# VARSITY 

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# LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY THOUGHT AND EVENTS. 

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## CONTENTS.

Topics of the Hour-- ..... page
Our Countrymen Abroad211
'Two Defects in the Curriculum. ..... 211
The Senate Meetings ..... 1
A New Graduating Department. ..... $21 \because$
Leading Article-The Scholarship Question Re-opened212
Literature-
"The Owi's Trial"

$\qquad$
R. Balmer212
Snow and Stream
$\qquad$Leatherby Heard from Again
$\qquad$E. BemnettJemplyah 213
"Say not the Struggle Naught a vaileth" ..... Agnes E. Wetherald

$\qquad$
Agnes $E$. ..... 14
Editor's Table
University and Coliléan News-Graduate Representation on the University Senate-" Pagan Virtuesand Pagan Theories of Life"-Historical and Political ScienceClub-Y. M. C. A.-Personals.214
Communicatrons-Medals and Scholarships.......................................F. F. Macpherson 217" ., , ...................................................H. L. Dumn 218A Bream of Atlantis ............................................................................ H. Young 218
DI-Varsities.219

## The VARSITY.

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[^0]how the author picked up his knowledge of Ainerican language and character. And, of course, taking it for granted that the United States are America, the Yankee critic repudiates some of Mr. Allen's expressions. Yet Mr. Howells is not infallible, and it is quite probable that Mr. Allen knows what he is doing and saying.

Remarks and suggestions with regard to the curriculum, weari some and never-ending though they may seem, have, nevertheless, their use. Having said this, we would ask those of our readers, if there be any, "quos curriculo pulverem collegisse juvat,"-who have, that is to say, taken a certain pleasure in suffering the curriculum to gather dust in some out-of-the-way corner-to brush away the dust and look into its pages again. We wish to briefly indicate at least two ill-advised lines upon which the prescribed authors in English have been chosen. The English required at Junior Matriculation reaches farther back than the living interest of the classes which are being prepared for the University ; and in prescribing the authors to be studied, the assumption should be that a book which is not of itself interesting and attractive to the youthful mind,-a book which a boy will not read with pleasure outside of school hours, will prove worse than useless as a means of culture. As to the English required after Matriculation, we do not understand the absence from the curriculum of the names of the great new-world writers. Lowell, speaking for Americans, says: "It might be questioned whether we could not establish a stronger title to the ownership of the English tongue than the mother islanders themselves. Here, past all question, is to be its great home and centre. And not only is it already spoken here by great numbers, but with a far higher popular average of correctness than in Britain. The great writers of it, too, we might claim as ours, were ownership to be settled by the number of readers and lovers." Of the great writers in whom America has absolute title, we need say nothing.

It used to be thought impossible for any one to receive a liberal education except in the study of philosophy, of classics, or of mathematics. For hundreds of years proficiency in one or more of these subjects was made the indispensable condition of the honors of the Universities. But slowly the modern languages and the natural sciences won their way into this recognition. In our own University a still further advance was made when a graduating department was created in physics a few years ago. And now we see it is proposed in the Senate to allow students to graduate in Greek and the Oriental languages. This proposition ought certainly to be carried out. There is every reason why the widest system of options should be adopted throughout our entire curriculum. Why should a metaphysical man be compelled to take civil polity rather than German if he preferred the latter subject, or why should a modern language man be compelled to carry the burden of all the languages (and history and ethnology as well l) if he would prefer to devote himself more earnestly to one or two of them only? This is not mere
theorizing. The elective system has been tried in its fullest sense at Harvard, and with the most satisfactory results. There are upwards of one hundred courses, differing in a greater or less degree, in which a Harvard student can take his diploma, and President Eliot says that the highest intellectuality has been wonderfully quickened by this liberty. The old system of men-of-learning-made-to-order-after-one-pattern must be abandoned. A liberal education can be received in a thousand ways. It is not what we study, but how we study, that in the end determines our culture. Furthermore, the infinite variety of the human mind requires a corresponding variety of agencies for its highest development. Individuality must have the fullest play if the greatest possible progress of the whole race is to be attained. If it were possible to reduce all mankind under the six classes which our Toronto University curriculum now represents, what a wearisome and profitless world this would be !

The University Senate will hereafter meet regularly four times a year and continue in session until the business then on hand shall have been concluded. Heretofore the Senate has met at the call of the chair, which has been occasionally or semi-occasionally as the case might happen. Meetings have sometimes been called of which the graduate members living in Ottawa, Hamilton, St. Thomas or London did not receive notice until the very day appointed for the meeting. Then the session only lasted for a few hours, and perhaps before a week had passed another meeting had to be called to consider some other matter. This irregularity entailed no little inconvenience and expense on members of the Senate residing at long distances from the city. It was often impossible for them, on such short notice, to arrange their business to admit of their absence. Consequently too large a share of the proceedings came into the hands of the Toronto members, and the advantage of a wide and varied discussion of important questions was not secured. There is reason to suppose that this state of things, so unsatisfactory to the graduate representatives, was not at all unsatisfactory to some of the representatives of University College and the other affiliated institutions. It was no trouble for them to drop in at any time and have a little Senate meeting. At all events, when Mr. Kingsford's motion for regular meetings came before the Senate, it was strongly opposed by Professor Loudon and others. It would be an interesting exercise in psychological analysis, and withal not a difficult one, to discover the ultimate principles of this opposition. (We might then understand, also the Professor's vehement denunciation of the movement for increased graduate representation, and the not over-remarkable coincidence of the opposition of certain Ottawa graduates to the scheme.) Yet the general sense in the Senate of fair play for outside members sustained Mr. Kingsford, and his motion was adopted provisionally. But the advantages of the system of regular meetings are so many and so obvious that it is not to be expected that the old order of things will ever be revived.

## Tleading Mrtiqtic.

## THE SCHOLARSHIP QUESTION RE-OPENED.

It is well known the Senate of Toronto University recently withdrew the medals and the greater number of the scholarships which had previously been granted by that body on the results of its examinations. This action of the Senate met with the approval of the students generally. In fact, it may be said that the reform was the result of an agitation against these rewards which originated among the students themselves a few years ago. Many noted scholarship men carried on the movement, and the result was a memorial to the Senate on the question. This memorial was signed
by a very large majority of the students of the university, and ultimately led, as we have seen, to the abolition of the medals and scholarships.

