

THE VARSITY

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A MEMORY.

Athwart the roofs of the mighty town,
From the lofty windows where I sit,
I can see the blue of the stormy lake,
With a band of silver fringing it.

The wild west wind is driving the flock
Of the huge cloud-world to the lowering east,
The grey is riven and torn to white,
Not once, this morn has the pageant ceased.

And I think of another day of clouds,
When its silver fringes, the blue lake wore;
And we two followed the narrow path,
Alone, by the desolate windy shore.

Sweetheart, that day comes back to me,
In a halo of smiles and a mist of tears
It lives with me, it will always live,
Have you thought of it once, in the after years?

BOHEMIEN.

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE PROFESSIONS.

VII.—THE CIVIL SERVICE.

As there are so few prizes—practically none—in the Civil Service, while there are so many blanks, it is often a matter of surprise that so many young men seek to enter it.

In some Churches—looking at it as a mere matter of personal, distinction—a man may become a dignitary or a Bishop. In other churches he may reach what may be considered as practically an equivalent position. In the legal profession, the bench is the goal to be reached, once success at the bar has been achieved. In the army, the field-marshal's baton is proverbially carried in each soldier's knapsack; while, in the medical profession, successful research and notable discoveries in the healing art bring to the individual high distinction as a specialist, or as a consulting physician of eminence.

Nevertheless, a high position, with its honourable record, may, by patient toil and prolonged waiting, be reached in the civil service—more especially in the English diplomatic branch of it. Never, however, does the ordinary civil servant reach a position higher than that of a subordinate. The very term Deputy, or Under Secretary, which is the highest grade in the service, implies subordination to others. Not that civil servants in Canada do not reach positions of high distinction and independence. The Hon. Mr. Justice Dunkin's case is one in point; but, had he remained in the civil service, he never could have reached the high position which he afterwards adorned.

Since the organization of the Civil Service in England and in Canada, it has practically taken the rank and status of a profession in these countries. Entrance into it, in England and in this Dominion, is very properly by examination—at least, theoretically and by statute—but by no means invariably so. For candidates, qualified or unqualified, may still be pressed into the ranks of the "outside service" of the Dominion, by virtue of the Act.

Neither the last "Report of the Civil Service Examiners," nor the official "Civil Service List," gives the desired information as to whether any but persons who have passed the prescribed examinations have been admitted into the "inside service." Both reports are also silent as

to what becomes of the candidates who successfully pass these required examinations. To prospective candidates, this information would be of service, as it would show how far the demand regulates, or is equal to, the supply.

Even under the present system patronage and pressure have their place, as I shall show farther on. This canker in the civil service is its bane.

The efforts of all civil service reformers and of the various commissions of enquiry into the subject, have been largely directed to a mitigation of this evil. Two or three plans, with this view, have been suggested and discussed by the Parliamentary Committees and Royal Commissions which have had to deal with this matter.

The chief plan suggested is the substitution of a competitive for the "qualifying" examination. A second and less possible one is the training in each department, at small salaries at first, of young fellows (of about the average age of midshipmen), after they had passed the "preliminary" examination. No permanent appointment, with increased salary, was proposed to be made until success in passing the competitive examination had been assured. Thus, fitness and capacity could be practically tested, and a stricter classification in the various branches of the civil service secured.

Where no system of examination for admission to the civil service exists (as in this province), none but a theoretical or approximative classification of those admitted into the service can be made; and that only in and for each department separately.

It may be interesting, just here—especially for the benefit of the prospective candidate for the civil service—to say a word or two on the nature and effect of each of the four examinations at present prescribed—"preliminary," "qualifying," (with "options"), or competitive, and for "promotion" from one grade in the service to another.

1. *The Preliminary.* This is purely scholastic, or literary, in a sense, but in its requirements it does not extend beyond the "Second or Third Book" of the public school course. No undergraduate should be required to pass it, except as a matter of form, and to comply with the statutory requirements on the subject.

2. *The Qualifying.* This, in point of fact, means such an examination—in its simplest form—as every candidate must successfully pass before he can be considered as at all "qualified," or eligible for admission to the civil service. It takes two forms, however. But the second of these forms makes all the difference between what are technically known in the service as the "qualifying," and the "competitive" examination. On the merits or practical value of these two standards of qualification, there are differences of opinion, as I shall point out.

The "qualifying" examination, as its name implies, entitles the successful candidate for admission to any vacancy which may arise in the lowest grade of the service.

3. *The Competitive.* In the official curriculum, this examination is set down under the head of "optional subjects," to the "qualifying" examination. Of these options there are seven, ranging from "composition" to "telegraphy." In that form the curriculum is misleading to the uninitiated. It is so from the fact that the candidate, on passing the "qualifying" examination, merely puts himself among the rank and file of the expectant and "qualified" aspirants for admission to the Civil Service, while he may have thought that he had really placed himself "on the high road to preferment."

The candidate, however, who successfully takes even one of the seven optional subjects, places himself in the front rank of the "qualified" candidates. His chances of success are obviously increased by every additional optional subject in which he passes. Financially he is a gainer. For, in the matter of salary, an additional sum of \$50 is secured to him for each of four of such subjects, should he pass in them.

To the prospective candidate this explanation, as to the merits and effects of these examinations will enable him to determine whether it would not be more advantageous to him to take one or more of the optional subjects, in addition to the merely "qualifying" examination, rather than to take that examination alone.

4. *For Promotion.* This examination, as its name implies, is designed to determine the qualification of the persons in the service, so that when "entitled to promotion, they may be advanced from the class to which they belong to the class next above it, and in the department in which they are serving." The subjects of examination are chiefly of a technical kind, and, as a rule, refer to "duties" or details of office work. The literary subjects are "Composition, Constitution of Canada and Geography."

