early in April, Miss Erle came out for the first time. She merely took a short walk up and down in the sunshine, and seemed very tired when she went in, but still I felt as if spring had indeed come.

All that month, of course, I stayed at home reading hard, and used to sit nearly the whole day with my arm-chair drawn up to the window and my book in my lap. What a delightful break it made in the dull monotony to watch Miss Erle in her daily walk and how I rejoiced to notice it become a little longer every day, and to see the colour come gradually back to her cheeks, and her step grow firmer and more elastic. Then, too, what charming taste was displayed in the gradual process by which she first left off her boa, then substituted the neatest little gray spring jacket for her heavy winter ulster, and finally, on the very day I left for home, the Queen's birthday, she appeared in the most bewitching summer costume of white cashmere, looking as rosy and well as the first day I had seen her. But, oh heavens, was that fellow to be always turning up? I would have been so glad to carry away her image in all its loveliness, without anything to remind me that she must one day pass out of my life, and that I had never so much as entered hers.

HENRI.

(To be continued.)

THE VARSITY.

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MR. HODGINS' RETIREMENT.

It is with much real regret that we announce the retirement of Mr. F. B. Hodgins, B. A., from the editorial management of THE VARSITY. His resignation has been made necessary by the pressure of other work, and we can only join with our readers in deploring the necessity which has compelled him to sever his connection with the paper.

We need not refer at length to the debt which not only THE VARSITY but the whole college public owes Mr. Hodgins. He has been for four and a half years—half the life-time of the paper—a member of the editorial staff. During the last three years he has conducted its affairs with a tact and ability which none of its readers can have failed to note. To him, more, perhaps, than any other, the past success of our college paper has been due. Not only has he had the editorial oversight of all its departments, but he has been, as well, a frequent and able contributor to its literary columns. If THE VARSITY has been in the past really useful to the College—and we believe it has;—if it has sought the University's best interests; if it has aided, in any way, the growth of a literary spirit among our students, it is to Mr. Hodgins that the credit is largely owing. He has sacrificed much—more by a great deal than can be understood except by those who have worked with him—to make THE VARSITY a success.

His successors are glad to know that they are not to be wholly deprived of the aid of the retiring editor's experience. They rely on this and on the support of the subscribers, directors and old contributors of the paper in their endeavour to conduct it in the future along the lines which have been followed in the past.

CLASS ORGANIZATION.

The response to the circular issued last term by the Senior Class Organization Committee has been very satisfactory. We desire to join with the committee in expressing the thanks of the students to the Secretaries of the several Class Societies communicated with, whose replies have furnished sufficient information to enable it to proceed at once in the direction of framing a constitution for '89. This constitution, when adopted by the class, will appear in our columns. Meanwhile, for the benefit of the Senior class, and of the other years which purpose organizing, we print the more important part of the information so far received, as contained in the replies of Princeton, Cornell and Harvard Colleges.

PRINCETON.

From Princeton comes a capital account of organizations in that college, written by Mr. Lewis S. Mudge, Secretary of the Princeton Class of '89, and one of the editors of the

Nassau Literary Magazine. We print his interesting letter entire, as follows:

Princeton, N. J., December 10th, 1888.

DEAR SIR,—It gives me great pleasure to answer your letter and give such information as I possess in regard to our class organization.

1st. All who receive diplomas at the same time are considered members of the class and also any who, although not pursuing complete courses, have ranked with the class for one year or more. At Princeton any "specials" who associate with the fellows of a regular class or in any other way identify themselves with the class are considered members and are eligible to office.

2nd. Princeton is in *no sense* a co-educational institution and we are therefore unable to give you information as to the standing of lady members.

3rd. The regular officers of the class are elected once a year until Senior Year, and consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. During the earlier part of Senior Year, a President and Secretary are elected to serve for the remainder of that year and also for life. There are other officers and orators elected to serve only at graduation exercises, such as Class Orator, Master of Ceremonies, Class Day Committee (13 members) and also 4 speakers for the "cannon exercises," and a Class Poet. Also a Historian.

4th. (a) Before graduation the class has no regular meetings, but is summoned by the President whenever any business comes up which concerns the class as a whole.

(b) After graduation the class meets, or as many as are able, at the call of the Secretary. The usual times of meeting are, one year after graduation, three (3) years after graduation, five (5) years after, and then every five years.

