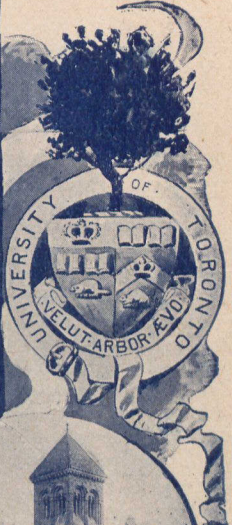
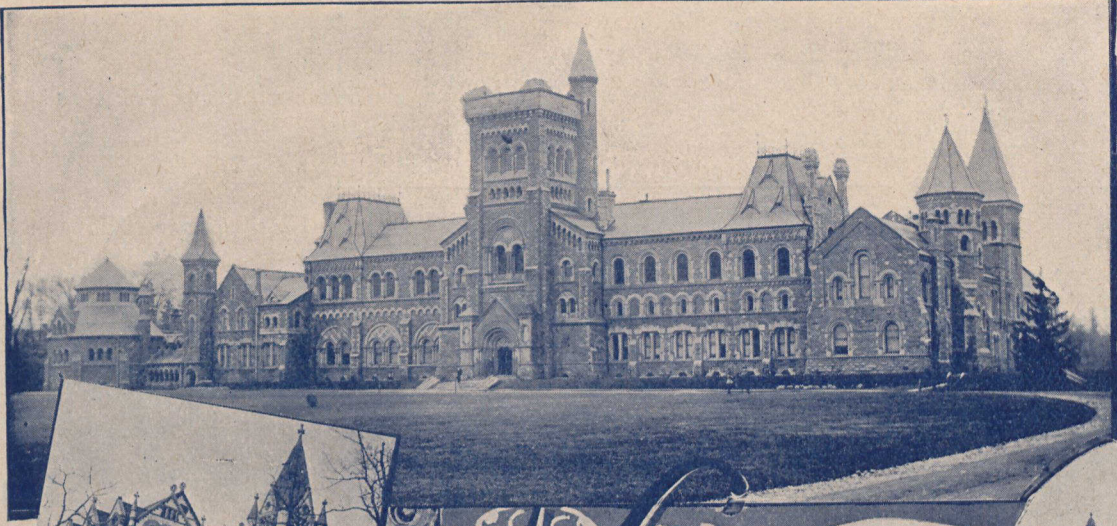


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THE VARSITY

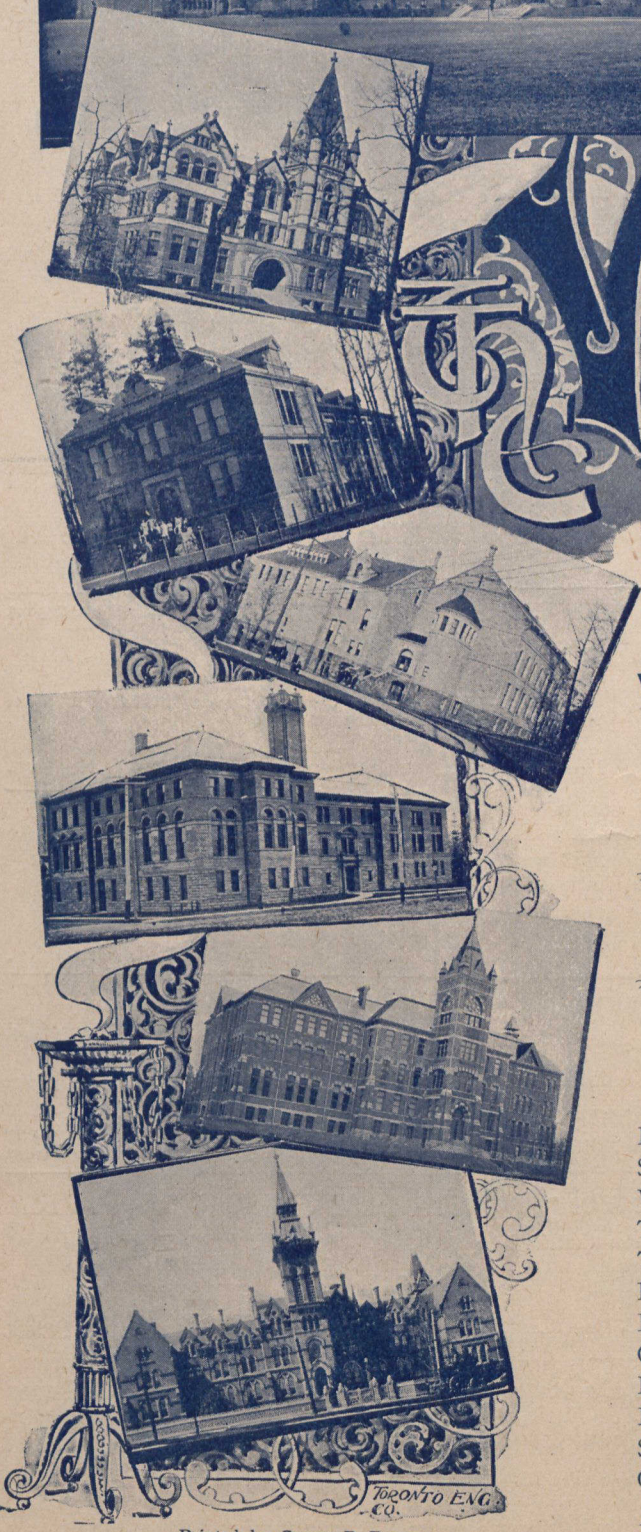
VOL. XVII. No. 12

University of Toronto.

TORONTO, JANUARY 20TH, 1898.

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THE VARSITY.

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XVII.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, JANUARY 20, 1898.

No. 12.

THE LIFE OF BISHOP STRACHAN,

FIRST PRESIDENT OF KING'S COLLEGE.

NOTE.—In preparing these articles on the lives of the past Presidents of the University of Toronto lack of space demanded that they should be only sketches. I have, however, endeavored to trace the history of our University from its inception under Bishop Strachan, through its development under Dr. McCaul, to the time of the death of Sir Daniel Wilson.

The facts as here presented have, to my knowledge, never been collected before, and it is hoped that these sketches will prove interesting.

The Right Rev. John Strachan was born at Aberdeen in Scotland on the 12th April, 1778. He obtained his preliminary education at the grammar school of his native town, and proceeded at the age of fifteen to take his university course at King's College, Aberdeen.

It was with great difficulty that his father sent him to school, for his position as foreman in the stone-quarries of Aberdeen was barely sufficient to support his wife and family of four; however, the father and mother saved and denied enough to allow their son to pursue his studies. An accident shortly after John Strachan's matriculation carried away his father, and the son was left to fight his own battles; and this he did with his characteristic tenacity of purpose so successfully that he obtained his degree of A.M. at King's College, and also took a course of study in theology in St. Andrew's University. All this he accomplished solely by his own efforts, and, moreover, he saved enough from his earnings by tutoring and working during vacation to at least supply the "staff of life" for his mother and her family, whose whole support he now was.