From the last report of the Dominion Civil Service examiners (for 1886) it is clear that most of the candidates are content to pass the "qualifying" examination alone. Thus, of 271 candidates for this examination, only 76—a little over one-fourth—took options, and entered the competition field. Of these, 38, or just one-half, passed; 29 succeeded in but one out of the seven options; 8 in two, and one in three.

The question as to the comparative value to the civil service itself of a merely "qualifying," or a "competitive" examination, has, as I have intimated, been a matter of discussion in civil service reports. Differences of opinion have arisen on the subject; and it is yet a debatable question. In his evidence on this point, before a Royal Commission, in 1880, Mr. W. H. Griffin, Deputy Postmaster-General, and the oldest civil servant in the Dominion, gave his testimony in favour of the competitive, as against the pass, or qualifying system of examination. So, also did Mr. J. M. Courtney, Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Sweetnam, Post-office Inspector for the Toronto division, and Mr. P. M. Robins, chief clerk and accountant of the Inland Revenue Department. My own opinion, formed on a lengthened experience, coincides with that of these gentlemen. I thus expressed it in my evidence on the subject before a committee of the House of Commons in 1877:—

Mr. G. E. Casey, Chairman, put the following question:

"Q. We have had a recommendation to adopt a scheme of holding 'qualifying' examinations from amongst the successful candidates, out of which members of the Civil Service should be chosen at the will of the Minister. What do you think of such a system?"

"A. I think there is one difficulty in the way of carrying out that system, which would be fatal to its success. From the fact that such an examination would merely give the passed men a sort of *quasi* official status you would get in a shoal of aspirants to office, equally qualified. . . . Besides, the moment you get a number of young men nominally 'qualified' for positions in the service, personal solicitations of influence would be brought to bear upon members of the government to get appointments; and, that, after a 'competitive' examination as a condition, would be subject to such silent influences that they could not well be resisted to prevent an unsuitable appointment.

"Q. We would, in fact, be thrown back upon patronage?"

"A. Yes; under the guise of a 'competitive' system of examination. Another objection to the system would be this:—A great many might come up to a fixed standard and pass. If, however, in the first place you pitted one man against the other and said, 'The best men only shall receive appointments' you would then put all of the candidates upon their mettle to take the highest rank. There would be no such impulse to excel under a merely 'qualifying' examination," etc.

Mr. J. L. McDougall (present Auditor-General,) asked:

"Q. Do you approve of a 'qualifying' examination, and their being appointed at the will of the Head of the Department?"

"A. I think that would be fatal. My particular objection to that system, if applied to one department, would be that, if a maximum were fixed upon and that were passed by a number of candidates, the Head of the Department could not refuse to admit them. But, when you have a competitive examination, you only choose

the best men. The moment a man is 'qualified,' if he had to pass a second examination, influence might be brought to bear to get him through in some way," etc. *

These practical explanatory statements may be considered by prospective candidates as somewhat discouraging. They relate, however, to the preliminaries for admission to the service. Once in, it should not be overlooked that advancement is slow, and increase to salaries somewhat uncertain, especially as the periodical demand for "retrenchment" generally touches the Civil Service first. And yet the desire to enter that service is a laudable one. As a profession, it is most honourable and useful—honourable in the important public matters with which it has to deal, and useful in the performance of most valuable and often highly confidential service for the country.

THE UNIVERSITY SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

It may be asked: "If the purely literary standard for entrance into the public service is so low, what has the University to do with the preparation and fitness of men for that service?"

The answer to this query may be in effect this: The standard for entrance into the service has only to do with the lowest grades of it. The requirements for that entrance do not pretend to touch the higher grades, nor provide for the special and imperative needs of the departments in these grades. Even the promotion examinations scarcely meet the case, as they are quite too technical and circumscribed in their range.

Years ago, such a preparation and literary training as is now admittedly necessary in the public service was not required, and was scarcely thought of. On this point I gave, in 1877, the following evidence before the Parliamentary Committee to which I have referred, as the result of many years' observation and practical experience:

"There is one thing which should not be lost sight of and that is that the Civil Service is different now from what it was years ago. It requires much higher and better qualifications than before, because new questions of administration, more important than formerly, are constantly arising. The higher officer in the service would find that, without a thorough training, he cannot keep himself up with these questions. A man in the position of a Deputy Head of a Department ought to be familiar with the new and delicate relations which exist between the local, the central, and the home governments. He should also be acquainted with questions of finance, legislation, political economy and kindred subjects, as his department might have to deal with them."

A decade has passed away since these words were uttered. The standard then laid down was moderate, as compared with the necessities and requirements of to-day. Since that time university training, as a preparation for success in the various professions, has become the rule, rather than the exception. In the Legislatures and in business circles, there is now quite a sprinkling of university graduates. So that those aspiring (and doing so with a laudable ambition), to the higher positions in the public service, must make the necessary literary preparation, by a thorough scholastic training, a training which a College or University alone can give them.

Even in commercial life a high degree of literary training has become necessary, especially in the larger establishments and banks, etc. This is now especially the case in England, where there is a keen competition between Germans and Englishmen for clerkships in English mercantile houses, chiefly those having a foreign trade and connections.

The underlying forces at work, and which lead to this competition, are admirably illustrated by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his recent inaugural address as Lord Rector of the University of Aberdeen. What he says applies as well to the Civil Service of Canada as to the commercial life of England.

In that address Mr. Goschen lays down the broad principle that it is the "intellectual" which a man infuses into his work that alone gives it vitality, and ensures success.

* The proposal (as to a second examination), to which I here referred, was one which permitted the "competitive" examination to take place at any time after the "qualifying" one, and as a condition to an appointment to a vacancy then existing. Now, the two examinations take place together; but the "options" are not even then, as they should be, compulsory.