5th. Before graduation, except in Senior Year, when there is a class supper, the meetings consist of speeches on the subject under consideration and action by the class upon it. They are informal and all are allowed to speak.

(b) After graduation, at each reunion, there is a supper at which the usual toasts, etc., are given and responded to, and afterwards any business which may come up is transacted.

6th. The degree to which the members are kept track of depends solely on the Secretary. The usual and best method is yearly circular letters to each member of the class containing such questions as to residence, business, success and social relations as may be deemed necessary. Each member is expected to keep the secretary informed as to changes of residence and to give what information he possesses in regard to lost members.

7th. The class publications are—(a) in Junior Year, an annual, containing athletic records, lists of societies and clubs with the names of their members, directories of the college buildings and any other information useful and interesting to the college. This annual is always finely illustrated by original drawings by the students and contains about 200 pages. It is issued by a committee of seven members elected by the class.

(b) At graduation there is issued a class history and also what is known as the *Nassau Herald*, which is mainly made up of statistics as to age, probable occupation, etc., of members of the class. A list of class officers and athletic organizations, etc., is added.

It has been found that this system has proved beneficial in every way. It always succeeds in keeping the class together, and those who live near Princeton are especially well informed as to the success and doings of their class-mates. The interest of all is kept up, as is shown by the large reunions the classes have even after twenty-five years.

There is no feature more marked than loyalty to the college. The reunions proper are always held at Princeton, and this naturally awakens new interest in and zeal for the Alma Mater. The practical results of this are seen, here at least, in the great number of class memorials of different sorts. These consist of buildings, statuary, laboratories, apparatus, scholarships and prizes. To this must be added the using of influence in obtain-

ing students for the college. There is a great amount of organized work for the college by *class* alumni associations as well as by the *general* alumni.

Hoping that the above will prove of use to you and assuring you that any further information will be willingly given,

I am, very truly yours,

LEWIS S. MUDGE,
Class Secretary.

CORNELL.

The Committee's letter found Mr. P. P. Taylor, '89, Cornell, in a bog—in other words, in the midst of term examinations. He promises a full reply to the formidable list of queries, and, in the meantime, encloses a copy of the *Cornell Sun*, giving in full the constitution of the Senior Class at Cornell. From it we clip the items following. It is to be remembered, of course, that this constitution is for a class much larger than any now in our own college. This consideration will make many modifications necessary. It is to be feared that the picturesque Pipe Custodian may have to be sacrificed:

SENIOR CONSTITUTION ADOPTED BY '89.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the class shall be a President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Ivy Orator, a Memorial Orator, a Class Orator, a Prophet, a Poet, a Historian, a Class Essayist, a Toast Master, a Pipe Custodian, two Marshals, an Athletic Director, a Navy Director, a Base Ball Director, and a Foot Ball Director.

§ 3. The election shall be conducted in the following manner: A committee of five members shall be appointed by the class, by ballot, to receive nominations, which nominations shall be made in writing and signed by a member or members of the class.

§ 5. It shall be the duty of said committee to preside at the election, and to be the sole judges of the said election.

§ 7. They shall count the ballots publicly, and the person receiving the largest number of votes cast for any office, shall be declared by them elected to that office except in the case of the two Vice-Presidents, where the person receiving the next highest number of votes shall be declared by them elected first and second Vice-Presidents respectively.

§ 10. Any person shall be entitled to vote at any class election, who is registered as a Senior in the University, or whose name shall appear on a list furnished by the Registrar of the University, showing that there is a probability of his graduating with the class.

ARTICLE IV.

§ 1. It shall be the duty of the President of the class to preside at all meetings and to appoint all committees necessary for transacting all business that may arise during the year.

§ 2. The President shall appoint the following standing committees: on Class Day, Ball, Music, Class Photographs, Banquet, Memorial, Prizes, and Statistics.

§ 7. It shall be the duty of the Historian to prepare a history of the class, the same to be delivered at the class day exercises.

§ 8. It shall be the duty of the Prophet to foretell the future of the class and its members on class day.

§ 9. It shall be the duty of the Pipe Custodian on class day to deliver to the proper representative of the Junior class, with an appropriate address, the class pipe.

§ 10. It shall be the duty of the Toast Master to preside over the toasts at the class banquet.

§ 11. It shall be the duty of the Prize Orator to award the prizes given at the banquet with an appropriate oration.

§ 14. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to estimate the amount of money necessary to defray the class expenses, to suggest the amount of tax to be levied on each member of the class and to apportion the money raised to the several needs of the class.