After completing his course at St. Andrew's, Bishop Strachan obtained a fairly remunerative position as teacher of the parish school at Kettle and was most successful there. He had the faculty of putting his whole life and energy into his work, and also the power of gauging his pupils' ability and capacity for work. This, he himself thinks, was the reason of his success as a teacher then and later. He had under his care at Kettle Sir David Wilkie, the great artist, and the latter affirmed that it was to his young schoolmaster that he owed his success, as he was induced by Dr. Strachan to seriously study art.

We will now leave the subject of this sketch at Kettle and consider the state of education in Upper Canada at this time.

After the American War of Independence a great number of U. E. Loyalists removed to Canada and settled in different parts. Upper Canada fortunately received its share of this welcome class of immigrants—welcome because of their firm allegiance to Britain, as well as their general superiority to the usual immigrants.

Many of the U. E. Loyalists had received a fairly good education and were anxious that there should be some provision made for the education of their sons, as well as the children of the community, without having to send them to the United States, as was then necessary. Indeed, it was this patriotic feeling that was at the root of the establishing of higher education in Upper Canada.

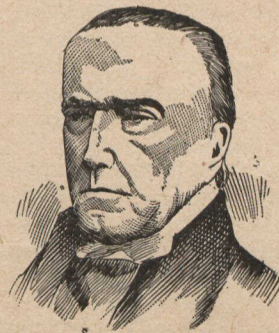
The U. E. Loyalists through Governor Simcoe, advised also by the government of Upper Canada as constituted under the Constitutional Act of 1791, secured a

Royal Charter which granted 500,000 acres of "the waste lands of the Crown" towards endowing grammar schools and a provincial university; this was in 1797.

When the Charter was granted it became necessary to obtain a suitable teacher, and with that object in view word was sent to a certain man in Scotland to obtain one.

Dr. Chalmers, the famous theologian, and Thos. Duncan, the mathematician, both received and declined the offer, which was finally accepted by Dr. Strachan, chiefly, we believe, because he was disappointed in not receiving an appointment in the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Strachan arrived at Kingston on the last day of the eighteenth century and found a very distressing state of affairs awaiting him. The head of the project of the University scheme, Governor Simcoe, had been recalled, to be replaced by a man who took no particular interest in higher education; and thus the bright prospects of this young fellow were dashed to the ground; and he himself was so disappointed that, had he had the means, he would undoubtedly have at once returned to Scotland, but his twenty shillings were hardly sufficient.



BISHOP STRACHAN.

He, however, obtained the situation as tutor to the children of a number of families and contrived to fill this office acceptably for three years, and at the same time he prepared himself for the ministry in the Church of England for which he was ordained in 1803.

He then removed to Cornwall to take charge of the English Church there. He also established his famous "Cornwall Grammar School," and taught his pupils as well as attended to his parochial duties.

At Cornwall he married the daughter of Dr. Wood, and had by her a numerous family. Before he left Cornwall he had conferred upon him the two degrees of LL.D. and D.D. by the two Universities of his native town.

In 1812 the rectory of York became vacant and Dr. Strachan received the appointment and removed to York in the same year. Here he found his services much in demand, for the war of 1812 had broken out and men of ability were somewhat scarce.

Dr. Strachan took a very considerable part in this war and contributed in no small degree towards the defence of his country. He was chiefly instrumental in the establishing of the "Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada," a society which is said to have aided as much in the defence of the province as half-a-dozen regiments. He

also acted as chaplain to the troops, and, according to Dent, "as a prudent counsellor was of much service to Gen. Brock."

In recognition of his services to his country, and general capacity, both as a minister and diplomat, he was appointed to the Executive Council in 1818, and to the Legislative Council in 1820.

Bishop Strachan, however, considered his appointment as a recognition of the necessity of a representative of the Church of England in matters of state and valued it accordingly; and here we find him at all times the champion of the Anglican Church in all affairs ecclesiastical, political and educational. He was, moreover, no sincere advocate merely, but an energetic, one might almost say fanatical supporter of the "rights" of his church. He spared himself in no way—nor his opponents either. In the question of the Clergy Reserves he fought the battles of the Church of England with the utmost vehemence and untiring energy, and for this reason, namely, that he considered the established church of the motherland—the church that had parliamentary representation and also reigned supreme in all educational affairs—the established church of Upper Canada. This one fact will explain many of his actions that to day appear to us somewhat absurd; such as, for example, his endeavors to parcel Upper Canada into parishes, and also his unsuccessful attempt to make education denominational in the province and subscription to the thirty-nine articles a necessary condition of being allowed to obtain a higher education. Such things seem to us absurd, no doubt, but if we consider the motive that governed the Rev. Doctor's actions, and also try to put ourselves in his position, we cannot help but admire him as a man. We cannot but admire his steadfastness of purpose in the pursuit of what he deemed right; and if there is no other virtue we can ascribe to him, we can at least say his actions were supremely consistent with his opinions.

Sacred and secular matters interested him in about equal degrees for many years; and of his preaching, let it be remarked, "without any pretensions to eloquence, he had always something fresh to say—something which his hearers recognized as wise and practical." (Dent.)

In 1828 he became Archdeacon of York. In 1836 he resigned his seat in the Legislative Council, and finally in 1839 he became Bishop of Toronto. G. W. Ross, '99.

NOTE—Bishop Strachan was never president of the University of Toronto, but he was so intimately connected with the founding and development of King's College, the immediate precursor of the University of Toronto, that it was thought wise to include him in these sketches.

(To be Continued.)

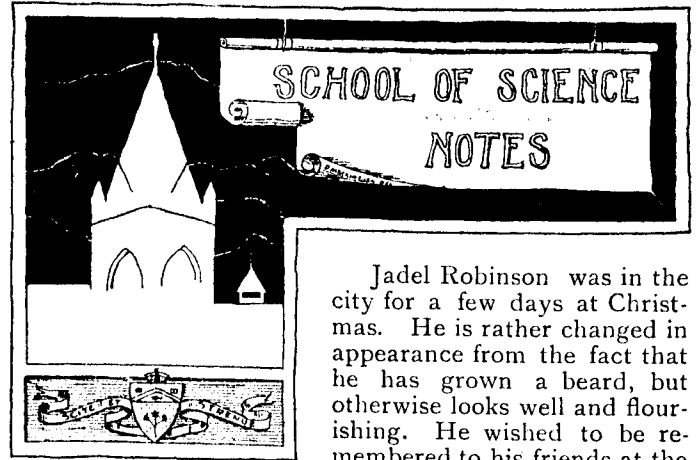
THE CHESS CLUB DOWNED.

The Chess Club played the return match with the Y.M.C.A. Club on Saturday, and met a veritable Waterloo. The Club has however no reason to feel despondent, as their opponents were without exception old and reliable players.

The score was as follows:

Prof Mavor	0.1.	Mr. Saunders	1.0.
Mr. Narraway	1.½.	" Punchard	0.½.
" Hunter	1.0.	" Branton	0.1.
" Brethour	0.0.	" Fish	1.1.
" Brown, F.E.	0.0.	" Eddis	1.1.
" Brown, W. G.	1.1.	" Musgrove	0.0.
" Shenstone, N.	1.0.	" Willans	0.1.
" Shenstone, S.	1.½.	" Powell	0.½.
" Keith	1.0.	" Stark	0.1.