Contrasting the ordinary man of business with one of such a spirit, he says:—

"The man whose intellectual interest has prompted him always to look for a principle, serves those around him as well as himself. He contributes to the information of his rivals. He broadens the intellectual basis on which every business as well as every profession rests. . . . I would have you bear in mind that even in the fields of commerce and industry there is room, nay, there is necessity for the more purely intellectual qualities which are sometimes supposed to be exclusively appropriate to the learned professions. The neglect of the intellectual side of business and commerce is, in the long run, scarcely less hurtful than their neglect in other, and what are commonly considered higher, departments of study and of work."

Mr. Goschen then points out the characteristics of the German methods of education, and shows what are the effects of those methods on the German nation. He says:—

"The great body of the students at the German public schools and universities, even the most fashionable, are men who have to depend upon their own exertions, and their own exertions alone, for their future livelihood. The consequence is that hard work, wide knowledge, the thorough ploughing of the mind, are the great objects of the highest education. It has made industry, knowledge, the reasoning power, interest and delight in every form of work, national—I had almost said popular—ideals to a degree unparalleled elsewhere. It has carried the scientific spirit into every form of national enterprise, into trade, into industry, even, as we have all seen, into the operations of war."

The effect of this intellectual superiority of the German on commercial life in England is thus referred to:

"Our position in the race of civilized nations is no longer what it was. We had a great start in industry and commerce, and, by virtue of that start, we attained to a station of unprecedented and long unchallenged supremacy. That supremacy is no longer unchallenged. Others are pressing on our heels. We require greater efforts than formerly to hold our own. It is the recognition of this fact which is at the bottom of the great stir in our educational world, of the ever-increasing demands made on our elementary schools, of the cry for technical and commercial training, of the new spirit which is manifesting itself in our public schools and universities."

Mr. Goschen thus concludes: and his appeal should not be lost upon us, who are also in the vicinity, if not in the actual presence, of those across the lines, who are noted for their keen competition with, and their intellectual rivalry of, the Dominion:

"When looking around at the rapid advance of our rivals, we see that start of ours, which once seemed so enormous, growing dangerously less, when a nation, to whom work is a pride and a pleasure, appears with giant strides to be gaining on our steps, the people of Great Britain may perhaps more readily be induced to bestir themselves to add to their great natural capacities, to their natural and acquired advantages, and to the self-confidence of their ancient prestige, some of that power which the passion for mental labour has conferred on their most formidable rivals, and to resolve that, in school and in university, in bank and in warehouse, in factory and in arsenal, a larger share of time and credit, and influence and authority, shall be assigned to intellectual effort and intellectual interest."

In pondering these weighty words of counsel and of warning, we naturally ask ourselves: "When and how is the germ of this intellectual spirit and mental life to be awakened and vivified?" Where, we answer, but in the higher schools, and pre-eminently in the colleges and universities. It is there that the individual first develops his intellectual manhood. Not so much by patient study, or by toil over books, but by making the results of that toil and study a part and parcel of himself and of his daily life. This can be best promoted by an active participation in the intellectual athletics and literary efforts of undergraduate life. Such practice fixes a mental habit for after years, and enables a man to look at life and its activities from an intellectual standpoint.

If that habit should thus become natural and fixed by early practice, the result should be a high degree of mental discipline and intellectual vigour. It would also secure to the individual all that the Lord Rector points out as attainable by the methods which he so graphically describes.

J. GEORGE HODGINS.

Toronto, March, 1888.

LITERARY NOTES.

Henry Montgomery, M.A., '77, formerly of this city, now President of the University of Dakota, has an interesting article in the *Grand Forks Herald* on "Devil's Lake,

Dakota." Professor Montgomery had been making geological researches with a view of furnishing the Museum of his University with a useful collection of rocks and natural history specimens, when his attention was directed to the finding of some human bones near the margin of Devil's Lake. In following up this clue, Professor Montgomery made discoveries which convinced him, upon further investigation, that he had come across a former settlement of the mound-builders. He thus describes his visit: "On investigation, it very soon became evident that I had wended my way to an elevated and wide tract of country, which many ages previous to our time had formed the dwelling-place of another race of human beings, and which yet contained many of the bones, the implements and trinkets of this same people.

"No wonder, then, that my hours from 'early morn till dewy eve' were full of interest to me, and that, for the time being, I lost sight of everything save the singular structures known as the 'mounds of the ancient mound-builders.'" Professor Montgomery examined over twenty-one mounds, but the time at his disposal was too short to admit of his doing much systematic work. This will doubtless be done at some future time.

THE VARSITY congratulates the Professor, an old Alumnus of the University of Toronto, upon his valuable discovery, which promises to him a valuable field for investigation, interesting in its results to the explorer and valuable to the scientific world.

The April number of *Lippincott's Magazine* contains a portrait of Amélie Rives, the young and beautiful authoress. It presents her as a young girl of remarkable beauty, with refined and delicate features, and an eager, rapt expression. The magazine opens with a novel, "The Quick or the Dead," from Miss Rives' pen. It has a weird plot, and the hero and heroine are strange mixtures. The story is told with surprising vividness, and the love passages are full of passion and colour, almost to excess. The heroine is scarcely a lovable creature, her morbid fancies and inexplicable emotional states almost removing her from the category of human beings. She has a certain *beauté de diable* which repels while it fascinates. The hero is conventional and somewhat too demonstrative in his wooing; while the demeanor of both is open to the objection of being overstrained and unnatural.