ARTICLE V. TAX.

§ 1. A class tax shall be levied to cover all the necessary expenses of the class.

§ 2. The class tax must be paid at farthest by the first of June, 1888.

ARTICLE VII.

Reunions of the class shall be held at intervals of five years, beginning with commencement week.

ARTICLE VIII.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any meeting.

HARVARD.

Harvard's '89 Secretary sends the following:—

39 THAYER HALL, Cambridge, Dec. 22, 1888.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg you will excuse my delay in answering your inquiries about the organization of the classes after graduation at Harvard.

When the orator and poet, and other Class Day officers, are elected early in October of each year for the following June, there is also elected a Class Secretary, and a Class Committee (of three) who are *permanent* officers. It is the duty of the Secretary to get from all members of the class elaborate statements of all sorts of facts which would go to make up a sort of biography of each one. These statistics he combines in his first report, a pamphlet, published usually within a year after graduation.

After that from time to time the Secretary, who is expected to keep in communication with the class, publishes supplementary reports bringing the facts of the class down to date. I do not know the details of the methods he uses.

Elaborate statistics are obtained of every member of the class in the Senior Year, but the address, etc., is sought of every person who has been connected with the class at any time since the Freshman Year. We have only men in Harvard College, so that question of admitting lady members does not arise. At Commencement every year the class has a room in one of the buildings of the College yard, which serves as a meeting-place for the members of the class who come back to Commencement, and where light refreshments are served through the morning. Every three years a dinner is held in Boston, usually on the night before Commencement. These expenses are paid out of the interest of the Class Fund, subscribed before graduation and under the control of the Class Committee. Poor members of the class are often aided from this fund.

We form no "society," everybody who has been a member of the class is one of the class after graduation.

I shall be very glad to furnish any other information I can. The custom of keeping up the class feeling after graduation undoubtedly tends to foster a spirit of loyalty to and interest in the College, and preserves one's hold on many old friends.

I am, yours very truly,

JAMES HARDY ROPES,
Sec'y Class of '89, Harvard College.

RESULTS.

It is to be noted that all replies agree in their estimate of the benefit to be derived from these Class Societies. The system is one which, if proved to be valueless, would long ago have perished in the United States. It has proved useful there; why not here? The meetings of Oliver Wendell Holmes' Class of '29 are familiar to every reader of his poems; why should not Toronto's Class of '89 look forward to a time, "forty years on," when its surviving members, bald and gouty, shall still meet as friends, renewing from year to year the memories of earlier days? Seriously, though, a future of much usefulness does seem to lie before these Class Societies. There may be, no doubt will be, partial failure at the start; we have no doubt of their complete ultimate success. The present Senior Class has made an excellent beginning. Let the good work go on.

ROUND THE TABLE.

It has been recognized for a long time that the Tell legend is merely one of the sun-myths, that the tyrant Gessler is the impersonation of night or of winter pierced by the arrows of the sun, and that Tell's skill as a steersman is only another of his attributes as Sun-God. A good account of the history of the legend will be found in Buchheim's introduction to his edition of Schiller's Tell. It is there remarked that the Tellenplatte (where the chapel stands, and on to which Tell is said to have leapt before delivering his shaft at the tyrant) was known as *ze Tellen* before the incident is said to have occurred, and that the hero's name (which philologists have endeavoured to connect with one or other of the Sun-God's names) was really derived from the place where the myth found a local habitation.

Further evidence in this direction is furnished in a recent paper in the *Preussische Jahrbuecher* (Sept., 1888, in which a Swiss, Herr Mehly, states that "Tell" in compound words indicating places is not uncommon in Canton Uri (e.g., Tellenruetti, Tellepfad, Tellenbach), and that it means either of two things, Fir or Creek. Again, in the same old Schwyzer dialect, "Sprung" means a steep hill, so that the "Tellen-sprung" which rises behind the Tellenplatte, really means the hill covered with firs, or the hill of the creek.

The association of the myth with this particular place seems to be reasonably explained by the mistranslation in comparatively recent times of Tellenprung into "Tell's Leap."