The following six lost both games, although only after a hard struggle: Groves, Forbes, Alexander, Benoliel, Auld.



Jadel Robinson was in the city for a few days at Christmas. He is rather changed in appearance from the fact that he has grown a beard, but otherwise looks well and flourishing. He wished to be remembered to his friends at the School.

Roy Stovel will be back from Bermuda in a few days, and we may expect to see him quite often at the S. P. S. He is going to take his old place in the tournament at the gymnasium.

G. E. Stacey was seen at Peterboro' during the holidays. He still has the insurance agency, and says he is making a good thing of it. The work seems to agree with him anyway, for he looks well.

Mr. Smillie waits till the vacation to show his lady friends around the School. Why couldn't he do it when we are all here to help him explain the wonderful things that are to be seen?

At the beginning of the term, the report went around that Klondike Piper had really gone to the golden shores of the Yukon. As he did not return to work we began to compose ourselves for the shock when the news of his having been starved or frozen should come. However, about a week later he turned up with his same old smile, and entirely innocent of any such intentions of deserting his post in the chemical laboratory.

H. V. Haight, '97 grad., in a letter from Nova Scotia to one of the boys, says that the mining industry is booming there, but supposes that we do not hear much about it while there are so many of our own mines to interest us. He recommends some of us, nevertheless, to go down there for a job, instead of confining all our attentions to the country north and west of here.

John Shaw has, with the utmost audacity, defied the rules of the School, by not returning from vacation on the appointed day, in fact he was one week late! Such designed neglect can lead but to one place. Oh, John, take warning.

The prospectors' course of lectures and practical work has again commenced. This course is, no doubt, of great value to those who have never had any experience in prospecting, and know very little about it. When they have finished the six weeks' work they will, in their own opinion, know all about mining.

Although wishing these gentlemen success in their work, we have one complaint to make against them. When last year's batch of prospectors left the School, some of them went out West, where they sought employment, giving as their qualification for a position that they were graduates of the School of Practical Science. To substantiate this statement they produced their prospectors' certificate. It is needless to say they were found incompetent to fill the responsible positions that they obtained, and as a consequence, the gentlemen who engaged them have formed a very poor opinion of the School of Science graduates. This is, we will all admit, a very deplorable state

of affairs, and we hope that some way may be devised so that the bona fide graduates may not be handicapped, or thought incompetent by the actions of the prospectors.

In the Christmas number of VARSITY and also in the '98 Year Book, there appeared a drawing of a portion of the main corridor of the University building that deserves special mention. Nearly every one mistakes it for a photograph. It is a drawing by one of the graduates of the School of Science, Mr. A. H. Harkness, B.A.Sc. There are also a number of photographs by Mr. Keele, B.A.Sc., Fellow in Architecture at the School.

It is again our pleasant duty to record the marriage of a member of the Faculty. And we would wish him not only "A Happy New Year," but very many happy years.

ROSEBRUGH-WHYBORN—At Syracuse, N. Y., Thursday, Dec. 30th, by the Rev. R. Calthrop, Thos. Reeve Rosebrugh, M.A., lecturer in Electrical Engineering, School of Practical Science, Toronto, eldest son of A. M. Rosebrugh, M.D., to Jessie Æolia Whyborn, A.B., only daughter of D. T. Whyborn, M.D., Syracuse.

WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT THE YEAR BOOK.

VARIOUS OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS CRITICS.

VICTORIA REGINA—"I shall immediately have a copy placed in the British Museum."

F. H. BARRON—"A second edition of the 'Lives of the Saints.' No Sunday School library should be without a copy."

J. T. A. SMITHSON—"The advertisements are unsurpassed."

DR. DANIEL CLARK (Queen Street West)—"I consider all the cases to be quite hopeless."

H. H. NARRAWAY—* —! — **!! ***!!! ———

C. M. CARSON—"It has an admirable air of truth about it." (See page 83, *Torontonensis*.)

C. AULD—"It rivals Munchhausen for lies." (See page 36.)

THE FACULTY OF QUEEN'S—"It is a splendid free advertisement for us."

THE LADIES—"The Editors have evidently taken great pains to have us *suit*ed."

W. M. MARTIN—"An admirable prospectus of Residence."

LI HUNG CHANG (looking at the jokes)—"How old are you?"

MUFTI HILL—"See how many times the pictures of us Residence men are in there, to say nothing of our rooms! Why, sir, that alone is sufficient to make it a most magnificent work of art."

BURRIS GAHAN—"Dulce est disipere in loco."—*Horace*.

SESAME (patting *Torontonensis* on the head)—"Never mind, little fellow, cheer up; perhaps you'll be just as great and famous as I am some day."

SHADES OF LETHE (in chorus)—"Welcome beloved brother; here shall thy spirit find repose."

"TORONTONENSIS": A CRITICISM.

Anyone who picks up a copy of the '98 Year Book and rapidly turns over its pages cannot but say that the volume is a splendid souvenir of our university life. There is a delightful roominess and largeness about it, there is an utter absence of skimping and crowding, which extends even to the advertisements. The type-work is excellent. There is a perfect wealth of illustrations—scores of photographs of college officers, boards, clubs, committees of all sorts; almost all the more important men and women of the University are to be found there. Picture follows picture, of the college and its surroundings—beautiful little cuts of its architecture and carving, some of them scarcely to be equalled for taste and fineness of workmanship in the best publications Canada has as yet produced; and these models of the photographic and engraving art are perfectly seconded by the work of the clever artists, Messrs. O'Higgins and Brigden. One might well pause over the various illustrations, not only over the faces of so many we shall never want to forget, but also over the old gargoyles of the eaves, the carvings of frieze and wainscoting, the immortal dragon, the arches and colonnades caught from the most artistic standpoint and in the clearest light, the college tower through the trees of the park, the vignettes and outline sketches which introduce and accompany the many departments of the volume. These rest and delight the eye at every turn of the pages. Indeed, one can hardly feel how good this phase of "*Torontonensis*" is unless one has looked through many Year Books. In not a few of the best of them we find little but the photographs of the members of the various fraternities, the reading matter being made up principally of their rolls and statistics. The two chapters which consented to enter the '98 Year Book have taken very little space, and have only added to the charming appearance of the whole. Perhaps it would have been wiser and in better taste to have omitted the photographs of the rooms of Residence men, some of us being tempted to indulge in irreverent mirth by these glimpses into our college Olympus; yet it is not improbable that we are prejudiced in this matter, and we had best be silent. But taking this phase of the volume as a whole, it is astonishingly good, and if the congratulations of one who was thoroughly hostile to the method of appointing the Year Book Committee and to its general complexion, be of any value, the business management and whoever helped in the work are very welcome to them; may they have all success in the enterprise—however handicapped by their friends they may be. Without wishing to blow the college trumpet too loudly, I think I may say without hesitation that as a pictorial souvenir of the best four years of our lives, "*Torontonensis*" surpasses any Year Book I have ever seen.