We cannot agree with one critic who would fain have us regard this novel as the great and long-expected American novel for which we are all watching and waiting. It is powerful, and Miss Rives tells her story well in nervous and idiomatic English, and crisp and brilliant dialogue; but there are defects of workmanship, a want of balance, a lack of appreciation of true perspective, and—if we except the heroine—not much distinctive individuality in the characters. There is also, to our way of thinking, too much passionate love-making, a too great tension of emotional excitement, and that of a morbid and unhealthy kind, to make the novel acceptable to readers unacquainted with a Southern temperament. The story has absolutely no light and shade, and those characteristics which we look for and so much admire in men and women—strength in one, and tenderness in the other—seem almost entirely wanting in the hero and heroine of the story before us. This is Miss Rives' first novel, and though it may seem hackneyed to say so, gives abundant proof of its author's brilliant but as yet undisciplined power. We are free to confess that, on the whole, "The Quick or the Dead" disappoints us, but it contains evidences of unmistakable talent and presages much good work, we are convinced, from this young and gifted authoress in the future.

The other features of *Lippincott's* for this month are:—"Some Days with Amélie Rives," which is contributed by an intimate friend under the pen-name of J. D. Hurrell. Judge Tourgée continues his "With Gauge and Swallow" series, and tells a story of sleep-walking under the subtitle of "The Letter and Spirit." Joel Benton puts in a plea for the "Endowment of Genius," and Thomas Leeming discusses "Western Investments for Eastern Capital," in a plain, practical, business way. There are also poems by Daniel L. Lawson and R. T. W. Duke, jr. W. S. Walsh discusses Realism and Idealism in "Book-Talk."

THE VARSITY.

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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITORS, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.

No notice will be taken of anonymous contributions.

A SUGGESTION FOR THE LIBRARIAN.

In the report of the University of Pennsylvania noticed last week, there was a portion to which we did not refer as it did not exactly bear upon the question then under discussion. If our remarks of last week were taken by any of our readers to be of the nature of destructive criticism, this week we offer some of the nature of constructive criticism. The suggestion which we have to make is not an original one with us; it was made in 1885 by Mr. James Barnwell, M.A., then Librarian of the University of Pennsylvania, and doubtless has been put into practice elsewhere years ago. So THE VARSITY merely passes the suggestion along, alike to the Librarian and to the graduates of the University of Toronto, in the hope that, if it has not occurred to them to act upon it heretofore, they may do so now, to the great benefit of the Library and the University.

We cannot do better than reproduce the circular which Mr. Barnwell issued to the alumni and friends of the University of Pennsylvania, and hear his testimony as to the success of the idea. They are both worthy of perusal.

"The Librarian of the University of Pennsylvania hereby appeals to all friends of that Institution, or of Learning, for the gift of Pamphlets, Speeches, Sermons, Reports of Societies, (charitable and literary), Annual Reports of Corporations (whether of railroads, commercial companies, or commercial enterprises), Catalogues, etc., etc., in short, for the gift to the Library of all printed matters which accumulate annually in offices, counting houses and homes and is generally consigned, as rubbish, to the waste basket or to the cellar.

"This 'rubbish' is the history of to-day, and upon this 'rubbish' the historian of the future must depend. Out of similar 'rubbish' grew Macaulay's History. It is hard to realize that the future will hold dear what we now hold cheap. Pamphlets which in their day cost but three pennies have been, in our time, gladly bought with a hundred pounds for every penny. The Journals of our City Government have been so little prized in the day of their publication, that the City itself does not, or, at least, within the writer's recollection did not possess a complete set, and but two complete sets are believed to exist, which are in private hands. How many of our corporations of all descriptions, which have existed for many years, are able to show a set of all their Reports or Publications? The Mercantile Library, even, does not own a set of its own Reports, nor a copy of its first Catalogue. Of the Reports of the Board of Education, a series of great importance, but two sets are known to exist, and a collector of this city, having special facilities, has been unable to complete a third, after a search of thirty years. Even here in our own library there is not a set of our Annual University Catalogues. So true is it that 'What we have we prize not to the worth while we enjoy it, but being lacked and lost, why, then, we rate the value.'

"It is this 'rubbish' which contains the record of the busy work of the world to-day, and within the walls of a library it should be garnered, where students can use it, and learn the methods of original investigation and research.

"Let it be also understood that the Library will be most grateful for all donations of books which are by no means 'rubbish,' but which, if little used on your own shelves, will do the greatest good to the greatest numbers when transferred to the use of our earnest young students." (1)

(1) University of Pennsylvania. Annual Report, 1885, pp. 43, et seq.

Mr. Barnwell thus refers to the response to his circular:

"A circular asking for donations of pamphlets was issued in June, addressed to about 900 persons. The result shows the experiment to have been a success. Already over 4,000 pieces of reading matter have been received, the value of which is considerably more than the pecuniary outlay involved, which was very small. But the *indirect* results are likely to be of still greater value, as it has developed an interest, hitherto latent, of many of our friends, and it has shown activity on the part of the Library." (2)

The VARSITY commends to the favourable consideration of the Librarian and the alumni of our University this scheme—simple and practical—which has yielded these excellent results. We believe that the issuing of a similar circular to our own graduates would meet with a very gratifying response, that the Library would be thereby enriched greatly, while a new interest would be awakened in this most important department of the University; and that those who would like to aid their Alma Mater in some way within their means would, in this way, be enabled to gratify their own desires, whilst conferring a signal benefit upon the University. Even should no official intimation reach the graduates with respect to this scheme, they surely need nothing more than this reference to it, to cause them to approve of, and act upon it forthwith.

THE READING ROOM.