But the Senate had scarcely completed this reform, and our most earnest and thoughtful students had scarcely ended their mutual congratulations on the order of things, when it was hinted that a project was on foot in the College Council which would practically subvert the intentions of the Senate and renew the grievance of which the undergraduates had complained. Various wealthy gentlemen have recently been asked to found scholarships in the college. Circulars have been issued soliciting "subscriptions of one dollar and upwards" ! for the purpose of obtaining medals to be bestowed by the College Council. And a few days ago an elaborate scheme of scholarships and medals was posted up on the college bulletin board to the surprise and intense dissatisfaction of many of our students.
A mass meeting of undergraduates was called to consider the matter. At that meeting the following resolution was carried by a large majority. It was moved by Mr. F. F. Macpherson, and seconded by Mr. A. H. Young, both of them well-known scholarship men of the fourth year:-
" Whereas, in the opinion of the undergraduates medals and scholarships are detrimental to the true interests of education ; and
"Whereas, contrary to the expressed wishes of the undergraduates, scholarships and medals have been restored by the College Council ; and
"Whereas, from a lack of funds, the Library is not equipped so as to afford students all the advantages such an institution should confer; and
"Whereas, there is the greatest necessity for the appointment of a lecturer in Political Economy ;
"Theretore, it is resolved, that the undergraduates, protest against the restoration of medals and scholarships, and also against the action of College officials in soliciting contributions for such purpose, thus diverting public benefactions from more worthy objects."
There is no uncertainty in the tone of this resolution, nor in that of the two letters which appear in another column on this subject.

The objections against the system of scholarships and medals have not been exaggerated. This system sets up unworthy objects before students and obscures the highest ideals and aims of education. It intensifies all the evils of competition and of competitive examinations. It tends to produce jealousy and distrust among students following the same courses. It forces our best students, no matter how unwilling they may be, into an unhealthy and degrading rivalry. It confers undue honor on a very few at the expense of all the rest, and it aggravates the positive injustice which is often done to the best men, as the result of the fallacious test of ordinary examinations.

Our students wish to be generous and helpful to each other; they desire to pursue truth, single-eyed, for the truth's sake alone, and they would preserve their manhood and independence in its fullest measure.

They simply ask, then, that the College Council will not expose them to a temptation which would tend to prevent them from making a fair approximation to this ideal. It is to be hoped that a request so reasonable will no longer be refused.

## Mittrrature.

## "THE OWL'S TRIAL."

"Do, please, write something funny for a change."-Correspondent.
The owl is a sober bird, in fact soberness incarnate ; and, moreover, he is fortified in his soberness by the solid, honest conviction that he can be nothing else but sober. But it is on record, nevertheless, that once, when in his most funereal mood and securest in his conviction of impregnable sobriety, he was betrayed into a
smile, a most undeniable smile. Ten consecutive juries of the owl's personal friends found the evidence irresistible and tendered a verdict of guilty-guilty of unallowable, or, as they declared, un-owl-able levity.
Now, what was to be done? The case was certainly serious. Shall darkness enter the home of light? Shall vice detile the source of virtue? Shall ievity, then, sit one instant on the sable throne of soberness? Shall the fool's cap ever press the melancholy brow of the imperturbable monarch of sorrow? Such was the general purport of a lengthy speech made by the monkey, the judge.
It was then decided by the combined juries in open court that,
"whereas the owl has feloniously and nefariously violated the trust committed to him by the nation and, in atrocious outrage upon the express and manifest will of the people, has actually, undeniably and indubitably smiled, therefore the aforesaid owl has abdicated the throne of soberness, and the said throne shall be declared vacant." Then, upon deliberation, and almost unanimously it was decreed to vindicate the lenience of the court and commute the sentence of death and mutilation provided in the statute book. The punishment reserved for the fallen monarch is recorded as a singular instance of judicial clemency and a most sage application of the principle of remedial prison discipline. He was simply "required to learn by rote the funny column of the ages." As the judge remarked, "Reprobate criminal, in this merciful judgment the court is inspired by a lingering hope that some time in the distant future, sobered by reflection over the past, sobered by the vision of an approaching eternity, sobered still more and irrevocably by a sickening surfeit of what once proved your temptation and your ruin, you may then come forth from your solitary confinement and live your remaining years an honourable and consistent citizen amongst us, and perhaps (with a really benignant smile) receive again the confidence and kingship of the people."
It is in a certain degree to be regretted that the story does not go on to furnish us with the effect of the remedial measures adopted, but that could not be, for here occurred a most unexpected and entire alteration in the sentiments of the court.
The prisoner had been standing during this harangue on a broken branch of a weeping-willow, close by an oak stump occupied by the judge, while over him hovered on guard three vultures and a bald-headed eagle. His dishevelled plumage, his clenched claws, his drooping wings, his drooping beak, his sadly wandering eyes and his melancholy countenance disfigured by a faint but perpetual smile, made him as abject a sight as could well be imagined. When the judge had finished, the prisoner limped slowly to the Outer end of the broken limb on which he stood, and in a feeble voice asked for a hearing. He said he had nothing to say against the judgment of the court, but thanked it for the leniency which had so mitigated the severity of the statute book. He begged, however, before leaving them, pernaps for ever, to tell-not in vindication of bimself, but simply as a warning for others-he begged to tell them the circumstances of his fall, the humiliating traces of which remained in his inelfaceatle smile.
He then related how that one day he had been meditating on the origin and persistence of evil, and as he revolved in his mind all answers given by all sages in the past, and as he contemplated the vast universe in its rioting chaos of sin, he fell into an abyss of sadness, in which he seemed to fathom the secret heart of mysteries never before seen by mortal owl. It was at this fatal moment, under a load of sorrow, and with the weight of the universe pressing upon it, he felt himself pulled by a feather and appealed to in childish voice. He turn ed with inexpressible tenderness and in his ejes sorrowful love for all beings, when the voice that broke into his sorrow began as follows: "Say, Mr. Owl, will ycu tell me a funny story?"
"Now it so happened, former and beloved fellow-citizens, that through the entrance effected by these words there rushed in a
whole universe of levity and irreverent imaginings. Surcharged as I then was with sorrow, there arose within me an elemental confict of emotions. I strove with my whole soul to repress it. But, athlete of melancholy though I was, the strain proved too great, and I exploded into laughter. Nay, it was not laughter. In the presence of a sorrowing universe, I swear it was not laughter, it was not laughter -
"But, that the king of melancholy should tell a funny story Oh, shadow of the universe, forgive me! Here it is again!"

