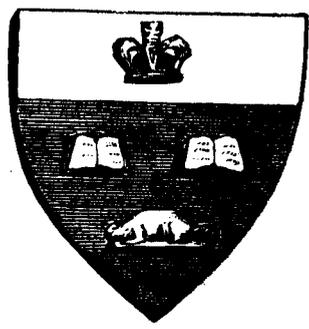


THE VARSITY



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W. H. V. D. S.

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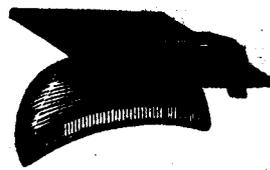
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THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

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"CLOISTERED SCHOLARSHIP" AND POLITICS.

"The thought has been abroad in the world a great deal," said the United States President elect, in reply to an address of the students of Oberlin University, "that there is a divorce between scholarship and politics." While Mr. Garfield exonerated Oberlin from having taken part in the advocacy of that divorce, he deprecated the "sort of cloistered scholarship, in the United States, that ever stood aloof from active participation in public affairs," and he declared with pride that he knew of "no place where scholarship has touched upon the nerve centre of public life so effectually as at Oberlin." The complaint has often been made that the best men keep aloof from politics, on account of the objectionable concomitants of public life, in a community Democratic in the nature of its origin, and especially the abuse to which public men are subjected. The tendency of yielding to this sensitiveness must be to throw the management of the affairs of the nation into the hands of the more unscrupulous and less competent; and if carried far it must be productive of serious public injury. A knowledge of politics, embracing the highest interests of the nation, is not intuitive. It must be acquired at some period of life; and if the acquisition is postponed till a late date, the student finds himself at a very great disadvantage. The most difficult period of the history of a nation to master is that of the last twenty-five years. It is for the most part unwritten, and all the subtler parts are apt to elude the grasp of the student who is willing to content himself with a rapid survey of the last quarter of a century. If a man allows himself to be absorbed in some calling, wholly unconnected with politics, till he is forty, or till he acquires a certain amount of wealth, and then takes the path of a public career, he finds himself at a great disadvantage compared with one who, from his youth, has carefully watched the political current. The apprenticeship of the statesman should commence early; when it is deferred to a late period in life he may constantly find himself put to the blush by men who are very much his inferiors in intellect and scholastic acquirements.

A knowledge of political economy is of first importance to the statesman; but if political economy be studied under the belief that it embraces the whole art of the statesman, the student will afterwards find that he has built on too narrow a foundation. Theoretically, the ball from a rifle describes a parabolic curve; but the theory is true only on the supposition that the ball passes through a vacuum and meets with no resistance from the atmosphere. The marksman who follows the theory strictly will miss his aim; he only who makes allowance for the resisting medium will hit the mark. A student should be taught early that social interests, national security, and considerations of humanity constantly modify the theories of political economy, correct in themselves, in action. This single illustration will serve to show the necessity of political science receiving its due share of attention at the hands of students from whose ranks our future statesmen will be largely selected. At the same time, it shows that the application of the principles of political economy cannot safely be made in a narrow and exclusive spirit.

The politics of any country can be studied only by keeping clearly in view its past history. The child is father to the man; the young colony to the fully developed nation. Colonial history, so far as it is a struggle to overcome physical obstacles, may be very dull; but the history of the development of the principles of government should surely interest the descendants of those who were engaged in the struggle that marked the course of pro-

gress, and who are themselves living under the established order of things. The student of that history, taking into view the principles by which other colonial governments belonging to the same empire were guided, will learn the mistakes that were made, at one period, in framing Downing Street mandates for Canada, and the consequences to which they led; mistakes for which there was no excuse, since history told in the plainest way how they could be avoided. There is in our political history, unimportant as it may seem to affected or supercilious indifference, something which it imports us all to know, and without a knowledge of which a liberal education must be sadly incomplete. When we look at the little encouragement given to the study of Canadian history, in University College, it is impossible not to feel that there is want to be supplied. There is also room for some better test of the knowledge of political economy which students acquire. The want of funds must doubtless excuse many defects; and when means are devised of supplementing the present income, may we hope for a chair of political science, or some course of lectures in which a knowledge of the principles of that science will be inculcated?

Between national politics and party politics there is a wide difference. The authorities of University College, fearing that evil might result from the students engaging in the latter, prohibited the discussion of Canadian politics in the Debating Society. But is it necessary that Canadian politics should be looked at through party spectacles? Anything that would tend to produce, in the students, independent habits of thought, on public questions, would be a great benefit. They would carry those habits of thought with them wherever they went from the University to act their several parts in real life. If those habits be not formed during their student life, they will often not be formed at all; for men to whom politics have been a prohibited luxury, and who have no self-formed habits of thought on this subject for a reliance, will be in some danger of falling, without a struggle or enquiry, under the domination of the whip of one political party or the other. To one or the other side most of them will go, in the long run; but it is better that the choice should be made on intelligent grounds than that they should drift helplessly to either shore.

The remark is often made of the United States, and sometimes of Canada, that the best men hold back from public life; shrinking from what is disagreeable in the battle, and fearing to encounter the calumny which is assumed to be the lot of every aspirant for public position. Whatever truth there may be in the observation, we think it passes for more than it is worth. Men who have spent their lives in making fortunes by devotion to commerce or law, may, in the decline of their days, well feel their incapacity for taking a prominent part in public affairs; and their own estimate of what they can do in a new sphere is probably truer than that with which a too confiding public is willing to credit them. Achieved success, in one line, is far from affording a guarantee of success in another and entirely different direction; and the successful man gives proof of wisdom when he shows that he possesses this knowledge. Real diffidence, which is not wholly mistaken, causes many to hold back from public life; and the diffident strangely get credit for being too good for an arena for which they feel they have no vocation. We must expect that in politics the trained politicians will succeed best; for why should the conditions of success in this field be different from what they are in any other? The training may be bad; the school in which it is obtained may be unequal to its mission, and politics may too frequently show a tendency to

degenerate into a trade. Out of this slough politics requires to be lifted into a higher place. If our University were to confess that it could do nothing towards fitting our statesmen to perform their part in public life, it could scarcely claim that it was fulfilling its mission as the supreme instructor of the youth of the country. And whatever its own opinion might be, the judgment of the nation could hardly be expected to be favorable.