R. R. W.

* * *

The Round Table is a most pliable and accommodating column. Hospitable, as every true Knight's table should be, and capable of providing a countless variety of dishes, and when the leaves are inserted of accommodating all noble guests to taste of the victuals to be discussed. Here, for instance, is the fare provided by some intellectual caterer, which might give to the column an academic air, savoring of examination papers, and unskilful answerings thereto. Question—What is thought? Now we must remark that we are not responsible for the accuracy of the observations that follow; their appropriateness is all that we have considered. Poems, good and bad, are incessantly snowing upon us, and we welcome this prose trifle of metaphysics as an indication of future prose articles to be contributed. The only drawback that we see in inserting the following is that the name must be withheld, owing to the impersonal character of an all-embracing Table that is no respecter of persons. By this time I hope the question propounded has been well considered by readers, so that the contributor's soliloquy may have an intelligent appreciation.

"All Thought," he unflippantly remarks, "must have its primary basis deep down in the nature of things; there must be an intimate relation, in fact, a perfect correspondency between things and their images in reflection. Out of these raw materials," (I don't like to interrupt this train of thought, but to avoid a foot-note I shall insert a parenthesis to remark that I think his imagery confused, in that we are left in agonized doubt as to what raw materials he refers to. Ed.) "raw materials are philosophies built, poems created, by subtlest blendings of the thought substance, which oftentimes by long assimilation in our nature gives birth to ideas the most remote, which seem to us divine promptings that have never been sullied in the atmosphere of objective reality. Yet Plato clinches the truth of his extasies by introducing without incongruity analogies from our most ordinary experience."

Although this prose-poem is sonnet-like in its shortness, it makes full compensation, you will observe, by the sublimity and profundity of its insight, and the very much hidden depths of its reasoning.

* * *

Another contribution of an equally interesting nature is the *Japan Gazette*, received by a near relative of an editor from Garth Grafton. I shall not insert it all but some clippings from the sporting column will be of interest. The Athletic Sports of the Imperial University of Japan took place

on the 27th of October last. The committee was elected as follows:—Messrs. Kikuchi (chairman) Kanzaki, Shiraya, Yoshimura and Hattori. Judges:—Messrs. Yamaguchi and O'Kama. Starters:—Messrs. Kishi, Taneguchi and Yoshimura. The records are far from first-class.

Throwing Cricket Ball—1. Mr. Mointa, 79yds. 2ft. 1in. (It will be remembered that Crane threw 128yds. 10½ins.)

Hundred yards—1st. Mr. Akiyama, 11secs.

High Jump—Mr. Rinonye and Mr. Kubo, 4ft. 6in.

Putting Shot (14½lbs.)—1st. Mr. Moruma, 32 ft. 10in.

220 yards—1st. Mr. Matsubara, 27secs.

Long Jump—1st. Mr. Tagamiya, 15ft. 10ins.

Throwing Hammer—1st. Mr. Takeda, 92ft. 11ins.

440 Yards—1st. Mr. Rinonye, (20ft. start) 59.6secs.

880 Yards—1st. Mr. Nanita, 2mins. 26.8secs.

There were other events of less importance, and at the close the prizes were graciously presented by Princess Arisugawa Takehito.

A great many columns are devoted to horse-racing, and four cricket matches are recorded, played by English residents.

* * *

The impressions of Toronto formed by Annie S. Swan, the popular Scottish authoress, during her recent visit, are eminently favourable. In an article in the *Christian Leader*, dealing with her tour and touching topics not unfamiliar to the columns of THE VARSITY, she says:

"The University itself, which is a power in the land, stands in its own beautiful grounds, which are open to the public. It is surrounded by venerable trees, which make a fine relief for its grey towers and turrets. 'The sweet girl-graduate' abounds in Toronto. There were three in the house in which I was staying; and a more charming trio it would be difficult to find.

"The Canadian girl is an interesting study. Bright, quick, clever, self-reliant, and yet wholly womanly. She filled me with admiration. She can discuss the latest phase of philosophy or science, or write a pungent criticism on 'Robert Elsmere' just as easily as she can bake her bread or raise her pie-crust. All her faculties are developed; her intellect and her heart are in the right place, and antagonistic (?) to each other. I have no hesitation in saying that the conversation of the educated women of this country is on a higher plane than in Scotland. *Gossip is tabooed*, and the servant question never comes up; and there is a singular broadmindedness and charity in judging others, which has been like a draught of mountain air to me. The 'higher education' will make better wives and mothers, and nobler women, because it broadens the mind, widens the sympathies and gives to the soul larger views of life."