And here the prisoner, the judge, and all beasts both great and small assembled there burst into one loud roar. Before the echoes had died away on the hill-tops the ten juries and the whole court had reviewed and reversed the decision.

The owl was reinstated on his throne, and in all the chronicles of that time it was ordered to be written that the only laugh ever made by the king of melancholy was a laugh that was not a laugh.
R. Balmer.

## SNOW AND STREAM.

Willow stems like rods of gold, Blue birds on the wing, A land that wears expectant airs, And schemes and dreams the spring :
Yet here's a snow-bank, old, and gray, And grimy, spread along the way.

Thou dreary drift! why, what a hard And sullen heart thou hast,
To hold thy place, devoid of grace, When ali do wish thee past!
How canst thou brave the sunny day,
Kefusing thus to slink away?
But lo! when I had paced the rods Her ashen robe w'erspread.
Must deftly fleet, most gaily sweet, A shining brooklet fled;
Drew p'iant currents into braid,
And ceaseles; curves and sparkle made.
In joy I cried, "Thou lovely thing. Where didst thou learn thy ways?
Thy winsome mirth beguileth earth Thy purpose never stays;
Thou art so willing, yet so purc, Responsive, headstrong, wavering, sure !.

The brook sang low in duiet flow, And this I heard it sing :
"I am the drift, in patient thrift; I kept the robes of spring
Thou praisest so. Be thou more slow
To judge of hearts from outward show.

> M. E. Bennetr:

## LEATHERBY HEARD FROM AGAIN.

It seems that, after all, Leatherby soon lost faith in Dr. McCrudely's lengthy announcement, which he at first regarded as

> ""Some stupendous
> And tremendous (Heaven defend us!)
> Monstr'-inform'-ingens-horrend-ous
> Demoniaco-seraphic,
> Wise man's latest piece of graphic."
"There was more table-cloth," he wrote, "than feast. Dr. McCrudely himself has turned out to be no prodigy; he is not even bald. For I hold with Herodotus that 'baldness is a peculiar property or inseparable accident of learning.' Shakespeare, too, was bald ; and I, who wear his baldness while I'm young, by rea-
son of my ardor in original research, regard as sound doctrine that saying of his that 'what Time hath scanted men in hair he hath given them in wit.'" Leatherby may not be wrong in asserting that there is, in general, a correlation between hairiness and want of wit. In his own case, however, I do not think that Shakespeare's saying will fit to a hair; for even when my friend becomes wholly bald, it will be truly said of him that, like Launce's sweetheart in "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," he "hath more hair than wit."

This, however, by the way. While as yet the smoke of the first gun of the New Protestantism was slowly rolling up into the astounded heavens, Leatherby had heard afar its distant reverberations ; and, when the battle began all along the line, he exulted like the war-horse in Job. But he was unable to come into the field himielf, being then deeply engaged in the deciphering of a series of Targumic epitaphs, in which occur the names of several mighty conquerors, "hitherto unheard of and still unpronounceable, but of great value to the student of the entirely dark ages." He wrote that, "though it seemed a hopeless task, he was in hopes of fixing the dates of these kings, with the aid of Dr. McCrudely." But the doctor proved a sorry deus ex machina, though here was certainly a dignus nodus. Yet Leatherby says that at Universality College a number of surprising things are done ex machina.
All the hopes which had led him to enter that well-known College being thus blighted, he had no reasons for staying longer ; in fact, there were reasons why he should return to Toronto. But when he was about to leave, the election excitement swept away his purpose ; and after having solemnly and confidentially protested to every undergraduate in the College that he would not run for any office, he accepted a nomination at the exterior caucus, and consented to stand. "Lord, Lord," roared Falstaff, "how this world is given to lying!"
The Interior party-so named, I understand,"because it has been kept "out" for some time-opened the campaign with a manifesto " made up of big phrases and round figures of speech, which, when put together, amount, like certain other combinations of round figures, to exactly o." Thus Leatherby, with the true spirit of a partizan. Of what the Interior has said of the Exterior manifesto I have heard nothing, except an obscure allusion to Knox et praeterea nihil, which I do not understand.
I need not weary the readers of Varsity, as Leatherby has wearied me, with a long account of the many politic moves of each party as the night of election approaches ; of the eager scrutiny of lists; of the wagging of knowing heads as they talk together; of the insinuating smile that lights up the care-worn brow of the practical politician as he meets a Freshman in the corridors ; of the air of wonderful importance with which the Freshman walks away after a long talk; and of the flickering out of that insinuating smile to a grin of Machiavellian astuteness, almost preternatural ; of the harangues at the caucuses; of the studied reserve and indifference of the man who feels sure of a nomination; of the sinuous manceuvres of the man who doesn't ; of the rings within rings ; of the pulling of wires,-and of corks and cigars; of the unwonted blandness and affability of the third year candidate : of the vain efforts of the Freshman candidate to look unconcerned; of his anxious preparation of the speech he is going to make ; in short, of the mighty preparation and the infinite suspense.

Let us return to Leatherby himself. Revenons à nos moutons. Not that Leatherby is at all sheepish; this was shown by the shortness of the estrangement between himself and Maud Gerolman, who is an undergraduate at our College. It will be remembered that the estrangement grew out of Leatherby's unfortunate attempts at mind-reading. But, as I said, it was for a time only. They soon resumed their old relations, and while he has been away from Toronto their souls have held converse through the medium Her Majesty has graciously given us all in the Royal Mail.
Of late he has been writing poetry to Maud Gerolman, of which he sends me copies. The verses run very smoothly indeed; as
witness a "Nocturne" in which all concerned are told that now the toils of day are over, and the sun bath sunk to rest, seeking like a fiery lover, the bosom of the blushing West. Now the night keeps watch and ward,-the moon her shield of silver broad; she summons all her stars to guard the slumbers light of my fair Maud !

Jewlyah.