We are not of those who think that Mr. STUART, if he had entered the cabinet of President HAYES, would have proved a heaven-born statesman. Honest he would doubtless have proved; of business knowledge he was certainly possessed; but does it therefore follow that he would have shown himself familiar with all the mysteries of the statesman's craft? He would much more likely have found himself at sea, because he had had no training for public life, no experience in public business. That is a healthy tone of public sentiment which distrusts the credentials of heaven-born statesmen—men who set up for statesmen without any previous study or preparation for the duty—and which is based on the belief that, as a rule, men will better perform any special duty if they have some knowledge of its requirements.

PUBLICIST.

CO-EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

Since this question was first broached in the 'Varsity I have had frequent opportunities of hearing the views of friends of education upon it, and I have been astonished no less than encouraged by the extent to which opinions favorable to the admission of girls to University College have spread. To such an extent is this the case that I am firmly convinced the battle is already won in so far as public opinion is concerned, and in this view I am confirmed by the tone of the Provincial press in their comment on Miss SHEPHERD's application and its fate.

I am not sorry, nevertheless, that a paragraph in the December number of the *Bystander* furnishes an excuse for continuing a discussion which can hardly fail to do good. If the learned editor of that journal has not resorted to sophistry in the article referred to, he has been tempted to approach perilously near it when he speaks of a course at the University of Toronto as "a male University career." As a matter of fact, there is no legislation to exclude females from either the University of Toronto or University College, and there is no reason to suppose that the Legislature intended to exclude them. How, then, does the University career come to be a "male" one? Simply because it is so esteemed by certain persons who seem incapable of comprehending how a woman may make a better rather than a worse help-mate for a man in proportion as she becomes better educated. Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH "cannot help regarding a gentle and accomplished English woman who as a wife and mother is performing well the highest of human duties, as an article too precious to be flung into the smelting pot without a considerable probability of improvement." Is it reasonable to suppose that attendance on a course of lectures by Professor WILSON on English literature, by Professor YOUNG on mental and moral philosophy, or by Professor HUTTON on classics will have the slightest tendency to unfit Canadian girls who aspire to be wives and mothers for these high vocations? And what about that large class of girls in this country who are compelled to earn their own living, many of them by teaching. Without a University training they cannot hope to win any of the prizes of their profession. They cannot take charge of High Schools or become even acceptable assistants in them. They are by Mr. SMITH doomed to remain in positions where the drudgery is greatest and the pay least, without hope of being able to better their condition. Never was pessimism more uncalled for, and fortunately such a feeling meets with little sympathy.

Mr. SMITH complicates the question quite unnecessarily by importing into it matters with which it has no necessary connexion. There is therefore no need that his opponents should follow him into a discussion of the propriety of women serving on juries or practising the professions. Nor is it necessary to discuss the expediency of carrying education to the high pitch now aimed at it in Colleges and Universities. All I

contend for is, that whatever the training may be that our collegiate institutions afford, women who desire to avail themselves of it should be allowed to do so on the same terms as men. I agree thoroughly with the remark that "co-education goes on" at any rate, and it will continue to do so as long as the sexes intermingle in every day life. How absurd, then, to put an interdiction on co-education during a few years at college.

I am glad that Mr. SMITH has explained his position on the moral aspect of the question, and that he had in his previous article no reference to runaway matches or intrigues of a more objectionable kind. To oppose co-education at University College on this ground, while adults of both sexes are allowed to intermingle freely in most of our High Schools, would be, if not a piece of puerility, something very like it. I repeat that so far as this phase of the subject is concerned, the problem has been solved by our High School experience, which is quite pertinent and extremely valuable. To say that President ELIOT of Harvard is opposed to co-education is misleading. Mr. SMITH under the term "co-education" argues against women taking a "male university" course either at the same institution with men or at one of their own. President ELIOT is against allowing the sexes to attend lectures in common, but he is not opposed to allowing women to obtain a University education. In connexion with Harvard there is an annex for women with forty students in attendance, which bids fair to become an American Girton.

As we cannot reasonably look forward to the establishment of such an annex to University College; as girls are now admitted to Toronto University; as in order to complete their University course to advantage, they must be allowed to enter as students at some institution which prepares for that course; and as the Legislature has interposed no obstacle to their attending lectures in University College, the only one which does so, I cannot help thinking that their case is too strong to be long set aside.

WILLIAM HOUSTON.

MISCONCEIVED IDEAS OF EVOLUTION.

(SUMMARY.)

The popular ideas of Evolution are generally of the loosest description, often palpably absurd; the object of the present paper is, not to give a sketch of the Evolution theory, but to point out popular errors regarding it and to attempt an answer commonly urged against it.

There are several different schools of Evolution, but, without taking up the special views of each, it should be observed that the broad principle of Evolution—that the higher types have all been developed from a simple primeval ancestor—is the common basis of them all. Now there are many persons who think, in all soberness, that the evolutionist means by this, that if we only had all the forms of animal life which have disappeared from the face of the earth, they with the forms now living would form one long chain, "*Bathybryes*," or a similar form, at one end, *man* at the other. Nothing could be more absurd; to imagine that every bird, beast, and fish forms one of the lineal ancestors of man is certainly a strain on one's mental powers; but then the Evolutionist doesn't believe anything of the sort. As a matter of fact the terms 'chain,' 'missing link,' &c., are misnomers; there is no 'chain' of descent at all. Just as in tracing family connexion we use a 'geneological tree' so in tracing the course of Evolution we find ourselves constructing not a chain with links, but a *tree with branches*. To illustrate what is meant, take the group of the Vermes, which diverges into three main stems—Armelida, Scolicida, and Chorda animals. From the Armelida we get Echinollems, Crustaceas, Insects and Arthropods, and from the Chorda-animals we pass into the Vertebrata. Now although all of these groups are descendants of the *vermes*, it by no means follows that they form a *chain* connecting '*vermes*' and '*vertebrata*.' The *echinodrms* and *insecta*, for example, belong to an entirely different branch, and thus we see how it is possible for them to attain to a high degree of specialization (*e.g.*, ants, bees, &c.) without being in any way closely allied to the higher vertebrates.