* * *

It may interest our readers to know that "Annie S. Swan" is the pen-name of a lady whose deep interest in matters educational everywhere is no doubt due to her intimate knowledge of, and close connection with, collegiate life in Edinburgh. Her testimony is valuable, and is all that is required to complete the vindication of the Canadian college girl.

* * *

It has been ascertained that the poem "Dryburgh Abbey," published in THE VARSITY last year, is the work of Charles Swain. The poem is to be found in the "Fireside Encyclopedia of Poetry," the editor of which is Charles Henry T. Coates.

* * *

The "Masque of Minstrels," by the Lockhart Brothers, has reached Toronto, and is for sale by Williamson & Co. A review of the work appeared in the *Empire* a month ago.

* * *

Charles Dudley Warner has completed a long paper on Canada, which will appear in full in *Harper's* for March.

* * *

T. J. W. Burgess, M.B., '70, has recently published in pamphlet form his interesting and useful paper on "How to study Botany," read before the Hamilton Scientific and Literary Society.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

ALL reports from Societies must reach us by noon on Thursday to insure insertion.

LECTURES IN LAW.

In connection with the Law Faculty of the University, courses of lectures on the various sub-divisions of Legal Science by prominent members of the Ontario Bar has been inaugurated. The following is the list of lectures as at present arranged. The dates on which their delivery will occur have not been definitely arranged further than is indicated, but THE VARSITY will endeavour to give full and complete information on this subject as soon as it is obtainable.

Constitutional and International Law, Jan. 7 and following days at 3 p.m.—Mr. Mills.

Commercial and Maritime Law, Jan. 15, 17, 21, at 9 a.m.—Mr. Lash.

Civil Rights—Mr. McCarthy.

Criminal Jurisprudence—Mr. B. B. Osler.

Comparative Jurisprudence of Ontario and Quebec—Mr. McLaren.

Ethics of the Law—Mr. S. H. Blake.

Equity Jurisprudence—Mr. Moss.

Constitutional Law—Mr. Blake.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The Engineering Society held a meeting in the large draughting room in the School of Practical Science yesterday afternoon, the President occupying the chair. After the usual business had been completed, Professor Galbraith opened the discussion on "Power." He treated of power obtained by chemical combination, by action of gravity and direct action of heat, and the different methods employed for storing such power; prime motors, electrical storage, waste and relative cost of power. Turbines and the most recent improvements in wind-mills were touched on. The prime origin of power, hydraulic machinery used at Sault Ste. Marie and the different equivalents of horse power were discussed at some length. It was moved and carried, that the librarian be instructed to obtain a copy of Rankin's Civil Engineering for the society's library. The meeting then adjourned till the 29th instant.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The meeting of the Modern Language Club on Monday last was one of the most interesting held this year. The subject chosen was "Thackeray," and was first dealt with by Miss Lawson in a capital essay which reviewed the author's life briefly and then went on to criticise several of his works. Mr. James McNicholl followed with an essay on the "Four Georges," which also proved very interesting, being interspersed with well-chosen extracts from the work discussed. Misses Robson and Clayton then gave a piano duet, and a discussion on the subject of the evening in which Messrs. Squair, Fraser and Chamberlain, with others, took part closed the proceedings. On the whole, the meeting was very enjoyable and augured well for the success of the Club this year.

The President announced that the trustees had agreed to pay the Society's rent-bill for the year, a statement which was received with becoming applause.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting of the University College Natural Science Association was held in the School of Practical Science on Thursday evening, Jan. 17th, 1889, at 4 p.m. Prof. Pike delivered a lecture to a large audience. The lecture was illustrated by Crookes' radiant matter tubes, and some of the Professor's own blowing. The lecture was exceedingly interesting, and the illustrations intensely beautiful, setting forth some of the marvels of Chemistry, which are most astonishing, or as the Prof. terms it, "bordering on fairy land." The whole was highly appreciated, as was evinced by the hearty vote of thanks tendered to the Prof. at the close.

Copies of the engraving of the College entrance which appeared on the first page of the Christmas number of THE

Varsity have been struck off, and may be procured at No. 4 King St. E., or from the Janitor.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY :

Dear Sir,—Will you kindly insert the following in your columns:—

The Frederick Wyld Prize, of the value of \$25, for English composition. Open to all students of the 3rd and 4th years in actual attendance on lectures. Subjects:—

1. The Intellectual and Moral influence of the French Revolution.

2. Florence, the Mediaeval Athens.

3. The Lyrical and the Romantic Drama—Sophocles, Shakespeare.

Candidates may select any of the three subjects named. The essay, with pseudonym, and envelope enclosing name of author, is to be sent to the Registrar not later than Sept. 12th, 1889.