Let us turn now to the editorial and literary features of the volume, and before going any farther I may as well say now that there is no great love between some of the members of the board and myself. In this review I may be venting petty malice and small revenge instead of defending others from it. I would ask no one to accept any critical stricture of mine as worth anything unless it is substantiated by quotation from the volume itself. Also, we must not be hypercritical and fault-finding. The ship of the Argonauts was probably deficient in many ways.

Looking into other Year Books we find, if they be not of the kind I mentioned above, a steady play of nonsense, of kindly wit which pokes fun at the little eccentricities of the men of the class without running the danger of wounding sensitive feelings. It is often not too brilliant or cultured, for we are only undergraduates and no precious geniuses, but it is almost everywhere apparent that it is the best to be had, and above all, the jolly overflowings of

a gentlemanly spirit. It cannot be that there are no differences of opinion in American universities, no fierce little controversies, no bitter election fights; but one may look in vain for reflections of unfriendliness and enmity in their Year Books. These squabbles may seem quite serious affairs to us while we are in the midst of them, but they will soon be forgotten in the struggle of life. In a few years they will be in our memories like the snow-ball battles of public-school days. So then, in a book which will be kept by many of us as long as we keep any book, which will tell our friends for all time what we were and stood for in our university life, there should be no little thoughtfulness exercised in the way we are spoken of and speak of one another. We can do our fighting in the Literary Society and in the college journal, but in the Year Book there should be at least the appearance of friendliness. If a nice thing can be said about a man, by all means let us say it; if we can say something nasty, let us neglect the opportunity. We are not at all likely to be too dignified and solemn. The crackling of thorns under a pot is not commonly absent in our student productions. We can "roast" a man and yet do it in such a way that the victim will enjoy it more than anyone else. This has been done too rarely in "Torontonensis."

Let us proceed to look through the volume from the standpoint of the reader. The amount of work which has been done, the searching of records, the investigation of the affairs of the various societies, the hundred and one lists which have evidently been ransacked must show the most superficial thinker that there has been a very great deal of irksome work expended upon the book, and we should criticise very gently, remembering that we and the majority of the year stood aloof. What few inaccuracies and omissions there are are very pardonable. Every small "biography" meant much more painstaking and bother than appears on the surface, and to find fault is so much easier than to do better.

The volume opens with graceful greetings from the editor. Then there are lists of the senate and faculty, and college history, necessarily prosy, but cut as short as possible. Following this come the individual lives, which we will pass over for the present, lists of class societies, which are not troubled by wearisome details, and then the thousand little notices of student organizations which are so well supplemented by photographs. It is all very admirably done and reflects great credit upon the editor. But the literary portion of the book especially from the standpoint of the year, is as amazingly weak. Miss MacDonald's finely-told little story alone represents '98—if I except the "humorous" features. It has been thought by some that our year made its best showing in this phase of college activity, but "Torontonensis" would destroy any such illusion. Even the stories and poems by men of other years are certainly not up to the standard they have themselves set in VARSITY. In justice to the editor it should be said that the length of the lives—and Heaven forbid that any of us should have been cut off in our prime—made it impossible to print anything but a fraction of the work he had accepted. The choice, with a very few exceptions, can hardly be praised. I think I may say too, in justice to those whose work does not there appear, that I know of no one in '98 not on the Year Book Committee who contributed to the literary department. Whether there was a lack of class spirit and college patriotism, or whether there was ridicule and disgust at the way the Committee was appointed is an open question. If Messrs. Gunn, Shotwell and myself had by some method known only to ourselves got ourselves upon the first Rugby team, and had then magnanimously asked Messrs. Hobbs, Boyd and Burnside to assist us in making the team a success by playing as extra men, I fear they would have acted very

unkindly indeed. Our generous exhortations would have been in vain. But surely there is no less need to have capability judge the man on an editorial board than on a Rugby club, and the qualifications for such positions are markedly dissimilar. It may have been reprehensible on our part to indulge in cruel mirth at the expense of the bulls let loose in the china shop, but had we tried to drive them out we should have been harshly criticised. Suffice it to say there has been much breaking of fine china.

I spoke a few moments ago of the "humorous" features—"Just for Fun." Passing over the "Busted Phenom. Club," and the "Seven Wonders of '98"—the like of which *jeux d'esprit* we have not seen since we edited a journal in the second form of the High School, we turn rapidly over to the gem, or rather galaxy of this department. It is a series of reasons why various men of the year came to Varsity. There are only some twenty-seven in all, and in such picked epigrams we need not be surprised to find wit at a razor edge. I quote, omitting the names—for these unfortunate gentlemen have been given publicity enough. One came to Varsity "to look pretty," another "to fall in love," another "to be a peach," "just to walk," "to play the game."—But why don't you *laugh*? Surely it is funny to behold the playful gambolings of a Cleveland dray-horse. Let us go up one step in the humorous scale.

So and-so came to Varsity "to let his wife have an educated hubby," to prove that a man born with red hair will have red hair till he dyes (*Frimrose and West's* best), "because curling tongs are cheaper in Toronto," "because Varsity wouldn't come to him," "we'd be ashamed to say"—and yet more of that; it is evident that we have now ascended to the form of wit indulged in by circus clowns and minstrel shows. When we go up the next step we should almost reach the standard of the patent medicine almanac and the "Fifty Best Riddles." Let us not ask to soar so high; we are only the graduating class of a University. The next grade of humor is of the satirical vein; the rapier is filed needlelike for the miserable victim, and truly there is trenchant sarcasm here.

Incidentally, it might be observed that almost every man mentioned is well known as personally displeasing to the gentlemen of the literary group of the Year Book. But listen! One came to Varsity "to convert the world"; another "to lead lost souls back to the paths of righteousness" (the sneer at religion was always so fine and manly); "to sing solos whenever he got the chance"; "to find his equal (he failed)"; "to prove that an ass can bray." Now, chaff aside, how could anything be more wantonly, nay, more stupidly, insulting! Not only the personally insulted, but the whole year, must suffer from this malevolent buffoonery. This is taken by anyone reading the book to be a criterion of undergraduate brilliancy in this University. No outsider can know who the men were who fashioned these things. No one can think that we ourselves lay the book down and groan over the painful truth that "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear"—a proverb which might well have been quoted at the head of the above quoted collection of epigrams. I will not stop at the "Carrot Cranium Club," and the other stuff on that page. It is such a melancholy example of dismal floundering in the slippery places of would-be cleverness that I have not the heart to gird at it. Thank Heaven for the most part it is only silly! But your man of culture, I imagine him raising his eye-glass, and—contemplating it.

I turn back to the "lives." There are a few things which strike the initiated reader in a moment. We see how fair and kind and manly the Victoria men have been to their fellows. We see that the ladies have been ladies. But, alas! we see also that the literary board of University

College have been just themselves. Much of the work was done by outsiders, but none the less when it has been a matter of those hostile or those friendly—especially themselves—to that board, we find ill-natured little slanders or equally fulsome adulations. I quote some of the remarks, first taking those about men who have been opposed to our little tin gods. I am about the only one who escaped.

No. 1.—“In the spring of '95, the ‘lust for office’ asserted itself in him. He never ran for Mayor of Greater New York, but there are few other positions to which he has not aspired.” We might observe in passing that the last time he was with great urging persuaded to run for office, he defeated one of the men on the Year Book Committee, which he has also done before.