Again, man is descended from the apes. This does not mean (as popularly supposed) that at some period far back in the dark ages of antiquity the gorilla developed into a man; the gorilla having previously developed from the chimpanzee, and the chimpanzee from the orang-outang, &c. Man is closely allied to these apes, but is not descended from them; they are, in a way, his cousins, but, to quote from Hæckel, "It is evident that no single one of the existing man-like apes is among

"the direct ancestors of the human race; they are all the last scattered remnants of an old catarrhine branch once numerous, from which the human race has developed as a special branch and in a special direction."

This is what Darwin calls the "Doctrine of Divergence," by means of which we can account for the absence of intermediate forms in many cases. Instead of being astonished at this, the real wonder is that we have so many examples of these forms, for, in the very nature of things, we should expect them to be absent. Living species do not (generally) stand to one another in the position of ancestor and descendant, the relationship is more often that of descent from a *common ancestor*, and, consequently, it is vain to seek for an *intermediate* form, and the chances of discovering the common ancestor, who has probably long since been exterminated, are very meagre—even supposing that he possessed either a skeleton or a shell—are essential to his chances of being immortalised in the pages of the geologist.

It is often urged that we never actually see an such thing in nature as one species generally changing into another. To cope with this objection exact observation and deep knowledge are necessary, but the account given by Darwin of the effect of an intelligent selection by man in producing different breeds (*e. g.*, *pigeons*,) ought to have some weight. And if the objection be raised that these "breeds" are not varieties, we can make a cross-appeal, and ask for definitions of 'genus,' 'species,' and 'variety,' where we shall probably get a distinction without a difference.

Another objection is this—that the doctrine of 'natural selection and 'survival of the fittest' does not adequately account for the phenomena of Evolution. Possibly it does not, but that is no argument against Evolution: it is one thing to prove a man's explanation of a fact to be wrong, another to disprove the fact. Thus, Evolution says, "by a course of development from the general to the special all organic forms have been produced." Darwin then steps in, and gives an explanation of how this took place, *viz.*: "The great increase of the individual and consequent struggle for existence—favored individuals would have a better chance of surviving—their progeny would inherit their peculiarities, and these by accumulation would gradually form a new species." Now, Darwin may be wrong, but it by no means follows that Evolution is not right, and hence the idea, that because holes cannot be picked in Darwinism the whole fabric of evolution must fall, is quite erroneous.

Evolution depends on facts, and if the evidence given by science is at variance with the principles of Evolution, the sooner they try something else the better; but this is not so, and Evolution gives the only satisfactory explanation of the many stubborn facts, which on the old hypothesis of separate acts of creation were simply inexplicable. Take dysteleology. There are in man and all higher animals many parts absolutely useless. How can we reconcile their presence with the idea that each animal is carefully constructed on its own model by an intelligent and all-wise Creator? And how simple is the explanation, supported by comparative anatomy, that they are the remnants of organs, once of high importance to our ancestors, but which, no longer useful, are being gradually eliminated.

There is, of course, a certain shock to earlier ideas and prejudices when the student of science recognizes, for the first time, how unmistakably the facts he is studying point to the dreaded doctrine of Evolution, and how insensibly his mind has become permeated with its principles. It is, however, well to remember that all progress shocks our old ideas and prejudices, and that the world would not have been very far advanced if such a consideration had been allowed to remain a barrier to its progress. It was doubtless a shock to our forefathers to be told the earth went round the sun, and the old Greeks and Romans, we are told, believed that the shells and corals fossilized in the rocks had been placed there as a mockery to their living representatives in the sea, and, probably, if old ideas and prejudices had received due consideration this would be the belief of the world at the present day.

There is a great deal of needless alarm about the advance of science, etc. There are, of course, extreme views, *e. g.*, those of the menistic philosophers who refer the origin of life and mind to the same mechanical causes by which they explain the formation of the crystal and the revolution of the planets; but there can be no inconsistency in the conception of an intelligent Creator adapting means to an end, and working according to laws of his own establishment.

Evolution can be accepted as a guide in our biological studies, without our necessarily finding it a full explanation of the universe, and of all metaphysical and social problems. Science has made wonderful progress, but there are barriers which it cannot surmount—a supernatural—purpose and a design behind these mechanical causes whose operation we are able to trace.

It is unnecessary to pass with Haeckel over the gap which separates the organic from the inorganic—life from death; and it is impossible to avoid the ultimate conclusion that Nature must have had a Creator.

* * * * *

C. C. McCaul.

TRANSLATIONS FROM GERMAN POETS.

V. SALEIKA'S ADDRESS TO THE WEST WIND.

(Gæthe.)

[NOTE.—The west-wind brings rain in Asia and Europe.]

The cooling moisture of thy wing,
O western wind, I envy thee,
For thou canst tidings to him bring,
And much his absence paineth me.

Thy gently rushing pinion fills
My bosom fond with boding fears;
The flowers and meadows, woods and hills,
Thy showers bedew with piteous tears.

And yet thy mild and gentle breath
My eyelids cools, with weeping sore;
Alack! to me 'twere certain death
Were I to see him nevermore.

Unto my true-love hie thee then,
And softly whisper to his heart;
And see thou give no needless pain,
And hide from him my grievous smart.

Tell him, but tell him modestly,
That in his love alone I live,
His love is all my life to me,
His presence only joy can give.

W. H. V. D. S.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

A FEW weeks ago, at a temperance dinner in an aspiring city not a thousand miles from Toronto, several teapots were exhausted frequently, and at a rate which would have astonished even the old Doctor. The tea appeared to be weak, in fact looked almost like water, and yet, judging from vociferous calls for more, a half-dozen comic songs and some chair-sliding, it was relished amazingly.

* * *

"IN Sweden the dairy-maids are sent to college." . . .—*Tuftonian*.
Good-bye, fellows! I leave by the morning train for that happy land.