Every year the Literary Society is afflicted by a number of amiable gentlemen who, with a laudable though mistaken patriotism, seek to burden the already depleted finances of the Society with the cost of innumerable country newspapers, and also to burden the already crowded spaces of the Society's Reading Room, with these newspapers, which are devoid of any interest except to those who come from the immediate neighbourhoods in which they circulate. We should not object to the annual saturnalia, which brings out a large attendance and creates much harmless amusement, were it not that in fits of general cerebral excitement and temporary mental aberration the Society usually thrusts off some really good periodical, and substitutes for it some worthless sheet. The Literary Society should only place upon the fyles of its Reading Room really good and useful, or clever and artistic periodicals, of general interest, such as the city dailies, the leading English and American magazines, reviews, and illustrated periodicals, the best of the comic papers, and such other literary journals as possess real intrinsic merit. Scientific, and especially professional journals, should be subscribed for by the Societies respectively most interested therein; and it would not be a bad idea if such periodicals were kept on fyle in each separate Society's reading room. At present, by the pernicious system of regulating what papers the Society shall or shall not subscribe for, the Reading Room is burdened with a lot of useless trash, while the money expended thereon could be applied to much better advantage. The right to regulate the supplies of the Reading Room should be taken away from the Society in general, and left to the House Committee or to a special Committee on Periodicals, which could receive and act upon suggestions made to it by members with reference to any paper or papers. The present system is most unsatisfactory, and should be altered.

CLASS SPIRIT AND CLASS ORGANIZATION.

One of the chief reasons why it is so hard to develop or retain a true university spirit among the graduates of the Provincial University is, we are convinced, the absence now and in past years of any class spirit and any system of class organization. The number of our alumni is very large, and as a class they are prosperous and well-to-do. But how many of them have ever done anything for their *Alma Mater*, except attend a Commencement, a Conversation, a Dinner, or the like? Certain it is that the benefactors of the University who were educated within her walls could be counted on the fingers. Sympathy and enthusiasm, however well-meaning, are cheap at the best; they do not touch the pocket.

Individual instances there are of much practical and self-sacrificing interest manifested in the University and its affairs, but any-

(2) Univ. of Penn. Ann. Rep., 1885, pp. 45, 46.

thing approaching concerted action among the Alumni has hitherto been well-nigh impossible. Convocation displays a very luke-warm interest in the proceedings, and undergraduates brought up in the way at present in vogue do not develop any very strong feelings of attachment to their college, its traditions, its associations, or its achievements.

How can such a state of things be changed and improved? With regard to the graduates, there is much excellent machinery in existence for co-operative and concerted action. It needs to be set in motion, however, and kept in motion. Convocation and the local County Alumni Associations are very useful bodies. But there is a lack of vitality in too many of them. They could be made of much practical value to the University. They should at all times be united in sentiment and vigorous in action. Each County Association should have an annual meeting and social reunion, and every member should be given some part of the business to look after each year. Then, in the event of any important University matters being under consideration, either in the Legislature or the Senate, these Associations could be communicated with, their opinion sought, their wishes consulted, and their interest aroused. And the University could always depend on strong support and concerted action on the part of her Alumni. Besides, this would have an excellent effect upon the graduates themselves. It would keep alive their interest in University and educational matters; they would feel that their *Alma Mater* still retained an interest in them, still had claims upon their sympathy and practical loyalty.

And now with regard to the undergraduates. It is unnecessary to allude further to their present condition as a body. They need organization. Each Class should, upon its formal enrollment in the University, organize a "Class Society," with officers and a unanimous membership. Each Class should keep together, work together, and, above all, infuse a spirit of loyalty and enthusiasm which, before the Class is graduated, might crystallize into some definite memorial to be given to the University in honour of the Class. After graduation such classes should hold annual re-unions, and we can conceive of nothing more pleasant than the meeting together of old class-mates, after a separation of years, to talk over old college days, and devise means for aiding and strengthening their *Alma Mater*.

There are many ways in which Alumni Associations and Class Societies could practically benefit the University. At present there is no scheme that can better enlist the sympathies of all than the Gymnasium and Club Building project, which is now being pushed energetically. Graduates and undergraduates can, and should, rally to the support of the University in this matter, and we hope the committee having the affair in hand will meet with much practical sympathy in the furtherance of their plans.

But there are other ways in which such Associations and Organizations could aid the University. Instead of the money at present thrown away upon photographs of this and that society, if the money were collected and devoted to the purchase of books for the Library, instruments for the laboratories, etc., much practical good would be accomplished. If each graduating Class were to devote the \$200 now expended upon a Class photo. to some such scheme as we have mentioned, it would be ever so much better than the present practical waste of money.

And this brings us to another point. If the university authorities from time to time would indicate through the medium of THE VARSITY or the daily papers what departments are in need of gifts, what portions of the Library are lacking in standard or rare works, what laboratories are lacking in particular instruments, we are sure that many a willing response would be made, and many a deficiency supplied, which otherwise remains unfilled simply because the need is not known.

There is great need, too, of a "Publication Fund," a fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of publishing from time to time the results of researches and of other original work undertaken by members of the staff or of the University, labouring in the interests of science or literature.

These and many other cases furnish instances where graduates and undergraduates, by united effort, could accomplish much for their *Alma Mater*. But united effort requires organization and

stimulation. Therefore we say to all members of Convocation and of County Alumni Associations: Go to work in earnest and *do* something; and to all undergraduates: Organize, unite, and *do* something!

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

The Baptist Convention has met and settled two very important points. First, that there is to be an independent Baptist University; second, that it is to be located in Toronto.

As we have had occasion to say before, we think the Baptists are making a grave mistake in thus seeking to add to the large number of independent degree-conferring institutions with which our Province is burdened at present. But we expect that, as with children, when they have money, it burns in their pockets until they expend it upon the biggest thing they can purchase with it, so the Baptists, suddenly becoming possessed of a large bequest, cannot rest until they have expended it upon that which every Christian denomination in this Province apparently yearns to possess—a full-fledged University.

At the present time it is especially unfortunate that the Baptists have thus decided. Confederation—an equal and honourable alliance with the Provincial and the Methodist University—was open to them. While we are willing to admit that there were reasons why institutions like Queen's and Trinity—with vested interests and specially-conditioned endowments—should stand aloof from Confederation, no such arguments can be urged in defence of the refusal of the Baptist body to ally their most important educational institution with Toronto and Victoria.