No. 2.—“Devoted to his course . . . with no yearning but to stand first in his honor department, who will be surprised to learn that he has attained the summit of college glory (in his eyes) by winning scholarships, etc., etc.” Comment: the hard worker is almost invariably besmirched by the elegant dilettantes of the Board. It is a light thing to sum up four years of patient striving and endeavor in an ill-bred sneer.

No. 3.—“A good many of his class mates think — is a ‘crank,’ but in that they do him an injustice.” Comment: in the eyes of those who know inner history, this delicate witticism reacts very cruelly upon the board. Suffice it to say that we have been as yet unable to discover anyone not on it who “thinks — is a crank.”

No. 4.—“An halo of sanctimoniousness has wreathed his laureated brows.” Comment: he has given us poetry which will long be remembered by VARSITY readers, but when invited to win “a handsome prize” by contributing to the Year Book, he said most uncourteous things. But why go on? Almost all these petty meannesses are surrounded by statements which are at times quite flattering, to give plausibility I presume. But the nastiness of the attacks are only to be felt by undergraduates. Our self-chosen judges have hesitated at nothing. Physical defects and cruel ill-luck in examinations have been saluted by a joke or a jeer. In their clownishness they have rushed in where angels fear to tread. Often the innate caddishness of what has been said is felt only by the victim; he may writhe while the rest of us scarcely notice that he has been touched. There was not the slightest need to put any of these things into this outwardly beautiful souvenir of years which to most of us have been very sweet and happy.

Now, I had also written a brief inquiry into the way the gentlemen of the board have treated themselves and their immediate friends. Yet, unless they ask for it, it shall never be seen. I have had to dip my pen into gall too much as it is; but I have only tried to defend those who were contemptibly insulted. If any think I have been too harsh, the president of the year will no doubt be most happy to call the whole class together; there, I may be censured and impeached. But until the Editorial Board of “*Torontonensis*” have determined what is the general voice of the year, let them not attempt to say I speak alone. It is time for their impudence to be silenced.

In a volume which we must all want to keep for life, we find scurrility which has spoiled it for all time. With the best workmanship, we are given the disfigurements of stupid meanness. Let us purchase the book and give our best support to those who have made it the charming volume it is; but let us not pardon those who, to gratify their own vanity, to make it the instrument of their own small malice, have done no little to kill “*Torontonensis*.”

A. E. MCFARLANE.

THE SCIENCE OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS.

In spite of the uninviting weather Saturday afternoon, all the seats in the Students' Union were filled when Professor Baker ascended the platform. And all went away when it was over, feeling that the first of the University Saturday Lectures this year had been a treat well worth braving the elements to hear.

The lecturer, in his easy, dignified manner, plunged at once into his subject. It has been said that the Greeks had no science. Until very lately no attention had been paid to the history of science, but latterly its importance had been recognized. In Arithmetic the Greeks used finger counting and pebble-counting, from which we have the abacus. Awkwardness in arithmetic and correctness in calculating were improved by Archimedes and others. We classify numbers by the powers of ten, and according to position. We owe this to the Hindoos, but the Greeks were moving in this direction. Pythagoras began discussion on the Theory of Numbers. Euclid, in his seventh book, began to treat of numbers. But the study of Geometry became more popular, and for a time numbers did not advance. Then Algebra came and the symbols used were abbreviations. The lecturer averred that Geometry was as valuable for historical study as could be found. He then went on to show that we owed infinitesimal calculus to the Greeks. With regard to Astronomy, the Greeks used the inductive method in treating of the stars and universe. More than one believed that the earth turned on its axis and revolved about the sun. The Copernican theory was a revival of old Greek theories. Ptolemy's theory grew from the theory of eccentrics and epicycles in the second century of the Christian era. Had not Greek nationality been destroyed, they would have reached the conclusions of Newton, Kepler and Copernicus a thousand years before these men reached them. Optics, Mechanics, Hydrostatics are all products of Greek thought. The lecturer wound up with a brilliant peroration, in which he pointed to the Greeks as the chosen people appointed to advance the science of the world.

At the close, Professor Baker announced that on Saturday, Jan. 22nd, at 3 p.m., in the Students' Union, Professor Alexander would speak on “Novels: their Origin and Use.”

N.

PROF. HUME'S ADDRESS.

A goodly number of students heard Prof. Hume's address last Thursday evening on “The Reasonableness of Christianity.” The professor reminded his hearers that because bad and worthless evidence is sometimes given in support of Christianity, we should not therefore conclude that Christianity is not reasonable. He dwelt on the narrow and one-sided view that many ethical teachers take of Christianity, and recommended honest enquirers to turn from books about the Bible and Christianity to the Bible itself as it is and to Christianity as it is lived in any truly consecrated Christian life. All present enjoyed his talk very much, and were profited as well as interested by the bright and forceful points that Professor Hume made.

All members of the gymnasium who have not yet paid their fees are requested to do so immediately. The secretary or some member of the committee will be found in the office in the gymnasium, daily, between the hours of five and six in the afternoons. It may be said for the benefit of those who have not yet joined, but are thinking of doing so, that the fee for this term has been reduced to three dollars including locker.

W. M. MARTIN,

Secretary.

The Varsity

TORONTO, January 20th, 1898.

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IN the last number of the *McGill Fortnightly* there appears an editorial article which expresses "a feeling of no little resentment" against the Queen's University Journal. The occasion of this is an article in the latter paper which contends that the faculties of applied science are richly endowed in nearly all universities, while the Arts Faculties, "their very soul and centre," are in need. The *Fortnightly* states that this remark cannot fairly be applied to McGill, and in the next sentence appeals to us in the following plaintive manner: "Please Mr. VARSITY is the Arts Faculty at Toronto University starving for the bare necessities of life?" The answer which our McGill friends evidently expect from us is No, and we wish devoutly that the circumstances of the case would warrant such a reply. But if by "the bare necessities of life," money is meant, we are under the painful obligation of answering Yes. If any proof of our assertion be needed, it is amply provided by the last two financial reports of our University. In the report of the Standing Committee on Finance for the first year ending June 30th, 1896, President Loudon remarks, "With regard to the present year, the report shows estimated expenditures to the extent of \$18,363.54 in excess of the anticipated receipts." We all know how it is proposed to meet this deficit—by raising the fees, by having the Arts Examinations conducted by the Faculty without remuneration, and by special appeals to the Legislature for grants of money. Even this has not entirely effected the object aimed at, for in a later report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. B. E. Walker, chairman, says, "The actual deficit of last year was \$9,517.28, the estimate of \$18,363.54, having been reduced, partly by the receipt of the Legislative grant of \$7,000, and partly by savings on appropriations." There is positive pathos in the reference to one of these "savings," by a clause of the report which reads: "A considerable reduction has been effected in the cost of fuel by substituting screenings for egg coal in some of the

buildings." The report concludes: "Notwithstanding these reductions, the estimated deficit for this year is \$6,020.28." It will thus be seen very readily by the *Fortnightly* that we are in very truth suffering for the "bare necessities of life."