* * *

THE *Yale News* proposes to circulate the following agreement among the students: "We the undersigned, students of Yale College, do hereby agree, in the interest of ourselves and of the various college publications, to confine our patronage, in so far as we possibly can, to such business firms as advertise in the college publications." The students of Washington Jefferson College have already entered into a similar agreement.—*Evanston Vidette*.

* * *

THE *Index and Chronicle* is the name of a monthly lately established at Howard College, Missouri. I have always held to the rule that any enterprise, in itself praiseworthy, should be encouraged in its early career by absence of adverse criticism. The patience is especially laudable which leaves objectionable features apparent in the beginning of a literary undertaking like a paper to the gentle and effacing action of time. But no doctrine of forbearance should stand in the way of noticing blemishes which are unconnected with the difficulties of starting a paper. When a sneering remark is made in reference to one of the most illustrious of American patriots, a protest is certainly never out of place. However much Thomas Paine might deserve to be the object of the *odium theologicum*, it should be expressed, if expressed at all, in terms which imply a recognition of the part he took in the American Revolution. Forgetfulness or ignorance of the history of one's country may possibly explain how its heroes are sometimes spoken of in slighting terms, but cannot supply an extenuation. The author of the

pamphlet *Common Sense* has the highest claim to the admiration of the most moderate advocates of political liberty. The immortal words, "These are the times that try men's souls," which was the battle-cry of Washington's army in its "darkest hour," ought alone to prompt the grateful feelings of Paine's countrymen and, I beg leave of the *Index and Chronicle* to add, of his countrywomen.

**

ON Monday morning some half dozen undergraduates, who resided at number twenty-three, Division street, were burnt out (actually, not in the sense which our genial ex-President affixed to the word). I regret that a woodcut, representing my friend escaping with singed whiskers from the lambent flames, has reached me too late for insertion. I am particularly requested to warn people against placing any faith in a malicious story concerning the origin of the fire, which (the story) has been successfully traced to Spot. A remarkable instance of the Librarian's thoughtfulness was evidenced by his sending his assistant to rescue the borrowed tomes from the fire.

**

SPOT came across the following in the *Oberlin Review*.—"Unlike our eastern brethren, we think that the beer-mug and midnight brawl are dispensable in student life," and vowed never to use his 'little mug' again—if he is presented with a pewter.

**

OTHER and more weighty considerations aside, we should be very sorry to miss the picture of the interesting young lady from the title-page of the *'Varsity*. Her cap and gown fit her so nicely that we conclude that she is a woman of taste; and if Canadian ladies are of the sort this 'counterfeit' would imply, we think the Canadian Collegians should regret their absence from lectures.—*Cornell Era*.

**

PRANG'S first prize Christmas Card—Raphael and water—water predominating.

**

THE *Cornellian* goes in rather strongly for "fine" language. For example:—"Oh, mortal! let not thy talent and genius descend to linger long within the valley of pleasure and rest; but let the mind acquiring new strength with every conquest "through difficulties," rise from eminence to eminence, higher and higher unto the very stars." I particularly admire the erudite quotation "through difficulties;" it would never do to use such rare words without marking them off.

**

THE junior class girls of Minnesota University "have an awfully-mysterious secret society. There doesn't any one know what it is (in your eye—ED.) and it has been running most two weeks."—*Ariel*.

**

My observations of last week have roused up the stagnant energy of the Gymnasium committee—though three of the favorites have done nothing—to action. One hundred and fourteen dollars have been collected, and over one hundred and eighty subscribed. Many contributed on the understanding that the Gymnasium was to be in running order on their return, after vacation. The present committee is not at liberty to go any further than collect money, and even if it was, the term is too far advanced to expect the step to be taken. The various members have either left or are about to leave for the country, so no results need be looked for till next year.

**

IN THE lecture-rooms of Syracuse University "the air is as thick as boarding-house coffee." Very alarming indeed, and the *Syracusan* is quite justified in adopting as its motto: "A college paper is the pulse by which the faculty determine the condition of the students."

**

When the curtain comes down at the close of each act,
Up jump the students without any tact;
And pass up the aisle, in long Indian file,
Drop into John Bailey's and there have a smile.

**

THE Law Society is going in for medals in a lavish manner. It intends to offer a lot for competition four times a year. There will be gold, silver, and bronze distributed among students for call. It is suggested that the bronze medals should be stamped so that they may pass for tokens. This would prove useful to impecunious young barristers, and would assist in eking out the scanty small change now in circulation. Any one who fails to obtain a bronze medal should be presented with a leather one.

THE "Sigma Chi" fraternity of the various colleges of the country have been holding a conclave in Washington during the past few days. On Thursday the proceedings closed by a trip to Mount Vernon and a banquet in the evening.—*Kansas Star*.

**

A CONTRIBUTOR to the *Niagara Index* (N. Y.) modestly signs himself 'The Last of the Troubadours.' Together with 'The Sweet Snger of Niagara' he should be salted at once for the benefit of future generations of American tourists.

**

THERE were twenty present on Wednesday evening at the final meeting of the Glee Club for this term. Mr. Torrington reviewed the selections that had been practised, and expressed himself well satisfied with the progress made. Next term the club will commence practice with a direct view to appearing in public. The intention is to give a series of orchestral performances during the winter—the orchestra to be provided by Mr. Torrington.

**

A MEETING the other day in connexion with the coming municipal contest was protracted far into the small hours of night. A late sitting, even over the momentous event of selecting a candidate for the mayoralty, begets the desire for a refreshing beverage. An obliging civic dignitary passed the hat around and the collection from the thirsty souls amounted to about ten dollars. It was a beneficent action, but, like most actions of the sort, it was undertaken in a spirit well manured by promise of profit. The civic dignitary expended seventy-five cents (!) in small beer whilst the surplus went to serve as extra lining for his waistcoat pocket.

**

THE wail from the residence dining table: How long, O Lord, how long?

**

THE BEST Canadian college paper I have seen so far is the *Dalhousie Gazette*, and it is the only one besides the *'Varsity* which is published more than once a month. The last number contains a most interesting account of the Roseberry-Christison election for the Rectorship of Edinburgh University.