We regret to notice that the same old inuendo about the godlessness of the Provincial University was indulged in at the Convention, and that the great necessity for teaching Baptist dogma and inculcating Baptist practice in the new University was enlarged upon with great fervour by prominent speakers. This narrow and sectarian view of a question of such importance as the founding of a great University was, unfortunately, characteristic of the whole proceedings, and displayed a very limited mental vision, and an excess of denominationalism not in keeping with the deliberations of men engaged in such an important enterprise. If the Baptists are afraid that Baptist dogmas and Baptist practices will suffer by the contact of Baptist young men with students of other denominations, then their faith in the stability of their dogmas and practices must be very weak. And if, again, the Baptists are of the opinion that Mathematics, Classics, and Sciences can be taught better with an infusion of Baptist dogma and Baptist practice, then the Baptist idea of higher education is very primitive indeed.

There can be no objection to each denomination having control of its Divinity School and of the teaching of its own theology and practices. To this, and to missionary work, each denomination should primarily confine its attention, and in the furtherance of which each denomination could with advantage spend its funds. But for every denomination to insist upon teaching its own youth Classics, Mathematics, and Science is only to multiply the means without increasing the efficiency of higher education.

But if there must be an infusion of denominational dogma and practice in every independent collegiate institution there should be some uniformity, some common standard demanded by the State, of such institutions as elect to teach the secular branches of higher education. The multiplication of degree-conferring institutions, each with a different curriculum, is a thing much to be deplored. The multiplication simply of denominational teaching bodies, while in itself a questionable thing would not work so disadvantageously were a common standard for degrees required. But where such is not the case the policy which permitted, as well as the policy which dictated, in the face of Confederation the starting of a new institution endowed with full university powers is as inexplicable as it is indefensible.

CORRECTION.

In last week's VARSITY, in Dr. Sheraton's article, on page 215, 7th line from the end instead of "discoveries" read "divisions."

ROUND THE TABLE.

One of the most glaring examples of bad taste has been just recently furnished by Mr. Charles J. Cameron, of Kingston. This gentleman is the executor of the literary Remains of his brother, the late Geo. F. Cameron, and a very poor executor he is. The petulant and obtrusive way in which he has resented every criticism of his brother's work, which was not highly eulogistic and altogether laudatory, is in the worst possible taste and is simply an evidence of lack of critical faculty and editorial acumen. It yields us one more example of the folly of entrusting such tasks to relatives. The review which *Sarepta* published in one of the daily papers here was singularly impartial and free from any bias whatever. But because it presumed to be critical and discriminating it at once drew down upon its head the fury of Mr. Charles J. Cameron. There is indeed too much truth in Mr. Stevenson's remark—Principal Grant to the contrary notwithstanding—that Kingston is very provincial; a remark, by the way, which has subjected Mr. Stevenson to a scarifying from the same redoubtable Charles J. Cameron, whose methods of advertising, if not above reproach.

* * *

The investigation into Combines and Trusts, now in progress before the Select Committee, has already disclosed matter of interest for the student of Economics. We are told that the Coal Combine in Toronto is amateurish in comparison with others in other Canadian cities, but it will sufficiently illustrate the difficulty to be coped with to repeat the published description of its method. A public office advertises for tenders. This contract, it is said, comes up for consideration before the representatives of the dealers in the Combine, who adjust a tender price, the minimum price at which coal shall be offered to the advertiser. The privilege of tendering at this lowest rate is then put up at auction. He who offers the largest bonus carries off the prize; and the other members share in the bonus. To lend colour to the transaction other tenders are put in, but at prices which render it certain that the true tenderer will succeed. A system of fines secures the adhesion of all to the rules of the concern.

* * *

Concerted action such as this on the part of dealers in any one trade confounds at once the doctrine of competition which is the present basis of our mercantile system. It is not to be thought that the public will quietly remain at the mercy of secret conclaves of those who profess to minister to its wants, but the solution is as yet extremely doubtful. The law of conspiracy is difficult of application, and even if evidence were forthcoming, it remains to be seen whether such a combination is an offence under the law. In the case of incorporated companies a check could easily be devised. Create a power in some Government department of suspending the corporate functions of the concern which is shown to be so abusing its corporate powers, and we shall hear no more complaints. In the case of private traders no such easy remedy is in sight. To many of us, educated in modern trade doctrines, it would seem a great step backwards if it were found necessary for the Government to fix from time to time the upshot price. But the public may be exasperated into a trial of this or any other system that promises relief,

* * *

It is fortunate that just in this posture of affairs the authorities are bent on equipping a chair in the University for the study of Political Science. With the great activity in this branch of research that must be at once excited, it will be indeed strange if no assistance comes from the University in devising machinery to cope with a movement

so far-reaching in its character, that at present the consequences cannot even be contemplated. Herein is an opportunity for this Section of our students, and, through them, our University, to earn the gratitude of a nation.

* * *

New conjunctions require new methods. In the large cities of the States it seemed hopeless to secure an honest civic government; boodle aldermen and corrupt officials had a practical immunity from punishment; reputable citizens declined the disgraceful task of going through the Ward in order to procure election. The wave of civic reform that swept over some of the eastern cities has not yet spent its force. In Philadelphia the condition of affairs was deplorable, until some of the citizens made a resolute stand. One hundred of the leading citizens formed a committee to protect the city from robbery. Each of the hundred contributed one hundred dollars, and with the fund thus raised an eminent counsel was employed, whose duty it was to watch the city fathers and visit any transgression with immediate prosecution. The effect has been so charming that the organization has become permanent, and when, from death or any other reason, a member of the Hundred drops out, there is keen rivalry to fill the gap. In New York and Chicago, also, a citizens' committee has struck terror into evil doers.