We congratulate McGill upon the recent princely gift of Mr. McDonald, and upon the wealthy and generous patrons who have so frequently befriended her. Yet we cannot help yearning for some like-minded benevolent friends for our own University who would pour some of their surplus gold into our depleted coffers. It is possible, as some assert, that our relation to the Government may militate against our best interests financially in scaring away kind-hearted donors. That is, very largely, a matter of conjecture, but it is worthy of very serious consideration by all the friends of the University.

* * *

It is with considerable pleasure that THE VARSITY welcomes the second volume of "Sesame"—the annual publication of the women students of our University. The work this year is edited by Miss H. S. G. Macdonald, '98, managed by Miss M. I. Northway, '98, and printed by the Bryant Press, and they all have the best of reasons for being proud of the fruit of their labors. A very marked advance over the first issue of a year ago is noticeable at once. The literary productions of the present number, taking them all together, are of a high order. Essays, short stories, accounts of travel and poems are found here in pleasing variety. Comparisons are proverbially odious, and we shall not discuss relative merits, nor refer to any contribution specially; but from the clever sketch of Lady Marjorie Gordon in the beginning to the last editorial comment, there is very little in the sixty-four pages that could be removed without injuring the work. We see no special necessity, therefore, for the extreme modesty of the editor's remarks, nor for the spirit of resignation with which she anticipates harsh criticism. We are assured that "Sesame is prepared to take her medicine with as few faces as possible, and to get well as quickly as she can," but we believe she needs very little medicine, and that she is very well even now. Nothing more beautiful from a mechanical and artistic standpoint has ever been published in the University. The engravings—especially those of our college buildings—are extremely good, and printed on the finest paper. The book is bound in a dark green limp cover, prettily tied with gold ribbon, and inscribed with gold letters. It is a book one delights to hold in the hand and leaf over simply for the excellence of its material and workmanship. Altogether we consider "Sesame" for '98 a great success, and we wish it a bright and prosperous future.

* * *

We regret that in our editorial comments of last week we misrepresented the real views of Mr. McFarlane on Residence, and we hasten to apologize to that gentleman for the error, and to set him right with our readers. It is true that in his article of last term he advocated the "total abolition of Residence" by which he meant Residence in

its present unsatisfactory character. But in another portion of the same article, Mr. McFarlane expressed the belief that nothing could be better for the University than an extension of Residence great enough to include the majority of men in the College. This was one of the emendations made by Mr. McFarlane in the proof sheets of his article, which the late editor of THE VARSITY refused to allow.

* * *

In another column will be found a letter from Mr. Inkster stating that the Dinner has been dropped by the Committee for the present. While we feel that it is unfortunate that the College year should pass without this social function, still we think that the Dinner Committee has acted wisely, in view of the near approach of the *Conversazione* on Feb. 4th. We had intended saying something in this number about this social side of our College life, but pressure on our space compels us to reserve our remarks till next week.

The College Girl.

While the Editorial Board of VARSITY are instituting a search for the one upon whom the mantle of "Carr" has fallen, the present writer has been prevailed upon to write this column for the present issue. At any time it is rather difficult to undertake an entirely new department of work, and it is specially so when the predecessor has been one who has not only most successfully discharged the duties of her office, but who is known to possess no small degree of literary skill. However, as "comparisons are odious" at all times, we feel sure that the readers of this journal will institute none, accepting the product in the spirit in which it is undertaken.

* * *

The regular meetings of the Women's Literary Society have been postponed for the month of January, from the second and fourth, to the third and fifth Saturdays, as many of the women students took advantage of the extra Saturday and Sunday at home.

Consequently, the first regular meeting of the New Year was held Saturday evening, January 15.

There was an unusually large number of guests present. Among them we noticed Miss Morrison, Miss Northway, Miss Robertson, Miss Cowan and Miss Jessie White, formerly president of the society.

Some items of business were attended to before the regular programme. It was moved that the thanks of the society be tendered to Prof. and Mrs. Ramsey Wright for their kindness in connection with the preparations for the Victorian Era Ball, and also to Miss Grant McDonald and Miss M. Northway for the time and care which must have been expended in order to bring *Sesame* to such a degree of excellence.

Miss May Mason, a gold medallist in pianoforte, played a brilliant arrangement of the well-known "March of the Soldiers," from Gounod's "Faust." We would all like to hear Miss Mason again. A violin solo by Miss Grace Evans always means a treat for the society.

The Ladies' Glee Club, to the number of about twenty, gave one of their selections, although there had been no

chance for a rehearsal since they last sang together in Hamilton.

Miss L. K. White recited, by request, and gave a stirring poem, "This Canada of Ours."

Miss Robertson, of '01, sang for the first time before the society, and judging by her reception, it will not be the last time. Miss Robertson's voice is full and strong and has a pleasing quality. As it was simply impossible to find enough people to debate, the committee decided to have three impromptu speeches instead. Miss Margaret Hunter spoke first, and unfolded a delightful plan for the organization of a new club among the women students. She set forth its advantages with so much persuasive eloquence that I am sure it will soon be an established fact.

Miss Hurlburt gave in a very graphic way snatches of conversation heard in a dentist's office, while awaiting her turn to enter the room of torture. Miss Helen MacDougall talked—as only she can—about her journey to Ottawa, during the Christmas holidays. Everyone was sorry when she stopped, and hopes were expressed on all sides, that the society might have the pleasure of hearing her once more before the year is over.

All the speeches were bristling with fun, and showed great originality. Let us have more of them. The meeting closed with "God Save the Queen."

* * *

The first meeting of Y.W.C.A. for the Easter term was held on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 12th, at 5 o'clock. The attendance was small, owing, no doubt, to the unseasonable weather. The chief feature of the meeting was the address given by Miss Pearce, '98, the president of the society. The topic was "Living Close to Christ." The speaker dealt with her subject in a simple, clear, helpful, and decidedly interesting manner. The passage of Scripture read as bearing upon the topic was Luke x: 40-42. The words spoken to Martha in verse 41 are applicable to many people and to many classes, but especially to students in this busy life of college. In the course of her address, Miss Pearce took occasion to remark on the work or duty of our society. The Y.W.C.A. is not intended primarily to promote social or literary matters, but to keep alive and to increase the spiritual life among the manifold and pressing interests of college work, which sometimes seem so inimicable to that life.

* * *

From the Bryant Press, Toronto, comes to us this week the second number of "The Annual Publication of the Women Graduates and Undergraduates of University College"—*Sesame*, and well may they be proud of their "two-year old." When a mass meeting was called of the women students, to consider the advisability of bringing out a second number of the paper, there was much diversity of opinion. Many were decidedly opposed, others were in favour,—“if it could be better than last year's,” while all seemed to be unanimous that the first number had not been an honor to the women students, and that it in no way represented their best thoughts or did justice to their taste.

* * *

Fired then with the lofty determination to produce a number worthy of ourselves and of our "Alma Mater," the editorial and business boards proceeded to prepare for the second issue, depending upon the conditional promise that if it were better than the preceding one, the girls would then support it. Faithfully have they discharged the trust reposed in them. Now, rally to their support!