**

I DESIRE to call the attention of whoever is responsible for such matters, to the many complaints lately made of the negligence with regard to the heating of the library reading-rooms. It is almost invariably the case, that when the mercury is in the vicinity of zero, there is little or no steam in the registers; and on several occasions gentlemen have been forced to leave the reading-rooms altogether.

**

BY THE will of the late Barbara Scott, McGill College has been fortunate enough to receive thirty thousand dollars, for the purpose of founding a Chair of Civil Engineering, and two thousand dollars for a Classical Scholarship. Why cannot a Toronto miser do likewise for University College?

**

PROFESSOR PIKE has just received a collection of alcohols, aldehydes, ethers and acids, in a wonderful state of preservation, from Germany.

**

I AM sorry that it is impossible to supply the back numbers of the *'Varsity* to those who have recently subscribed, but the demand has been so great that it can no longer be supplied. Those undergraduates who wish to have the *'Varsity* sent to them during the vacation, will leave their names and addresses with the janitor, and specify by dates the numbers they want to have forwarded.

'VARSITY MEN.—MR. W. E. RICHARDS, M.A., silver medallist in modern languages, is making unto himself a name in Brockville.

MR. W. B. NORTHROP, M.A., is now a member of the firm of Messrs. Denmark & Northrup, Belleville.

MR. C. W. BELL, B.A., gold medalist in classics, and Mr. E. G. PONTON, B.A., silver medallist in modern languages, constitute the firm Bell & Ponton, Belleville.

MR. B. B. PATTULLO, of Brampton, has deserted arts for medicine, and is taking a course at Trinity.

MR. W. G. EAKINS, M. A., is now a partner in the firm of Messrs. Morphy, Winchester and Eakins.

MESSRS. W. K. MACDOUGALD, and H. B. PROUDFOOT, C.E., are both in the office of Messrs. Wadsworth & Unwin, Provincial land surveyors.

MR. W. H. P. CLEMENT, B.A., has been admitted to the legal firm of Messrs. McCarthy, Hoskin, Plumb & Creelman.

'UNIVERSITY MEN YOU KNOW.

II. PROFESSOR CROFT.

The "Memorials of Cambridge" is the title of three beautiful volumes, perfect in all the embellishments of the printers' art and enriched with the finest etchings, that narrate the history, and depict the architectural graces, of the cluster of ancient colleges on the banks of the Cam. The main incidents in the lives and labors of the long line of scholars, who there made their home, are portrayed in those pages with sympathetic appreciation. No Canadian University can boast of such a splendid souvenir of its history, and, for many a decade, never will. But we have a record of literature and science that is closely identified with our schools of learning; we can trace a line of scholars who have made it a very honorable record, who have given us literary prestige abroad, have kept the once flickering lamp of science burning brightly and beneficently at home, and who have passed it on to their successors in that true priesthood which is the hope and stay of our young nation. When the memorials of some of these men who, forty or fifty years ago, bravely held the outposts of science in Canada, come to be written, the name of the veteran scholar and professor, which heads this paper, will be justly assigned therein a very high place. Professor Croft was one of the first, if not the first, professional teacher of experimental philosophy in the chief Province of the Dominion. He was one of the five Professors first appointed to King's College when, on the 8th of June, 1843, it opened its doors to the ambitious youth of Canada. Within its walls he sounded the advance, and the first manly note of praise, in favor of those mysterious agencies of nature, and that practical knowledge of life, then so much despised and decried, but which now rule the world. More, perhaps, than any other man in Canada, he deserves the credit of eradicating the old-time prejudice against "hard and dry science," of investing it with a garb of many attractions, and of permanently popularizing it in the every-day life of the common people. Over not a little opposition, and amidst many discouragements, his wide range of knowledge and special abilities as a lecturer could scarcely fail to triumph. He speedily enlisted under his banner recruits of promise from every quarter, and sent them forth, imbued with much of his own enthusiasm, to win honors in science for themselves and their old teacher, both at home and abroad. He at first led what seemed a forlorn hope, but, on the very day he assumed the *toga* as a University Professor, he prophesied a signal victory, and promised his best efforts to achieve it. He has lived to win the battle, has spent the best years of a long and eminently-useful life in winning it, and may well afford to retire from the field with a consciousness of duty well done, and the gratitude which is certain to follow one who has discharged this duty, during a long term of public service, with conscientious fidelity and far-reaching success. Professor Croft deserves well of every friend of Canada, and of every true Canadian. A pioneer of science in his adopted country, an early, independent and fearless advocate of popular rights in educational matters, an able and zealous helper of every worthy enterprise that could make us think better of ourselves, and have faith in the future of our common country, a valued coadjutor in at least two of the learned professions, a leading spirit in the great volunteer movement of 1861-62, an old officer of the University Senate, a College Professor of nearly forty years' standing, a generous friend of every student who ever entered his class-room or laboratory—is not such a man well worthy a forward place, and a high tribute of respect, amongst the University men of his day and generation?

Henry Holmes Croft was born March 6th, 1820, on Gower street, in the city of London, England. The family mansion, in which he first saw the light, stood hard by the very spot where the celebrated University of the English metropolis, on whose curriculum our own was first modelled, was subsequently erected. A world in itself as London is, the subject of our brief memoir entered it within the radius of the merry chimes of Bow Bells, and, although he has never forgotten his "H's," he must plead guilty to the soft impeachment of being a Cockney. The future Canadian Professor came of a good old English family, and of a sturdy Anglo-Saxon stock. He was the youngest son of William Croft, a gentleman of acknowledged abilities and scholarly tastes, who, for twenty years, filled the post of Deputy Paymaster-General of the Ordnance under the Duke of Wellington, William Holmes—the Professor's godfather—Sir Henry Hardinge, Sir Henry Parnell and others, who stand high in the military annals of the empire. If there be anything in the influence of early associations in moulding future character, the reader may here find a clue to the military zeal which animated Professor Croft in after years, and which was turned to very serviceable account during the rise and progress of the fascinating evolutions in Canada. As a boy he was a frequent witness of the fascinating evolutions of the parade ground; many of his companions were the sons of old army officers; he was early familiar with the *entourage* of a soldier's life, and not infrequently chatted with the hero of Waterloo, who, if he left no honor unachieved, left no duty incomplete as he rode into Ordnance

headquarters on his well-known cob in the course of his daily round of inspection.