## "SAY NOT THE STRUGGLE NAUGHT AVAILETH."

Say not the struggle naught availeth ! How like a clarion note it rings-
That saying of the royal Arthur,* Arthur, famed among poet kings;
What thaugh the great weak world bewaileth? Clear through the tumult a poet sings,
"Say not the struggle naught availeth!"
Ah, but we mourn in bitter sadness, What are the feeble utterings
Of airy fancy? In this world sorrow, And $\sin$ and death are terrible things;
When the stern heart faints, and the strong eye quaileth, How idle the tune on a poet's strings,
"Say not the struggle naught availeth!"
Still our faltering feet keep time to the measure,
(How light and free and buoyant it swings),
What do they matter, the ills that assail us?
What are the world's small arrow stings?
Hope dieth not nor courage faileth,
And the song uplifts like the sense of wings-
"Say not the struggle naught availeth!"
Old wounds aching ard new wounds bleeding,
These we could bear, but the sufferings
Of those we love-dear heaven, have pity!
But still the poet his message brings
To tear-wet cheek and lip that paleth,
And heart that to a broken heart clings,
"Say not the struggle naught availeth!"
Ah, Pain, thou art a greater Goliath,
We meet thee with pitiful stones and slings,
The terrible odds are all against us -
What to the foe are our feeble flings?
Courage! The brave heart ye: prevaileth !
From seeming defeat, lo, victory springs;
"Say not the struggle naught availeth!"
*Arthur Hugh Clough.
Agnes E. Wetherald.

## 䖯itur's ©unty.

## "SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE AND HYGIENE."

This is the title of a manual which has just been issued by the Education Department of Ontario. The author of the book is Dr. J. George Hodgins, and his wide experience of so many years with all the details of our public school system has eminently qualified him for the production of such a work.

Among special matters which Dr. Hodgins has treated of here in a simple and practical fashion, are the selection of school sites, the architecture and construction of school houses, heating and ventilation, windows and lighting, school room decorations, the water supply, and the improvement and beautifying of the school .grounds by the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers.

A book like this has long been needed, and the Department of Education will do well to give it a wide circulation, It may be•
come a most effective means for the improvement and elevation of the general public.
It is obvious that if Canadians are to become a strong and vigorous people, our youth must not be exposed to unhealthful influences. Yet throughout the length and breadth of Ontario too many school houses are to be found where the seeds of disease are hourly sown. Constitutions are weakened by defective ventilation and virulent diseases are engendered by germs from impure wells or malarial surroundings.
Then, many of our country schools are dingy and cheerless, and the grounds are not only devoid of ornamentation, but very often most untidily kept. Yet the presence of some simple pictures or other decorations within, and of flowers and trees without, would add an attractiveness to school life which children would not fail to appreciate. Moreover, beauty, as an educating and refining influence of the highest value, has been too long overlooked by our school authorities.
Improvements in school houses means improvements in homes. Children who experience the benefits of pure air and pure water at school, and learn the means of obtaining them, will in the end put their knowledge to account at home. The cultivation of taste, also, which is implied in the improvements ref.rred to, will be beneficially felt in the home life as well. And thus the power for good of such a book as this one of Dr. Hodgins cannot be too highly estimated.

## Guiuqrsity mut ©aflege Rews.

## GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON THE UNIVERSITY SENATE.

The movement to secure increased representation of the graduates on the Senate has not yet resulted in actual legislation, but much good has been accomplished by the effort made. In the short time at the disposal of the Executive Committee a great number of signatures were obtained to the petition, which has now been presented to the Minister of Education. In order to show who the men are who ask for this reform, and who take a live interest in University matters generally, we pubiish the text of the petition with the names of those who signed it in different localities :-

## To the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario.

The petition of the undersigned graduates of the University of Toronto, humbly sheweth :-

That at a meeting of Convocation, held in the City of Toronto, on the i2th instant, the following resolutions and suggestions were adopted :

1. That it is expedient to increase the representation of graduates on the Senate from fifteen to twenty-five, and that, in addition, the Chairman of Convocation be a member of the Senate, ex-officio, during his term of office.
2. That the date of the election of representatives of the graduates on the Senate be changed from May to September.
3. That in case of any vacancy in the Senate, such vacancy be filled by the members of Convocation at the next regular election.
4. That it is expedient to increase the number of High School representatives in the Senate from two to four.
The two following points were also agreed upon:-
5. That at the next election the whole of the additional representatives be elected, in addition to the present number.
6. That a member of the Senate not attending a certain number of meetings of the Senate (particulars to be settled by Committee in charge of BIll, without sufficient excuse, do lose his seat on the Senate through such non-attendance.