The Examiners are Sir Daniel Wilson, LL.D., Rev. G. M. Wrong, B.A., and D. R. Keys, B.A.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

H. H. Langton,

Registrar.

CLASS ORGANIZATION.

The vacation has not destroyed the interest of the students in the idea of Class Organization. Notices of meetings of the Provisional Committees of the First and Second Years adorned the notice board during the past week. The former met yesterday; the latter is to meet on Wednesday next.

The Political Science Club met yesterday afternoon in the Y. M. C. A. hall, Mr. Houston in the chair. A carefully prepared paper on "Federation from a Canadian Standpoint" was read by Mr. Cooke. An interesting discussion followed, in which Messrs. McNicol, Smith and Fasquin took part.

The College Baseball Club had the usual annual photograph taken some time ago, and a copy of the picture now adorns Mr. Dixon's window on Yonge St.

THE CONVERSAZIONE.

By vote of the Literary Society, it has been decided to hold the Annual Conversazione on Friday, February 15th. The Committee, as named at the Society's last regular meeting, is as follows:

Graduates—W. Barwick, T. C. Milligan, F. H. Sykes, M.A., G. Acheson, M.A., M.B., T. C. Robinette, J. A. Ferguson, A. H. Young, G. Waldron, M. S. Mercer, J. E. Jones, A. F. Chamberlain, J. J. Mackenzie.

Fourth Year—G. A. H. Fraser, R. J. Gibson, A. Smith, J. H. Senkler, E. G. Rykert, F. R. McNamara, J. H. Rodd, F. C. Snider, J. S. Johnston, W. H. B. Spotton, G. C. Biggar, J. W. Henderson, R. R. Bensley, S. H. McKay, B. Kilbourne, H. S. Robertson, C. H. P. Owen, J. Gill, J. McCallum, D. Hull.

Third Year—A. T. Thompson, R. J. Bonner, J. Brebner, J. A. McKay, G. F. Peterson, G. B. McClean, G. A. Wilson, A. E. Segsworth, — Ritchie, J. McCrae, R. S. Hamilton, L. E. Hart, A. T. De Lury, T. H. Whitelaw, J. E. Burgess, H. R. Moore, A. W. Campbell, H. E. T. Haultain, — Shillington.

Second Year—I. J. Armour, C. A. Stuart, A. M. Stewart, J. W. Scane, H. C. Pope, M. Currie, W. J. Moran, W. Hardie, J. McNichol, U. M. Wilson, G. H. Fairclough, J. C. Breckenridge, A. W. McMurchy, A. Boulton, J. Donald, T. D. Dockray, — Buck, — Peterson, G. T. Graham, A. T. Kirkpatrick.

First Year—G. A. Badgerow, W. H. Bunting, J. Carswell, W. H. McClive, F. A. Hanney, W. J. Logie, J. A. McClean, F. A. Magee, G. L. Tucker, C. H. Hutchins, J. H. Tennant, H. R. Wales, F. A. Kearns, C. J. R. Bethune, W. J. Addison, F. W. Shipley, W. W. Parks, A. E. McLaughlin, W. L. Coulthard, F. E. Corbett.

To these must, of course, be added the members of the Society's General Committee, who are *ex-officio* members of the Conversazione Committee.

At the meeting on Wednesday of the general committee on *Conversazione* the following sub-committees were struck:— Invitation, E. Rykert and R. Palmer, conveners; music, R. J. Gibson, convener; lighting, heating and seating, H. B. Fraser, convener; decoration, J. H. Rodd, convener; reception, J. H. Senkler, convener; printing, C. A. Chant, convener; finance, R. E. Heggie, convener; refreshments, J. S. Johnston, convener. The representatives of the Engineering and Mathematical and Physical Societies, and of the Natural Science Association were left to choose their own conveners. All sub-committees were requested to meet and prepare their estimates for submission to the general committee at a meeting to be held on Tuesday next at four o'clock in the Y. M. C. A. Hall.

The first Y. M. C. A. meeting for the term was held on Thursday last, under the leadership of John Munro, '89, and F. W. Laing, '90. The subject for the afternoon was the Deceitfulness of Sin, founded on Hebrews 3: 13.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of St. Andrew's Church, addressed the Association this week, taking as his subject "The soul's prosperity the measure or limit of temporal prosperity," as set forth in John 3: 2—"Beloved, I wish in all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Next week the leaders will be R. J. Gibson and J. W. Scane, and the subject "The Kingdom of God"—Matt. 6: 10.