Professor Croft received his early education in the city of his birth. The reminiscences of his school days would afford some striking illustrations of the ups and downs of fortune at a time when Europe, tempest-tossed with the wars of the first Napoleon, was being allowed a season of restful calm after the storm, when, however, the fierce revolutionary spirit was still abroad, and when the large English cities and towns were, as in the days of the persecuted Huguenots, so many arks of refuge, whither foreigners of ability and distinction from across the channel and throughout the Spanish peninsula, whose seditious presence was found dangerous at home, swiftly took their flight. The Professor's first schoolmasters were men of this stamp—men who had seen better days, who had staked all and lost on the fickle cast of the dye, and many of whom were then living on their wits in the strange world of London. Monsieur Debac, under whom young Croft first passed, was an old Napoleonic cavalry officer. He had been a cuirassier of the guard, a man of wealth, and one of the most dashing *sabreurs* of his regiment. On June 18th, 1815, that fell day when the resplendent star of Napoleon set in utter night, he had charged many times, at the head of his squadron, against the solid squares of the "gallant Picton"; he had followed his vanquished chief from the field, and fell and lost everything with him in the crashing ruin of his dynasty. Here he was, in the year '32, at the dominie's desk, in the capital city of his conquerors, swaying with the hand which had once drawn as brave a blade as any in France, a trenchant ferrule over the sons of a number of English gentlemen! It is to be feared the belligerent spirit of the master permeated his school. The "manly art of self-defence" was cultivated quite as sedulously as the groundwork of Latin and French and the English branches. Fisticuffs, as a pastime, were slyly winked at by the old trooper, and the proverbial "little bird" that tells tales out of school could perhaps disclose some secrets of the playground where one Delgado, the bellicose son of some Spanish conspirator of the "dark lantern" order, was badly pommelled, on more than one occasion, by an English lad who subsequently became a popular captain in a crack Canadian rifle corps. Debac, however, was an original mechanic, and his class in mechanics, in which he was at his best, and where he was wont to unfold the *arcana* of his workshop, amongst the rest an ingenious model for feathering the floats in paddle-wheel steamers, was always a popular class with his pupils. Young Croft left Debac's school, where he acquired a fair share of practical knowledge, and many a good lesson, whenever needful, for a "town and gown" row, for a school kept by a Spanish refugee named Mandeville. The Spaniard's system of instruction was no very great improvement on the Frenchman's. He was a fire-eating pedagogue, and his youthful charge took a satanic delight in reminding him of it by the easily-suggested corruption of his not very Castilian name. Two or three years sufficed with Mandeville, and thence to an academy on Gower street that was at first associated with London University, and afterwards divorced from it to seek an independent foundation in Tavistock House. A word in passing for Tavistock House. Who that has read Forster's life of the brilliant novelist who now lies in the great Abbey—the mausoleum of England's honored dead—can forget its cherished associations? It was there that Charles Dickens afterwards lived and wrought, for many a year, with his fertile brain and bewitching pen, where he delighted to gather around him, in free and genial intercourse, the men of genius of his day whose names are familiar as his own "Household Words," where the gifted Stanfield and many another worthy in art romped with his children, and hallowed the magic circle of their happy home life, and whence Dickens himself sent forth to the world some of the brightest creations of his inimitable fancy. The headmaster of the academy in Tavistock House was John Walker, a son of the John Walker who was for some years professor of Natural Philosophy at Trinity College, Dublin. The ex-President of University College can tell more than one sparkling anecdote of John Walker, the elder, who, besides being a sound scholar and zealous teacher, was a sort of "character" in his day at the famous Irish University. The staff under John Walker, the younger, was a very complete one. It comprised men of ability and culture, and the academy was in the first rank of the many that were at that time open to the youth of London. The several departments of instruction were under capital control, and the training received there was well calculated to lay the foundation of a sound and liberal education. Maturin, a foreigner who had studied for the priesthood, was the classical master, and an accomplished scholar. He came of a clever family, and was a relative of the Maturin who wrote a weird and diabolical French novel entitled, "Melmoth the Wanderer." Every one knows that Eugene Sue has the sole credit for the authorship of the "Wandering Jew," but the discerning reader of Melmoth will detect in Sue's story of his Israelitish hero not a little internal evidence of the handiwork of one of the priestly family of Maturin. Young Croft applied himself diligently to

his studies in this the last public school he attended. He was an eager and ardent student, and left the academy with the highest testimonials of ability and proficiency in a systematic course of training that was very servicable to him in after life.

His public school life closed, it naturally became a question with his father what course for the future should be marked out for the youngest son. Without any definite plan in this respect, the young man was taken into his father's office, where his eldest brother, William, was already employed as a clerk. The Ordnance Office, which was in those days of large standing armies an important military bureau, was then situate in the Tower of London, whose ancient historic associations, and once terrible mysteries, we may well believe, were subjects of intense interest to the new comer within its precincts. He remained there learning the routine of the office, and working very hard for a year, at the end of which the Ordnance Office was amalgamated with the Army and Navy Pay Office, under the miserly regime of Sir Henry Parnell. The family were at that time living at North Hyde, a pleasant suburban retreat four miles from London, where they spent the long summer months. Those were the days of old-fashioned road travel in London and its environs. There were no hansoms, and the lumbering four-wheelers had not yet given place to the ubiquitous omnibus. Mr. William Croft's third son was also in a London office, and the father and his three boys, whose companionship he loved, and who were strongly attached to him, were daily accustomed to walk the whole distance to and from their place of business in the city. They were all good pedestrians, and to this day the Professor tells a story of his elder brother, William, who, for a wager, walked without training twenty miles round Regent's Park in three hours and forty-five minutes,—a creditable feat, we should say, for a non-professional. The Professor himself is well-known as a capital pedestrian, good for a long distance, and with unusual staying power; witness the toilsome tramps to target practice in the old University Rifles' days, when the gallant captain was the freshest man in the party at the end of the march. Where and when he learned his pedestrianism goes without saying. The exhilarating exercise of those long walks—which were often extended—to and from North Hyde and the Tower, provided a store of vigorous health; it strengthened his naturally robust and wiry constitution, and stood him in good stead a few years after when, along with some college chums in Germany, he made a somewhat-remarkable tour afoot, in quest of scientific information hidden away amidst the wild, romantic scenery of that storied "land of the Rhine."