* * *

A word on examination papers may be in season. I remember that the papers of certain examiners were always a terrible infliction to me, not at all by reason of my ignorance of the subject matter. The examiner, more with a view to his own ease, as I hold, than from any peculiar views on the subject, padded out his paper with repeated requests for *quotation*. Now it is well known, or, if not, should be printed on a circular and sent to every examiner, that the faculty of reproducing verbally a passage depends entirely on primitive endowment of eye and ear. It is no test of scholarship to be able to repeat a passage by rote. I, for one—I may speak this the more freely because I am now beyond examiner's law—cannot be confident of correctly quoting even those passages which have longest dwelt with me. It is especially unfair to demand such at a time when nervous exhaustion is complete.

* * *

The humorous and local columns, or what serve the same purpose in many of THE VARSITY's contemporaries, are variously denominated. The Historiographer and Antiquary of the staff has been making investigations and reports the following: *College Chips* makes "Clippings"—should it not be "Chippings?" The *Acadia Athenaeum* gets off its jokes "Behind the Scenes;" the *Syracuse University News* makes base "Hits;" the *New York Independent* throws "Pebbles;" the *College Rambler* gets off its chesnuts during "Ramblings on the Campus;" the *Hesperian* makes "Stray Pick-Ups;" *Queen's College Journal* talks about "De Nobis Nobilibus;" the *Ariel* makes "Home Hits;" the *Illini* gets off some "Illinities"—whatever they are? The *Transcript* lets you take them "As you like it;" the *W. P. I.* deals in "Technicalities;" the *Phi Sigma Monthly* addresses its jokes to "Quidnuncs;" the *McGill Gazette* tells its yarns "Between the Lectures;" the *Virginia University Monthly* calls them "Castaneæ;" the *Colby Echo* puts all its jokes in the "Waste Basket;" the *New Haven Critic* sticks them "On the Fence;" the *Signal* indulges in "Chit-Chat;" the *Argosy* is severely classical in its "Sackvilliana;" the *Sibyl's* funny man (?) is called "The Grumbler." This was as far as the Antiquary was allowed to go. He reports that by far the largest number of exchanges simply put their jokes and items under such headings as "Clippings" and "Local." He also says that none have such an appropriate caption for their humorous column as THE VARSITY. In this I agree with him.

HH.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

All reports from Societies must reach us by noon on Thursday to secure insertion.

LITERARY SOCIETY ELECTIONS.

The result of the elections is as follows:—

President.....	W. F. W. Creelman, B.A., LL.B. (R)
1st Vice-President.....	H. J. Cody (I)
2nd " ".....	W. R. Brydone (A)
3rd " ".....	S. Stone (A)
Recording Secretary.....	W. J. Fenton (A)
Correspond'g Secretary.....	Ralph Palmer (A)
Sec. of Com.....	H. Ferguson (A)
Treasurer.....	R. E. Heggie (A)
Curator.....	Hugh B. Fraser (A)
Councillors.....	Chas. MacLachlan (R)
".....	J. H. Kerr (A)
".....	J. R. Wells (A)
".....	A. P. Northwood (A)
".....	D. Ross (A)

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The annual meeting of this club was held on Monday, the 26th inst., at which the following officers were elected for 1888-89:

Honorary President.....	Dr. Wilson.
President.....	J. D. Spence.
Vice-Presidents.....	Miss M. Robson. W. H. Grahame.
Corresponding Secretary.....	R. J. Bonner.
Recording Secretary.....	C. A. Stuart.
Councillors.....	O. W. McMichael. W. B. McNichol. W. P. Bremner. H. A. Dwyer. R. Watt. A. P. Northwood.

UNIVERSITY CLUB BUILDING.

An organization meeting of the committee appointed by the graduates and undergraduates to collect funds for the erection of a \$25,000 club and gymnasium building in Queen's Park, was held on Monday. Mr. William Creelman was elected permanent chairman. Mr. Eph. Lyon, secretary, and Mr. J. S. Johnston, assistant secretary, Prof. Baker, Dr. Ferguson, Messrs. W. F. Maclean and M. S. Mercer were chosen to act with the other officers as an Executive Committee. The chairman was given power to add to the committee in his discretion, and to distribute subscription books, and all moneys subscribed are to be paid to him, and by him to the Bursar of the University, as custodian for the committee. It was decided to proceed immediately to such an active collection of funds as will justify the commencement of building during the present summer; and with this in view the committee will, in a few days, be actively at work in all parts of the province, with the object of collecting at least \$10,000 before June. University men now form a very large constituency, and with prompt and hearty co-operation they ought to have no difficulty in furnishing such a building as the University ought to have in connection with it. If Mr. Cameron, in speaking for London, voices the general sentiments of the outside cities and towns, Toronto will be materially assisted in making the scheme a marked and an immediate success. A circular will be issued in a few days fully explaining to University men and friends of the University what is expected of them, and why.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

A regular meeting of the society was held on Tuesday afternoon, March 27, in the west end lecture room. A very interesting paper on Life Assurance, contributed by Mr. F. Sanderson, B.A., was read by the Secretary. In this paper Mr. Sanderson gave an historical sketch of the development of the doctrine of life assurance, and outlined the duties and qualifications of an actuary. Mr. J. M. Clark, M.A., then favoured the society with a paper on "The Luminiferous Ether," in which he first discussed the existence and properties of the ether. The chief feature of the paper, however, was the demonstration of an original method of finding the density of the ether. The following nominations for officers of the society for next year were received:—President, A. C. McKay, B.A., J. A. Duff, B.A.; Vice-President, H. S. Robertson, D. Hull, W. R. B. Spotton; Sec.-Treas., C. A. Clark, F. L. Sawyer, T. C. Doidge; Corresponding Secretary, A. F. Hunter, A. W. Campbell, J. McCallum; 4th year Councillor, J. Gill, J. McCallum; 3rd year