* * *

Acting upon the accepted maxim that first impressions count for much, and that appearance in everything, the

boards chose a dainty and attractive exterior. Sage green cover with old English gold lettering. The paper is the best; the type clear and distinct; the arrangement good; the cuts well executed and of happy selection; while in the literary productions are articles from many well-known graduates and undergraduates, a veritable "feast of reason," bright, catchy and instructive.

* * *

And now to enter a little more into details. The list of contents is headed by Lady Marjorie Gordon, in whom we all feel a personal interest, with a thoughtful little sketch "December 31st." The idea is good and is expressed well.

Then there are two articles from the facile pen of Miss E. A. Durand, B.A., one in verse and another in prose. Miss Durand's abilities are so well known that her name is enough to secure for her articles a careful reading. Our only other contribution which is in verse comes to us from a member of the freshman class. The rhythm and smoothness of Miss Forrest's poem lead us to expect great things from her in the future.

* * *

Thoughtful articles on the "Value of Society," the "Gymnasium of Russia," "The Adulteration Act," and "A Sketch of the Women's Literary Society," are written by Miss K. L. Mullins, '98, Miss Paula Lapantikoff, '99, Miss E. M. Kurzon, B.A., and Miss Grace Hunter, '98, respectively. Each writer is complete mistress of the subject with which she deals, and treats of it in a thoroughly interesting way.

* * *

Miss MacDougall, '98, in her own inimitable style, calls our attention to one of our best friends—"A Hair-pin." While Miss Grace Evans, '00, enlists our sympathies and touches a responsive cord within us, as she refers to the memories of "Long Ago." Miss Fleming, '00, has two short articles well worth reading.

* * *

"Fads" are Miss Downey's specialty, while Miss Northway's "Glimpses of England, France, and Germany," have about them an irresistible charm. "The Browser," '98, enlightened us as to the editorial ideas of forty years ago. "Century" describes in a realistic manner the great social event of the present season, the Victorian Era Ball. We recognize a kindred spirit in Miss McKenzie, B.A., and her love for the "dear old attic" and are indeed thankful to the editor for the useful information she gives in her short articles on "Fellowships for Women in Four American Seats of Learning."

* * *

The light side of our nature has also been provided for by "J," B.A., in a clever little sketch "Quits"; by Miss Flavelle, '98, in "Results: Strained Relations"; by Miss C. E. Benson, '99, in a "Love Story."

These are all written clearly, simply and forcibly, and if they be somewhat amateur—what harm.

* * *

The tone, style, and matter of the Editorial notes is dignified, classic and instructive. They are, in fact, worthy of the master hand of the Editor-in-chief of the journal, to whom in no small degree is due the success which has attained the publication of the journal.

* * *

We would then recommend all who would like to carry away with them a pretty souvenir of '98, to purchase at once a copy of "Sesame." The price is fifty cents, and never would it be spent with greater profit to yourselves.

LITERARY SOCIETY.

Mr. McEntee, the second vice-president, occupied the chair, and Mr. Wagar was in his accustomed place, when I, having decided on second thoughts to attend the first meeting of "The Lit." for the term, entered the Students' Union Hall about half an hour behind time. Evidently the routine business was settled, for Mr. Murray, gownless, was just commencing to read his paper on "Slang," and I feared I had arrived too late for the discussion promised us through the medium of the Bulletin-board. However, Mr. Murray's essay amply made amends for anything else I might have missed, for it proved exceedingly interesting, like wine, improving with age, for the "Since—writing—the—above—the—following—has—come—to—my—notice—" portions were most amusing.

We heard about new slang and old slang, of English, French and American slang, of Eastern slang, of Western slang, of politicians' slang, and newspaper slang, with the derivation of half of it all thrown in, to say nothing of the numerous quotations from various Professors and other learned men on the subject.

When Mr. Murray had finished reading his essay, Mr. Carson moved that we return to the order of New Business. No opposition being made to this, he moved, Mr. Inkster seconding, That all the departmental societies be amalgamated into one Literary and Scientific Society, while another organization, to be also created, was to have charge of all social functions pertaining to the student body. He spoke at some length and put forward several strong arguments in favor of the motion. Tommy Russell then rose and in an excellent speech claimed that the existing conditions were not likely to be improved by the scheme set forth. Mr. Ross in his eloquent and persuasive style defended Mr. Carson's plan, Mr. Martin replying. I doubt not that Mr. Martin delivered an equally strong argument, but about that time I had become absorbed in his history in a '98 Year Book, which either generosity (we hope) or thrift (we fear) had prompted Mr. Inkster to bring to the Society. Mr. McFarlane agreed with Mr. Russell, in that no benefit was likely to accrue by the proposed change. The debate was continued for some time, many speakers giving their opinions on the subject, till Mr. Carson explained that his intention had been only to discover the opinion of the Society on the question, and evidently he found it, for he withdrew his motion without requiring a vote. Mr. Shotwell asked if there would not be an improvement, instead of having two new societies, in electing two committees, one to deal with the social affairs of the society, the other to look after what are more strictly literary and scientific matters.

On Mr. Carson's suggestion, the meeting adjourned at ten o'clock.

Mr. William Lawson, B.A.Sc., who for the past few years has been well and favorably known to School of Science men as demonstrator in chemistry and mining, and assistant to Dr. Ellis, has gone to the Kingston School of Mining.

A great treat is in store for Toronto students in the coming visit of John R. Mott, the world-renowned organizer of Y.M.C.A. work among college men. Mr. Mott was in Toronto in 1893, and addressed all the colleges. Since then he has made a tour of the world in the Y.M.C.A. interests, and his recent work on "Strategic Points in the World's Conquest" is one of the most remarkable books of late years. Mr. Mott will be here the middle of February, and no student should fail to hear him. Fuller particulars of meetings will appear later.

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DINNER POSTPONED.

To the Editor of VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—A committee was appointed last fall by what seemed a large and enthusiastic mass meeting for the purpose of making arrangements for the University College Annual Dinner. This committee at once conferred with the College Council, who said that they would support the dinner this year as last, provided that a sufficient number of students would subscribe to ensure a financial success. Lists were at once prepared, and a systematic canvass was made of every male student, and at the same time estimates were asked from the caterers. A meeting was called last Friday, when these lists were collected and the estimates considered; but the latter were so high, and the former so low, that the committee considered it highly inadvisable under the circumstances to proceed with the affair. It was therefore moved and unanimously carried, "That we do not have a dinner this year, but recommend that next year the matter be considered and carried through, if possible, in the Fall term."

Now, sir, I would like to say personally I regret very much that the scheme has fallen through. I have not lost faith in it, however, but still believe it would be a good thing for the College and the students. Nor would I desire to cast any reflection on what may seem the apathy of the students, being well aware that there is little to be gained by such complaints. One of the reasons why many of the students did not support the dinner this year was that it came too near the conversazione; hence the wisdom of the above recommendation. Then, again, some of the students who had a large share in making the dinner a success last year, could not see their way clear to devote so much of their time and energy as heretofore. Nor should this be expected of them, for, if there is any virtue in the idea, its burdens as well as its pleasures should be shared. Another and important reason for the scheme falling through this year is the fact that there are too many functions around the University. It is my humble opinion that there are a number of petty affairs taking up a great deal of the students' time and money, unworthy even of mention, that should be wiped out of existence. These petty things preclude the possibility of successfully carrying through functions of at least some value.