The early beginnings of a life-work in which men have gained distinction, and rendered special service to their fellow men, are always interesting. It was when a pupil at Walker's school, and when of course a mere lad, that Professor Croft first imbibed a taste for chemistry and chemical science, a fair experimental knowledge of which he rapidly acquired by his own unaided efforts, all the time winning flattering opinions from his masters as an excellent student in other branches of learning. The *ardeur chimique* which then seized him was heightened by the lectures in chemistry which he attended, as an occasional student, at London University. The prosecution of these boyish studies, especially those of an experimental kind of which he was passionately fond, was carried on under some difficulties. He was living under his good father's roof, and chemical experiments in a private house are always obnoxious. In his case they were not unfrequently tabooed on account of the utter destruction of his wearing apparel, the alarming explosions, oft repeated, and the abominably-bad smells. His improvised laboratory, for months and months, was a few shelves in a diminutive china closet, three feet square, under the stone kitchen stairway in the family residence on Gower-street. Time and again in the still watches of the night, which he gleefully made hideous with his empiric detonations and sulphuretted odors, was he ordered, first to purify the house of the noxious fumes from his rude, juvenile workshop, and thereafter, in short order, to bed. These studies, so delectable to himself, but which were the object of undisguised hostility at home, were carried on unremittingly during the spare hours of his term of service in the Ordnance Office. He eagerly devoured whatever books he could find on his favorite subject; his home during the day was in the grim battlemented Tower, but his heart was with his retorts and test tubes under the old kitchen stairway. Under these circumstances it is no wonder that his busy but monotonous life, as a civil service clerk, became almost intolerable; he chafed under its restraints, and longed for the golden opportunity, which soon offered, when he could give his undivided attention to those scientific pursuits which, the keen observation of his father saw, were the settled purpose of his life. The famous Michael Faraday, who, it will be seen, exercised an important influence on the future Professor's career, was then the lecturer on chemistry in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. Faraday drew his salary through William Croft, the elder, at the Ordnance Office, and the business acquaintance thus formed ripened into a long, lasting, and valued friendship which, on Faraday's part in after years, was shared

with his old friend's youngest son. Mr. Croft resolved to consult the Academy lecturer about the wayward youth who was determined to throw up a good salary "under Government" in order to carry out "some infernal notions of his own." The great lecturer listened with all the delight of an enthusiastic teacher to the father's story, and we can easily fancy the serious interview closing with the well-remembered words from Faraday:—"Mr. Croft, your son has certainly a wonderful aptitude for chemistry. Send him to Germany by all means, and send him there at once." This, was joyful news for the "irreclaimable potterer in acids and stinks." The lessons in German at Tavistock House, especially those of a conversational kind, were at once resumed with avidity and remarkable success. The youthful chemist proved himself a proficient linguist. He had previously gained a smattering of French under old Debac, and had greatly improved on it under the modern languages master at Walker's school. His acquirements in the Teutonic tongue were just as noteworthy. By the month of April, 1838, when he sailed from England for the continent, he had so far mastered the language of his future *Alma Mater* as to be able to "talk his way" tolerably well to the welcome doors of the famous University of Berlin. He carried with him, from Faraday, letters of introduction to the celebrated Eylart Mitscherlich, and other scientists of the highest reputation in the Prussian capital. By them he was very kindly received, and he speedily ingratiated himself into their notice and favor by the industry and enthusiasm with which he applied himself to his delightful studies in Berlin *unter den linden*.

J. KING.

(To be Continued.)

LAST Monday Professor Young informed his Third Year class that their Christmas examination would be put off till Easter. Not only was the announcement applauded, but also the reasons given received the approval which the University students boisterously signify by stamping of feet. It is altogether probable that in the reaction which follows a surprise, some regret will be felt over an assent which was at once hasty and unwise. The undergraduates in this year, who take the pass course, are exempted from the examination in May if they are successful in the College tests, and in the Professor's opinion there was a want of fair play to the University in presenting themselves this month before the examiners, who would be obliged to set papers covering a small extent of reading. Apart from the fact that the University adopted the present system of exemption or substitution whilst aware of what its practical operation would involve, there is the additional consideration that the honor men are deprived of the opportunity of easily fulfilling the condition on which entrance to the May examination is permitted. By this condition they are required to pass either the Christmas or the Easter examination, and clearly the better course is to choose the former in order to avoid the "break" occasioned by the latter. In preparing for the ordeal at the close of the academic year, a wholesome dread is entertained against any occurrence which may interrupt the even course of studies. From this point of view many honor men correctly, in our opinion, look upon the Easter examination as a serious interruption, which should be avoided by taking the one at Christmas.

THE staff of the *Cornell Era* has been distinguishing itself by a liberal as well as an original proposal to the Glee Club of its University. "We invite the subscribers and readers of the *Era*, and all others so inclined, to write songs and original music, dedicated to the Glee Club of Cornell, and send them to us before the first of March next. If the number of original songs with music be five or over, we will select the best, publish it as an extra, and send a copy to each subscriber. This will bring the Glee Club prominently before the minds of music-loving people, and if they and their friends are stimulated to persevere in its organization and support, we will consider that at least we have helped to forward the laudable purpose." The nightingales who flock every Friday in the Debating Society's building appear to have thriven wonderfully well this year. An amount of painstaking zeal has been displayed, which, to those who have been in a position to test the public spirit of the undergraduates, is truly a surprise. Even their *mestvo* has expressed his satisfaction in highly-complimentary terms. Nevertheless, from a not-unimportant aspect, their progress has been one-sided. College songs and airs have been altogether neglected, and if the neglect is persisted in, the distinctive character of a college Glee Club will be unattained. To begin next January to take steps in this direction is what we beg leave to urge upon the Gleemen, and if they consider it would be of some advantage to follow in the wake of the *Cornell Era* in this matter, we shall be happy to do so.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FEES QUESTION.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity

SIR,—I need not say that my object in not writing over my own name in your issue of Nov. 13, was simply that my arguments might be considered on their merits, and without any reference to the source from which they emanated. My views are not such as to call for any lack of courage in expressing them, but as this is rapidly becoming a question of residence or non-residence in Toronto, I think it best still to reply to Mr. Kingsford without saying who I am or where I live.