Your petitioners heartily concur with the above resolutions and suggestions, and respectfully ask that your Honorable House will be pleased to grant appropriate legislation during the present session to carry the same into effect.
And your petitioners will ever pray.
Toronto-J. Squair, B.A.; W. J. Loudon, M.A.; W. H. Ellis, M. A.; G. R. Mickle, B.A.; Frank T. Shutt, B.A.; J. H. Cameron, B.A.; J. H. McGeary, B.A.; Herbert R. Wood, B.A.; W. H. Vandersmissen, M.A.; J. C. Robertson, B.A.; A. S. Johnson, M.A.; W. Dale, M.A.; A. Stevenson, B.A.; H. L. Dunn, B.A.; Wm. Houston, M.A.; D. Blain, LL.D.; Nicol Kingsmill, M. A.; W. G. Eakins, M.A.; William Hay, M.A.; J. Howard Hunter, M.A.; W. H. Irving, B.A.; Geo. Acheson, M.A.; W. Harley Smith, B.A.; John McBride, M.A.; J. E. Graham, M. A.; J. W. Mustard, B.A.; L. McFarlane, M.B.; Wm. Oldright, M.A., M.D.; Fred F. Manley, M.A.; W. G. Crawford, B.A.; W. H. Huston, M.A.; Neil McEachern, B.A.; Euston Sisely, B.A.; C. Ferdinand Durand, B.A.; O. Weld, B.A.; G. R. Cruickshank, B.A.; J. H. Cameron, M.B.; J. M. McCallum, B. A.; J. M. Clark, M.A.; John Ferguson, B.A., M.B.; A. B. McCallum, B.A.; R. U. McPherson, B.A.; G. W. Holmes, B.A.; H. T. Machell, M.B.; J. Fulton, M.B.; W. H. B. Aikin, M.B.; J. McKenzie, B.A.; A. H. Wright, B.A., M.B.; S. G. T. Burton, B.A.; J. S. Duncan, M.B.; G. B. Smith, M.B.; A. McD. Haig, B.A.; J. McGillivray, B.A.; H. R. Fraser, B.A.; Wm. Farquharson, B.A.; Theodore S. Covernton, M.D.; R. Campbell Tibb, B.A.; A. J. McLeod, B.A.; P. H. Bryce, M.A.,M.B.; Alex. M. Campbell, B.A.; J. Mackay, B.A.; D. McKenzie, B. A.; John L. Campbell, B.A.; Donald McGillivray, M.A.; J. C. Tolmie, B.A.; Chas. A. Webster, B.A.; D. G. McQueen, B.A.; Robert Haddow, B.A.; W. P. McKenzie, B.A.; Francis Rae, M.D.; J. J. Kingsmill, B.A.; Joseph Morgan, M.A.; A. W. Wright, B.A.; James Gray, M.A.; Wm. Sanderson, B.A.; W. F. Freeman, M.B.; A. Collins, B.A.; D. W. Ross, B.A.; M. Stalker, M.B.; Geo. H. Kilmer, B.A.; J. L. Cox, B.A.; Wm. Williams, B.A.; H. T. Beck, M.A.; F. W. Hill, B.A.; Alex. Fraser, B.A.; J. H. Burnham, B.A.; C. J. Mickle, B.A.; Thos. Hodgins, M.A.; Angus MacMurchy, B.A.; John A. Paterson, M.A ; F. S. Cassells, B.A.; W. W. Vickers, B.A.; R. O. McCulloch, B.A.; Chas. T. Glass, B.A.; A. J. B. Lawrence, B.A.; W. H. P. Clement, B.A., LL.B.; John Andrew, B.A.; Douglas Armour, B.A.; John Douglas, B.A.; W. H. Blake, B.A.; H. H. Langton, B.A.; G. S. Wilgress, B.A.; W. S. Ormiston, B.A., LL.B.; W. E. Thomson, B.A.; T. H. Scott, M.A.; Ernest F. Gunther, B.A.; Edward J. Bristol, B.A.; Henry Wrıght, B.A.; C. R. Boulton, B.A.; James Baird, B.A.; Robert C. Donald, B.A.; Davidson Black, B.A.; H. A. Reesor, B.A.; T. D. Delamere, M.A.; J. H. Bowes, B.A.; G. S. Macdonald, B.A.; Gordon Hunter, B.A.; R. E. Kingsford, M.A., LL.B.; Edwin B. Brown, B.A.; G. G. S. Lindsay, B.A.; W. D. Gwynne, B.A.; Spencer Love, B.A.; C. R. W. Biggar, M.A.; Thos. Langton, M.A., LL.B.; W. F. McLean, B.A.; William F. W. Creelman, B.A.,LL.B.; Henry S. Osler, B.A.; A. H. Marsh, B.A.,LE.B.

London-W. P. R. Street, LL. B.; V. Cronyn, LL.B.; J. H. Gardiner, M.D.; A. Arnott, M.B.; Jonathan Robinson, M.B.; T. J. W. Burgess, M.B.; C. H. Britton, M.B.; E. R. Cameron, M.A.; Richard Hayley, B.A.; E. F. Essery, LL.B.; A. Greenlees, LL B.; Albert O. Jeffery, LL. B.; W. O. Proudfoot, B.A.; T. Macbeth, B.A.

Winnipeg-T. W. Taylor, M.A.; H. Dawson, M.A.; Jas. Fisher, M.A.; Horace E. Crawford, B.A.; J. D. Cameron, B.A.; Geo. E. Patterson, B.A.; L. C. Biggs, B.A.; A. E. Richards, M.A.; W. E. Perdue, B.A.; W. R. Mulock, B.A.; G. Davis, B.A.; H. Archibald, B.A.; J. A. M. Aikins, M.A.; J. H. Gilmour, B.A.; A. V. McCleneghan, LL.B.

Whitby-D. Ormiston, B.A.; Jno. E. Farewell, LL.B.; G. Y. Smith, LL.B.; James Rutledge, B.A.; H. B. Taylor, B.A.; L.
E. Embree, B.A.; T. G. Campleell, B.A ; W. O. Eastwood, B. A.; L. English, LL.B.

Oshawa-A. Henderson, B.A.; J. J. Grierson, B.A.; R. McGee, B.A.; S. H. Eastman, B.A.; D. S. Haig, M.B.; C. L. Crassweller B.A.
Kingiston-John Fletcher, M.A.; Adam Carruthers, B.A.; Edward H. Smythe, LL.D.; Robert Balmer, B.A.; C. R. Clarke, M.D.

Peterborough-E. B. Edwards, M.A.; Jas. Henry, LL.B.; Arthur Stevenson, B.A.; J. H. Long, M.A., LL.B.; W. A. Stratton, B.A., LL.B.

St. Catharines--W. J. Robertson, B.A., LL.B.; John Henderson, M.A.; E. J. McIntyre, B.A.; J. B. Gamble, B.A.; John McKeown, M.A.; J. S. Campbell, M.A.; Herbert Collier, B.A.; John Seath, B.A.; H. Yale, B.A.
Many more signatures could have been obtained if the movement had been started earlier. The rapidity with which all the signatures obtainable in places like London, St. Catherines, Kingston, Whitby, and Peterborough were procured was most encouraging. The list of names from Winnipeg includes some of our best known and most popular graduates. So long as the University is thus loyally remembered by her alumni without respect to locality, so long will her prosperity be assured.

The reasonableness of the proposed reform is so generally recognized by our graduates everywhere that the action of the Ottawa "bolters" seems inexplicable to the University public. If, however, it.could be shown that, as some surmise, there is subterranean communication between Toronto and Ottawa, that phenomenon would be accounted for.

Whatever happens, it is evident that our graduates are now becoming so numerous, and so earnest in their interest in the University, that their united opinion on measures of reform cannot well be opposed or ignored.

## "PAGAN VIRTUES AND PAG.IN THEORIES OF LIFE."

Last Saturday forenoon, when Professor Hutton entered the metaphysical room, which was crowdied with those desirous of hearing his lecture, he saw, in the front seats, a number of the young ladies, and several members of the Faculty, including Dr. Wilson; and behind these, a great multitide of every day undergrads., a few of whom were seeking standing-room in the rear. The lecture (to which the brief summary given below fails to do jdstice), was heard with close attention by the audience,--every one, we feel sure, bringing away with him something of the "joy of elevated thoughts."