On Saturday evening (to night) the presidents of the Medical Students' Association and the University College Association are "At Home" to members and their friends. Rev. E. A. Stafford will deliver a short address, and Dr. Gilbert Gordon will give an account of Professor Drummond's work in Edinburgh. The Minister of Education is expected to preside.

H. B. Fraser and G. B. McClean visit the Guelph Agricultural College on Sunday, February 3rd, as a deputation from the University College Young Men's Christian Association. A deputation will likely visit Woodstock College also.

The General Secretary has been appointed to read a paper at the provincial convention of the Young Men's Christian Association to be held in Ottawa from January 31st to February 3rd. Other delegates will also represent the Association.

Word has been received from Messrs. Gale and Harkness, to whom the Association said good-bye in October last. They were at the time of writing at Yokohama and expected to start in less than a week for Seoul, Korea, where they, doubtless, now are. W. V. Wright, '87, entertained them in Tôkyô, where he is doing mission work under the Society of Friends.

News has been received from Montreal that two graduates of McGill go to the foreign mission work shortly, one being sent by Crescent Street Presbyterian Church, the others by a private gentleman.

On the Y. M. C. A. programme it is announced that the Association's building is open every Saturday evening till ten o'clock. Music, chess, checkers and conversation make the time pass quickly in the cosy parlour. On Sunday afternoon, too, the building is open to those who want to read or have some music.

PERSONAL.

THE VARSITY extends its congratulations to Mr. G. D. Wilson, B.A., '87, the announcement of whose marriage recently appeared in the city dailies.

Mr. A. F. Chamberlain, B.A., Lecturer in Modern Languages, has been distinguishing himself by his researches in Indian Languages. He has during the past four weeks read a number of papers before the Canadian Institute Philological Section on this and other subjects. Perhaps the best of his contributions to this Section was an able paper on "The Origin of Grammatical Gender."

Mr. D. R. Keys, B.A., has been elected Chairman of the Section, in place of Dr. McCurdy, who lately resigned.

GENERAL COLLEGE NOTES.

Harvard University has graduated three presidents, two vice-presidents, eighteen cabinet officers, three speakers of the House of Representatives, and four supreme judges.—*Ex.*

The chair of English Literature and Belles-Lettres at Notre Dame University is now filled by Maurice F. Egan, the popular writer formerly connected with the New York *Freeman's Journal*.

The description in a Glasgow paper of a recent row in Edinburgh suggests a striking parallel to the Toronto reader. The medical students of Edinburgh gathered in a body to serenade an "Indian Medicine Man" called Sequah, and to "demonstrate," as the Glasgow *Mail* puts it, their sturdy aversion to his methods and his medicine and possibly to Sequah himself. The demonstration became somewhat boisterous and resulted in some damage to several students. A "town and gown" row began and serious trouble was averted only by the prompt action of the police.

An undergraduate of Oxford was recently "rusticated" for being too funny. He indulged in a few sarcastic threats and funny hits at certain members of the Faculty, "Dons and other passing events," as he calls them, for which offence he has been summoned before the college authorities and dismissed, in spite of a petition signed by 200 of his colleagues, pleading that he be forgiven. The local magazine in which the offense appeared is enjoying quite a good deal of notoriety. This custom of writing parodies and making good-natured hits at both Oxford and Cambridge has existed for many years, but this is the first instance where a student has been sent away for so doing. Perhaps they were excused for the sake of the exquisite humour which appeared in such parodies as that of Bret Harte's "Heathen Chinee." The Cambridge version of the story was entitled, "The Heathen Passeur," and told how suspicion attached to an undergraduate, during an examination, for finishing off his paper too soon—a suspicion only too well justified, because "Engraved on his cuffs Were the Furies and Fates, and a delicate map Of the Dorian States; And they found in his palms—which were hollow—What is frequent in palms—that is, dates."—*The Athenæum*.
add literary notes.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE VARSITY is conducted by undergraduates of the University of Toronto, and is published every Saturday of the academic year. It aims at being the exponent of the views of the University public, and will always seek the highest interests of the University. The Literary Department will, as heretofore, be a main feature. The news columns are full and accurate, containing reports of all meetings of interest to its readers.

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