I do not think Mr. Kingsford makes it at all clear that because Convocation has a right to impose a fee as a condition of membership in the case of all who graduate hereafter in the University, it has an equally-undoubted right to deprive myself and others who have been members for years, of our acquired status, simply because we may decline to pay a fee. There is at least so much doubt in the minds of many members on this point that it would be well to have some authoritative opinions clearing it up before the imposition of the fee becomes a fixed fact.

Mr. Kingsford asks what I am dissatisfied about. I thought I made this perfectly clear in my last letter. I do not object on personal grounds at all, for I happen to be so situated that if any body can afford to pay I can. I object on a variety of other grounds, and for the sake of perspicuity I again give a *resume* of my views on the matter in categorical form:

1. The right of membership involves the right to take part in the business of Convocation, and to vote for representatives on the Senate.

2. Though Convocation has been in existence seven years, we have only very recently been able to hold successful business meetings. The apathy of our graduates is deplorable, I admit; but any one can see easily enough that if they are not interested enough in University matters to attend business meetings of Convocation they will not be likely to pay a dollar a year, or any other amount, for the privilege of doing so. The obvious result of imposing a fee will therefore be to render the holding of meetings impossible whereas it is at present only difficult.

3. Convocation includes some 1200 graduates, more or less, but not more than one third of these ever cast their votes at Senate elections. The complaint has been general hitherto that these elections are run by a Toronto clique. On that point I say nothing at all, but it must be manifest even to Mr. Kingsford that if only a fourth or a third of the graduates take enough of interest in University matters to vote for Senators when there is no membership fee, the proportion will be still smaller when the payment of a fee is a *conditio sine qua non* of voting.

4. I may be told—in fact Mr. Kingsford tells me—that if the interest taken in our *alma mater* is so slight we had better let Convocation die altogether, as a body unworthy of life. Here I differ from him *in toto*. Convocation is able, under the statutory powers conferred on it, to do much for the University, and when the statute is amended, as proposed, it will be able to do still more. It has done something already. The Senate has within the past few months been waked up from its lethargy of a quarter of a century, and constrained to let the public know what it is doing. There are University questions on which the opinion of Convocation would be of great value, and as the endowment is too small it is open to Convocation to use its influence with a view to enlarging it. But I need not stop to point out—what no one doubts—the great utility of Convocation, and the desirability of keeping it not only alive but active.

5. But how are the expenses of Convocation to be met? This is put to me as a puzzler, though to me the matter is simple enough. Convocation is, like the Senate, a body created by statute and not a voluntary organization. It is endowed with important legal powers, not as the result of incorporation but in virtue of its statutory existence. It is a public and not a private body, just as much as the Senate is. The ob-

vious inference is that its expenses should be a charge on the University revenue as the Senate's expenses are. If the answer is that the revenue is too limited already, then I reply that by making Convocation a live body, as we hope to do with a little time and under an amended constitution, there is some reasonable hope of getting the endowment increased. What hope is there for such an increase except from the graduates? If any body expect it from the Legislature he will be apt to find himself vegetating in a fool's paradise.

I have only to add that the question was not "fairly raised, fairly argued, fairly decided" at the October meeting. It was not fairly raised, or at least pressed, because member after member at that meeting stated that he had had no intimation of its coming up. It was not fairly argued, because the case of non-resident members was not fairly met; the imposition of a fee on all members acts as a special disability on them, and it was not shown that it would not. It was not fairly decided, because the minority did not get a chance to make all the motions they intended to make, owing to the refusal of the chairman on technical grounds to put the report, as a whole, to the meeting after it had been considered clause by clause.

M. A.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.—At the meeting held last Wednesday night, Mr. G. H. Carveth read a paper on "Eyes." He began by illustrating the anatomy of the human eye, and making this a basis for comparison. He described the eyes of the higher vertebrate and the most peculiar of the invertebrate types with reference to it. Mr. T. P. Hall introduced a subject which we remember seeing on the programme of this association for six consecutive weeks last term, namely, the "distinction between plants and animals." The subject gave opportunity to the members to give voice to their long pent up opinions, and the questions that the speaker was called upon to answer, showed that much attention had been given to this point. The meeting was the last one of the present term.

TO PYRRHA.

[HORACE, ODES, I. 5.]

What slender youth bedecked with roses,
And sprinkled o'er with perfumes sweet,
Pyrrha, to thee his love discloses
Within some cool retreat?

Why tie thy golden hair so plainly?
Alas! he'll weep the gods and truth,
And at the waters tossed insanely
Oft marvel, simple youth.

Who, charmed and happy in thy splendor,
Thee deems from rival lovers free,
Thinks worthy of his heart's surrender,
Winds fickle does not see.

What griefs the beauty-lured are sipping!
Myself have hung the sacred wall
With picture vowed and garments dripping,
At mighty Neptune's call.

A. W. WRIGHT.

[On account of a profusion of typographical errors in our last number we re-publish the following:]

Prævehor annosas sedes ubi nostra juvenus,
Musarum cultrix, induit ante togam;
Perque vias vacuus vestigia devia pono:
Et video notis fervere tecta sonis:
Iamque iterum celsi subter laquearia templi
Æra procellosos provoluere modos:
Agmina quo Superum tonitru percussa canoro
In pictis veluti dissiluisse vitris:
Nauticus hic iterum longe ferit æthera clamor,
Quisque suo spumas ordide remus agit
Perque salicta sonat: mediis dum pontibus adsto
Rursus ego, et circum litora nota feror:
Æquor uti quondam glaucum patet: ipse per æquor
Qualis eram similis dissimilisque vagor,
Et tandem tiliis porrectas ordine longo,
Illius agressus limina nota, lego.

M.H.

NOTICE.

The 'VARSITY is published every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.

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