The only remedy for this to my mind is to organize a society such as proposed at the last meeting of the "Lit," that would control this and all other student affairs; and to my mind the sooner we get such a society the better.

JOHN G. INKSTER.

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SIR WILLIAM LOGAN.

Canada may well be proud to number among the list of her illustrious sons one, who has had few equals in this or any land, in the untiring zeal with which he devoted himself to a work which was of so much value to his countrymen and to the world.

The members of the Natural Science Association were supplied with much interesting information regarding the character and works of this noted Canadian, Sir William Logan, at the meeting held in the Biological Lecture Room on Wednesday, Jan. 12th. Miss H. Hughes, '00, gave a paper on his Biography, and Mr. S. H. Armstrong, '99, took up the consideration of his chief works. Sir Wm. Logan was born in Montreal in 1798. He got his education at Edinburgh (here he met with Sir Walter Scott), and then went into his uncle's counting-house in London. While working in his uncle's interest for a company in Wales, which carried on the smelting of copper from slag, he took his first great interest in geology. For some accurate surveying which he did while here, he was made a fellow of the Geological Society of England. He soon afterwards came back again to Canada to make investigations. In 1842 he was appointed director of the Canadian Geological Survey, which position he held for twenty-seven years. During this time he did work in Canadian geology of incalculable value, his great aim being the elucidation of the geology of Canada. He found the task too great for him, however, and the greater part of his work was done in Ontario and Quebec. From his resignation till his death in 1875 he continued his geological work, though he spent considerable time in England for his health.

His chief written work is "The Geology of Canada," published in 1863. The Geological Museum, which he established and did much to support, stands as a strong evidence of his exactness and perseverance, and of the greatness of a life devoted to the benefit of mankind.

C. M. FRASER, '98,

Secretary.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12th, the regular meeting of the Engineering Society was held. Mr. Speller, B.A.Sc., read a paper on "The Manufacture of Steel by the Open Hearth Process." Before taking his position in the School, Mr. Speller was in the Carnegie Steel Works for some years, and while there he managed to take photographs, illustrating nearly every part of the process. These he exhibited before the meeting as lantern slides, thus adding greatly to the interest of the paper.

Mr. Keele, B.A.Sc., was then called on and exhibited a number of stereoptican views of a general character. These were enjoyed very much, in fact, one had to be shown twice.

At the close, Mr. Keele very kindly offered to give an exhibition of views of the Old Country any evening that the Society should decide on. From previous evenings of the same character in the last few years, it can be truly said that seldom does one see such a fine and artistic collection. Let every student make a point of being present, and of bringing his friends and especially his sisters. Mr. Walter Boyd will give selections from the graphophone between acts.

Later: The evening decided for this entertainment is that of Friday, Jan. 21.

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THE VARSITY.

CORRIDOR CULLINGS.

Nine of Yale's graduates are engaged in coaching football teams this season.

The University of Illinois has just completed a new library building at a cost of \$75,000.

Prof. Ramsay Wright has been laid up for a few days and unable to continue his lectures.

The endowment of Wesleyan during the last ten years has increased from \$667,000 to \$1,320,000.

The receipts from Pennsylvania football games on Franklin field last fall were more than \$90,000.

The receipts from the Lafayette-Pennsylvania game amounted to \$12,000, of which \$4,000 went to Lafayette.

The Chicago University is the only large educational institution in the United States that has no college colors.

The highest salary of any college professor is \$20,000. Prof. Sumner, of Edinburgh University, receives this amount.

The University of Chicago has been voted several millions for the construction of new buildings, to be built of gray stone.

An eight-page edition of *The Daily Palo Alto*, of Stanford University, edited by the women of the institution, appeared lately.

A national university, under Government control, is to be established in China, with a faculty composed entirely of foreigners.

The University of California has instituted a training table of scientifically prepared diet, and the results are being carefully noted.

The endowment of Johns Hopkins has been severely crippled by the collapse of railroads in which it had an immense number of bonds.

Remember—

Y.M.C.A. to night at 7 1/2 o'clock.

The Lit. to-morrow night.

The Public Lecture on Saturday.

The Bible Classes on Sunday.

At the University of Michigan trees are planted as memorials of the graduating class instead of ivy, as is generally the custom among Eastern institutions.

California is the only State in the Union which has more than one college daily. The *Daily Californian* and the *Daily Palo Alto* are published at two great universities of this State.

B. E. Walker, Esq., general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, will lecture to the Political Science Club this afternoon on "The Present Condition of Banking."

F. R. Rutherford, '98, has been obliged to give up his college work on account of illness, and he is now at home near Peterborough. We hope he may soon regain his old-time health and vigor.

This afternoon at 5 o'clock Rev. J. A. McDonald, editor of the *Westminster*, will address the Y.M.C.A. meeting. Mr. McDonald is one of the highest journalists and speakers in the city, and nobody should fail to hear him.

The meeting of the Modern Language Club announced for last Monday, will be held next Monday, 24th, at

4 p.m., in Room 4. It will be an English meeting—papers on Browning and Byron, by Miss E. M. Henry, '98, and W. Rea, '99, respectively.

The annual meeting of the Base Ball Club for election of officers has been called by Capt. Barron for Wednesday, Jan. 26th, at 4 p.m., in the Students' Union. Everybody is urged to attend and help along the interests of the Club.

W. D. Love has been visiting his Toronto friends for the past few days before leaving for the city of Mexico, where he expects to remain two years. Billy is now much improved in health, and it is hoped his residence in the south may completely restore him to his former strength. The best wishes of his Varsity friends go with him.

A regular meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society was held in Room 16 on Friday, Jan. 14th, at 4 p.m. Mr. A. McDougall, '99, gave an interesting paper on "Interference of Sound," after which Mr. Watson, '01, dealt with "The Calendar, its Origin and Perfection." Messrs. Alexander, '98, and Davidson, '98, performed a series of experiments with polarized light in crystal films.

The graduating class will this year be photographed at Park Bros., 328 Yonge Street. The committee have made arrangements whereby members of the class may purchase photographs at the following special rates:

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Every member of the class is particularly requested to sit for his photo before March 15th, to enable the photographer to finish the group by May 1st.

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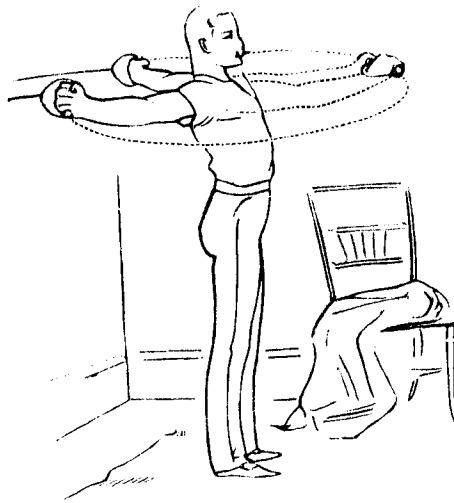


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