It is possible within limits, the lecturer said, to mark some real difference in the virtues professed and practised by Pagans, and those developed under Christiauity. Character is the outcome of external facts, of the circumstances of the age that is; and of internal facts : the theory of life and the religion which is dominant.
The external facts gave to the Pagan virtues their public and social character. The man was no:hing without the state : in his own right he could not hold property even within the city walls, still less in other lands. Apart from his own state, his life was not safe ; as a prisoner of war he was naturally butchered, and if spared sold into slavery or turned into a gladiator; wherever he was a stranger he was naturally an enemy; hostis and hospes, "enemy" and "guest," come from the same roat and both mean "enemy"; "domi militiaeque" said the Romans for "at home and abroad"-" literally "at home and at war." Again, his fortunes depended on those of his own family : when Achan and Cyrsilus and Lycidas offended, their families suffered death with the offenders

Consequently patriotism outweighs friendship, as in the assassination of Julius Caesar, and treason is regarded as the blackest ot all crimes. Tyrannicide, for the same reason, is a duty, even if the tyrant be one's own brother. On the same principle, within the family, the bond to brothers and sisters is stronger than the bond to
the alien wife. Intaphernes' wife in Herodotus sacrifices her husband to her brother's safety. Such sanctity as belongs to marriage belongs to it in its political aspects, as a bulwark of the state; hence the mourning over Jephthahs' daughter. Athenian marriages were marriages of convenience, designed to keep the property in the family. A father gives his daughter to their nearest male relation or in default to whom he pleases.

Christianity, on the other hand, popularized the inner and personal virtues of righteousness rather than mere justice, of purity and hu. mility, of moral rather than physical courage.

Yet, at the same time, it did not come to destroy the old social virtues, but to fulñl, teaching a kinship wider than the kinship of fellow-citizenship, and co-extensive with Christendom. Its very complexity, therefore, in developing both the individual and personal, and also the public and social virtues more than Paganism had developed them, has obscured its perfectness and tempted fanatics to forget one side or the other, and lose the whole in the part. Public duties to the State have often suffered in Christian societies at the expense of personal or family duties : as in the history of the monks. Morals have become too transcendental, and truthfulness, for example, has been made an idol. The law of sacrifice and compensation is hard to elude, and in gaining one virtue another has not often been lost. Yet, after all, the social virtues of Paganism were not as truly social in spirit as the same virtues in Christian societies ; rather they were forced upon ancient communities by enlightened self-interest only, not by an unselfish religion. And hence patriotism and selfishness are found curiously blended among the old Greeks in the same breasts; in the Spartans above all.
Again, the internal facts of life, the prevailing theories of life's meaning, leant their own colour to the virtues of Paganism. The religion of the masses was a rude and boisterous nature-worship, clouded by a deep fear of the jealousy of the gods derived from experience of life's hardships ; a fear which found vent in Molochworship and human sacrifices, and later, in the sacrifice of treasures and the blood of bulls and goats. The king threw away his signetring ; the victorious general heard with relief of the death by disease of his only son. In the educated classes who had risen above the indiscriminate worship of their own instincts and of outer nature, may be discerned a pessimism not unlike that of modern sceptics, of Arthur Clough, George Eliot and Frederick Amiel. Eschylus deifies the power without showing the justice of Zeus; Euripides is sure of nothing; Sophocles alone seems to trace a purpose and a compensation in suffering, but the cloud is more manifest than the silver lining.
Such being the Pagan religion and theory of life, the virtues evolved from them have no supernatural character, but are the spontaneous expression of human nature as it contemplates this world alone, and endeavors to work out its own happiness, as it best may, against the heavy odds. The character of the State forced men into co-operation, and gave to their actions a social aspect, but the character of their creed fostered selfishness, and made their motives selfish. The despotism of the State and the egoism of the individual went hand in hand.

The natural spontanenus character of their virtues, or its selfish and self-regarding character, is traceable in the several senses in which they used the word "virtue." Sometimes it is natural human kindness ; indulgence to everyone, self and others: this is said to be chiefly found in the young; the old are too soured and hope" less to retain it. Christianity alone gave to old age a dignity and ${ }^{2}$ hope, out of which virtue could blossom. In the same way the vices on which the Greeks are emphatic, are natural and spontaneous : the arrogance and indolence, for example, of youth, both physical and intellectual ; a vice which was a factor in their state politics, but which, with the growth of less violent ideals, has dwindled down so as to be imperceptible outside Universities.
Sometimes the word virtue is used to mean "justice :" whatever is just is right ; neither more nor less ; the supernatural grace
mercy has not yet appeared and is represented by bare justice ; forgiveness, if shown, proceeds from a well-reasoned and dispassionate sense of what is fair : we must be merciful because we should have done the same ourselves under the same circumstances. Dean Mansel, from his classical training, used to maintain that this was the true basis of forgiveness. Yet a further use of the word virtue is for intellectual force. Antiphon, an unscrupulous politician, is "second to none in virtue," i.e., in force of intellect. Socrates also, by example and by precept, resolved virtue into philosophising. Prudence again is described sometimes as the virtue of all others. The pessimism of Euripides and Sophocles breathes this thought. All lofty ideals, all enthusiasm, all ambition, are pitfalls into which a man is tempted by hisimperious instincts, only to ruin himself in the end and learn that a simple unheroic life is wisest.

Finally, their great men, though they may escape "the last infirmity of noble minds," the love of fame, never escape spiritual pride and self-righteousness. Pagan humility is intellectual only, not moral ; of the truer humility which-like, yet unlike, the slave at a Roman triumph-whispers to a man even in the hour of spiritual exaltation, that he is an unprofitable servant, they know nothing. Plato's ideal man is self-engrossed and self-complacent, politely indifferent to less lofty natures. Aristotle's "high-minded man "idolises himself and is a Pharisee. A French writer fancies he can trace the Christian spirit in Seneca: as a parallel to "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," he quotes "Forgive the world; they are all fools." The tone of intellectual pride rings in the pagan version and destroys the parallel.
"If any evidence were wanted," says an acute Saturday Reviewer, "to show the superiority of the Scriptural over the classical theory of life, it can be derived from a comparison of the self-consciousness and self-complacency of the Gironde, who formed themselves on Plutarch's lives, with the morose earnestness of the Puritans of the Long Parliament."

## HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting was held in Moss Hall last Tuesday. It was decided to have the nomination of next year's officers next week, and their election on the 3oth. T. C. L. Armstrong, M.A., LL.B., read a paper dealing with the origin of our social system and the historical aspect of communism. Society as we now find it has been very slowly evolved, and bears many relics of the past. Most of our laws, religious beliefs, and national prejudices are the survivals of an undeveloped social state, and can be best understood if traced back to their origin. The patriarchal system is the oldest form of society. In it, however, there was an absence of liberty ; there were no contracts, for custom ruled; no wills, for property was in common; no laws, for the Pater was absolute. The common meal, associated with the ceremonies of a common religion, was the great bond of union in those families. Permanent nations were impossible till the clan system was broken up, for under it allegiance was always given to the head of the family, not to the State, and invariably reverted to the Pater when external pressure was withdrawn. The Greeks were united by a common religion, and this union led to the development of intellect, oratory, and political science; but there was no central authority, and therefore no lasting bond of union. In Rome there was a common religion, and the clan system had been broken up. Rome was consequently the first example of the real state. But when the Romans conquered many outlying countries without breaking up their clans or suppressing their religions, it only required a weakening of the central power for all these countries to revert to their original state. Before the fall of Rome, Christianity had been adopted, and all mediæval history is the tale of the struggles between the germinal Church and germinal nations. Gradually, however, the kingdom Was developed after the model of the old family, and the divine
right of kings is only a relic of the absolute authority of the Pater.

The subject has fought successfully against the tyranny of rulers, but has now to contend with that of property. The great problem is to remedy the evils of inequality without taking away the liberty of the individual. Labor combinations destroy liberty. Communism destroys liberty and discourages industry. Communes based on religious fervor have been the most successful, but even they have always failed. When the old monks could not succeed in establishing communism in the world they retired into their monasteries, round each of which villages sprang up. in which civil liberty was first developed. In the most liberal States co-operation is now supplanting communism. Any successful attempt to remedy existing evils must be founded on pure science rather than on religion.

At the next meeting, Mr. Alfred Jury will read a paper on the labor question.

> Y. M. С. A.

Mr. Studd has been here and is away. His visit was enjoyed by every one who had the pleasure of coming in contact with him, whether in the meetings or elsewhere. His simple and pointed way of speaking, the matter of his speech and the open earnestness that always possessed the man-an earnestness which never flagged throughout the week he was here, though two and in some cases three meetings were held daily,-were recommendations sufficient to account for the well-filled hall that invariably awaited him.

Quite a number of the undergraduate members of the association assembled at the Union Station on Thursday morning to see him off. He was bound for Queen's University, where he expected to hold a short mission.

Any one anxious to join one of the classes for Bible study, organized at the suggestion of Mr. Wishard, may do so by handing his name to Mr. C. C. Owen or the secretary of the association. These groups meet once a week, and wherever tried it has been found that the work done is exceedingly satisfactory.

Mr. A. H. Young conducted the regular meeting on Thursday afternoon. The subject of his remarks was "Work," based on John 9: 4.

It is hoped the new hall will be well filled on Thurs day next, when Mayor Howland is to give an address.

## PERSONALS.

W. F. W. Creelman, B.A., has been appointed Examiner in Mental Science in the University of Trinity College. W. F. W. C,'s card also appears among our legal advertisements this week.
T. C. Milligan, B.A., is the candidate of the Inside Party for the presidency of the Literary Society.
T. C. Robinette, B.A., is the candidate of the Outside Party for the same office.

## Gumuminuliunt.

## MEDALS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

## To the Editor of the Varsity.

SIr,-The recent action of the College Council in restoring, in spite of the well-known opposition of the undergraduates, the medals and scholarships abolished by the senate, must be met by
a renewed opposition on our part, continued till success crowns our efforts.

The arguments for and against these prizes have been given often before, but they must be iterated and re-iterated in every possible shape. The economical and intellectual aspects have been amply treated by some recent correspondents of the VARSITY, but there are come other phases of the question not yet fully presented.

The opponents of prizes do not deny that some intellectual benefits may be had from them, but these are more than counterbalanced by the intellectual evils' resulting from them. But even if the opposite were the case, we would only need to throw in the moral evils to turn the scale again. To some extent, certainly, prizes have an inspiriting effect on those who win, but they also have a very dispiriting effect on those who lose ; and these are the majority. And while these baits exist, many a student who would choose differently, is forced by outside influences to work for something which he knows to be harmful.

The competitive principle of these prizes is bad in itself. The failure of competition in labor is becoming plainer every day and it cannot but have the same result in educational matters. The only true competition should be between the student at one date and the same student at a later date, and, moreover, the progress shown by such a comparison will do more to spur on a student than any scholarship or medal.

There is another way in which prizes affect education. Educators to be worth anything must be enthusiastic ; if they are not, they will rely on stimuli outside of themselves, to stir up in their pupils that love of knowledge which it should be their duty to impart and foster. If our present educators have become so accustomed to these aids that they cannot do without them, then by all means let us get some who will. There are three generations of educators ; those of the first, who drove their pupils, are dead; those of the second, who lure theirs, are dying; those of the third, who lead theirs, are growing up to manhood; and I hope to be present at the retirement of the second, and at the coming of age of the last.

Yours very truly,
F. F. Macpherson.

March, 17 th, 1886.

## 7o the Editor of the Varsity.

DEAR SIR,-A circular which is headed "University College," and signed by the college registrar, and which therefore appears to be of an official character, has been sent out within the past few days requesting subscriptions with a view to the founding of a medal in commemoration of the late president of the college, and to be given for proficiency in classics. There are these evidences that the circular is an official document. There is no statement, it is true, that this action has been taken in consequence of a resolution of the college council, that the founding of such a medal, is desirable. But whether the movement has been inaugurated simply by enthusiastic individuals who have taken upon themselves to proceed under the auspices of the college, or whether it is sanctioned by the council, it is not a movement which should be approved of by those who have the interest of the college at heart.
After years of discussion and untiring effort on the part of those who were convinced that the abolition of medals would be in the interests of higher education, that step was, so far as the University Arts courses are concerned, taken by the University Sen ate, a body never overhasty in adopting important reforms. One would be safe in saying that the opinion of the great majority of those connected with or interested in the Provincial University and College endorses the Senate's action. But it appears that an attempt is now being made to counter balance this abolition of the University Arts medals by the establishment of a system of medals in connection with the college, and so to nullify the good effects which were sure to attend the University Senate's action.

It is not necessary to repeat at length the arguments which have been so often and so forcibly urged against the medal system. The competition of medals begets an ungenerous rivalry which does not exist under the simple and reasonable system of ranking by classes. And this is not the only bad effect which the medal system has upon our undergraduates. The tendency of such a system is to divert the attention from the true end of education, development in the fullest sense, to the medals themselves, from the useful to the ornamental,from the really valuable to the practically worthless. Our students under the medal system are too much like the captives in the den, of whom Plato tells us, who, bound hand and foot, beheld only the shadows and saw not the realities. Further, it is by no means an invariable rule that the best men are the medalists. And even if it were the rule, that the medals were bestowed upon those who most deserved them, there would still be in most cases at least an injustice, for the striking distinction between those who are medalists and those who are not medalists in a class-a distinction to which the public attaches considerable importance-is rarely if even justified by the real facts of the case.

It cannot even be said of medals, as it may perhaps of scholarships, that they are of real benefit to the student, that from them "there may flow a slight trace of help to the young heroic soul struggling for higher things."

It will no doubt be urged that unless University College holds out strong inducements in the way of medals it cannot compete with other colleges throughout the Province. But there are other and better means of attracting students to our halls. A few devoted and enthusiastic teachers might fill our class-rooms as no system of medals and scholarships could.

If private individuals are determined to found medals they cannot perhaps be very well opposed, but it is not necessary that the faculty should exert themselves to perpetuate the medal system.

It may perhaps be said that a protest against the founding of a medal does notcome with a good grace from one who may have been so fortunate or unfortunate as to have obtained a medal at the close of his University course. But there are those among the University medalists who are candid enough to confess their belief that they would now be better men had not their vision been blinded by the prospect of scholarships and medals.

Yours truly,
H. L. DUNN.

## A DREAM OF ATLANTIS.

## To the Editor of the Varsity.

SIR :-There is always something unsatisfactory about dreams and the one described in last week's Varsity is not an exception in this respect. There is one part I should like to refer to. $1+$ is that which deals with the tuition in the language of Atlantis (or English). So far as I know, no one has ever told the lecturer in English that his lectures are not appreciated. Such being the case, it is scarcely fair to attack him in a newspaper. If the dissatisfaction were general (but it is not), the lecturer would, I am sure, at least listen politely to any complaint, and try to make his lectures more attractive. At present he is working at a disadvantage. Not only is he doing the work of two men in English, but he has to lecture to three years in Italian. As though these were not enough to keep him busy, he has lately been saddled with Gothic.

These things should all be taken into consideration. Besides, it is quite evident that he is actuated by a desire to do the best that he can for us. This, too, counts for a good deal.

Any mistakes that the gentleman may have made, have, I am sure, been made unwittingly.

With these few words of comment, I am,
Yours truly,
A. H. YOUNG.

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## Chnreh Notices

## REV. DR. wILD

BOND STREET CHURCH

Hours of service-II a.m. and 7 p.m.
JNITARIAN CHURCH, Jarvis Street. Rev. Hilary Bygrave, Pastor
Hours of service-II a.m. and 7 p.m. Sutjects for Sunday, March 2rth.
Morning-"Optimism."
Evening-"The Unity of the Spirit."
Strangers welcome at both services.
CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Manly Benson, Pastor. Service at II a.m. and 7 p.m.
March 2rth-
II a.m.-" Temptations."
Disappoirtmebtd I thought"; or, Naaman's Disappoirtment.
Full choir, Corpet and organ accompaniment,

## Di-Vausifits.

TO A PEDAGOGUE-BENEDICT.
Dear Cipher, you've naught left to sigh for, Since units unite when they marry.
And you will be quick to see why, for
You add two, and have one to carry.
But when you behold the first baby'Twere well in your adding to tarry, The arithmetic changes; and maybe
You'll add one, and have two to carry. - The Rambler.

They engaged a new porter at the Lahr House last night. He was an active young man, with Hibernian type of countenance and large, horny hands about the size of hams. Everybody liked him, he was so cheerful, so obliging, and so rigorously and scrupulously exact in carrying out every order given him.
On last Tuesday Mr. J. B. Johnson, the vice-president of the Omaha Chilled Plow Works, put up at the hotel. Mr. Johnson is a very dignified and polished gentleman, and extremely particular about his room and service. That evening a very extraordinary thing occured. Some say it was about nine o'clock ; others place it as late as half-past ten. At any rate, somewhere near that time Mr . Johnson was amazed to see the door of his room open and a man stepin.
"Who the devil are you ?" asked Mr. Johnson.
"Oi am the porter," replied the stranger, deliberately removing his coat and rolling up his sleeves.
"Well, what is the meaning of this singular intrusion ?" inquired Mr. Johnson.
Thomas did not reply. He spit upon his hands, executed a rapid fantastic jig and leaped suddenly upon the astonished guest.
"Help! Murder !" bellowed Mr. Johnson, " crazy man killing me!"
"Shut up, ye dhirty spalpeen !" exclaimed Thomas, obtaining a firm grip upon the bust of his trousers and propelling him rapidly out of the room, "It's none ot the loikes of ye that's wanted in a dacent house."
" But, my good man !" gasped Mr. Johnson, his words coming by excited jerks, "there is some mistake! Let me explain!"
"Niver a word, ye hoodlum!" replied Thomas, rushing him toward the stairs; "we're on to ye: The house has had ye spotted!'
The next instant, the guests in the corridor were amazed to see two figures, one spluttering and kicking and the other grim and determined, shoot down the staircase, plunge through the lobby and disappear into the outer darkness. In a few minutes Thomas returned panting and rolling down his sleeves.
"What in the name of heaven were you doing ?" asked Mr. Weekly, the proprietor, when he recovered sufficieatly from the shock to speak.
"I was firing that dhirty blackguard Johnson," replied Thomas.
"Firing him? Hold me, somebody! Who put such an infernal idea into your head?"
"Here she is," replied Thomas, with an injured air, holding the slate before the proprietor's eyes.
"By-the-great-horn-spoon," gasped
Mr . Weekly, and swooned away.
This was what he read:
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A New York paper contained a very severe criticism on a book. Not long afterwards the author met the editor at a social gathering.
"So you are the newspaper fellow who made my book out to be so bad," said the exasperated author.
"Excuse me, that's what you, yourself, did for it," replied the editor.

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