Councillor, T. H. Whitelaw, D. A. Burgess; 2nd year Councillor, D. Walker, T. C. Doidge, G. Hammill. The annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd, at four o'clock.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

At the final meeting of the Engineering Society held on Monday afternoon in the School of Practical Science, the corresponding secretary, Mr. G. H. Richardson, read a paper on "Railway Economies," prepared by Mr. Hanning, a graduate. The paper explained the uses of curves in road building, and gave statistics showing running expenses per mile per annum of railways on different classes of roadbeds. It was suggested that the students engaged in practical work during the summer recess should prepare notes on plans of work and on contracts of agreement with railway companies, for discussion at fall meetings of the society. Arrangements have been made for the publication of the Engineering Journal containing the papers read in the meetings of the society during the term. The following were nominated for officers, the election taking place on Saturday evening. President, Mr. H. E. T. Haultain, (acc.); Vice-President, Mr. Rosebrugh, (acc.); Sec.-Treas., Messrs. Russell, Eames, Merrill and Buck; Corresponding-Secretary, Messrs. Wells, Mills and Bone; 3rd-year Representatives, Messrs. Wicket, Shillinglaw and Hanning; 2nd-year Representatives, Messrs. Corrigan, Peterson, Peddar, Mead and Merrill.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY.

Copies of the following works have lately been presented to the University Library by the respective authors:—"General Paralysis of the Insane," by Wm. J. Mickle, M.D., F.R.C.P., London, 1st and 2nd editions; and through the author's publisher, David Douglas, Edinburgh, a large paper copy of "History of Liddesdale, Eskdale, Ewesdale, Wauchopedale and the Debateable Land," by Robert Bruce Armstrong.

TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

The Annual Meeting of the Temperance League was held on Wednesday, March 28th, the Vice-President in the chair. The election of officers for next year resulted as follows:

Honorary President.....	D. R. Keys, B.A., (acclm.)
President.....	H. W. C. Shore.
Vice-President.....	N. Morrison.
Sec.-Treas.....	A. J. Hunter.
Councillors.—4th Year.....	W. H. Harvey.
" 3rd ".....	W. R. Rutherford.
" 2nd ".....	D. W. McGhee.

After some discussion of prospects and plans for next year, the meeting adjourned.

THE BASE BALL CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Varsity Base Ball Club was held on Thursday of last week. The Honorary President, Mr. D. Armour, B.A., being absent, Mr. W. M. McKay was voted to the chair.

Mr. S. D. Schultz read his report, which showed a successful season in every respect, giving a financial surplus as well as a very satisfactory team record. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Honorary President, Prof. Alfred Baker; President, S. D. Schultz; Vice-President, J. F. Suetsingen; Secy.-Treasurer, J. H. A. Proctor; Curator, D. J. Armour; Councillors, J. H. Senkler, H. B. Fraser, I. R. Carling, J. B. Rete, W. J. Moran and S. J. Smith.

A. N. Garrett, the captain-elect, gave a brief outline of the coming season's work. He expressed his firm belief that the team's record would be a bright one, for the material at hand, with faithful attention to practice, was certainly capable of showing up in good form on the diamond.

The season at the disposal of the club is very limited, but efforts will be made to have the team figure in some interesting contests.

PRACTICAL ECONOMICS.

The American Public Health Association is a voluntary organization, having for its object "the advancement of sanitary science and the promotion of measures for the practical application of public hygiene." Its membership is very large, and includes representatives from nearly every state in the Union, who have been "selected with special reference to their acknowledged interest in or devotion to sanitary studies and allied sciences, and to the practical application of the same." At its twelfth annual meeting, held in St. Louis, Missouri, in the autumn of 1884, a public-spirited and philanthropic citizen of Rochester, N. Y., Mr. Henry Lomb, deeply impressed with the practical importance of its deliberations, approached one of the leading members and said,—"I see what you want. You have an abundance of light, but your light must be hidden under a bushel because you have no means of disseminating it. I propose to assist you if it is accept-

able." He made a generous offer of money, to be expended in prizes for approved papers on certain specified subjects, which should be suited, by their popular style, for the education of the general public, and yet contain a clear exposition of the most advanced views on the subjects selected.

Mr. Lomb also offers, this year, two prizes, the first of \$500, the second of \$200, for the best essays on this subject: "Practical Sanitary and Economic Cooking, adapted to persons of Moderate and Small Means." The conditions are:—The arrangement of the essay will be left to the discretion of the author. They are, however, expected to cover, in the broadest and most specific manner, methods of cooking as well as carefully prepared receipts, for three classes,—(1) those of moderate means; (2) those of small means; (3) those who may be called poor. For each of these classes, receipts for three meals a day for several days in succession should be given, each meal to meet the requirements of the body, and to vary as much as possible from day to day. Formulas for at least twelve dinners, to be carried to the place of work, and mostly eaten cold, to be given. Healthfulness, practical arrangement, low cost, and palatableness should be combined considerations. The object of this work is for the information of the housewife, to whose requirements the average cook-book is ill adapted, as well as to bring to her attention healthful and economic methods and receipts. All essays written for the above prizes must be in the hands of the Secretary, Dr. Irving A. Watson, Concord, N. H., on or before September 15, 1888.

The final outcome of this generous offer, and of the action of the several committees of award appointed by the Association, was the publication of four exceedingly valuable treatises on the following subjects:

- (1) Healthy Homes and Foods for the Working Classes. By Prof. Victor C. Vaughan, M.D., Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- (2) The Sanitary Conditions and Necessities of School-Houses and School Life. By D. F. Lincoln, M.D., Boston, Mass.
- (3) Disinfection and Individual Prophylaxis against Infectious Diseases. By George M. Sternberg, M.D., Major and Surgeon U. S. A.
- (4) The Preventable Causes of Disease, Injury and Death in American Manufactories and Workshops, and the Best Means and Appliances for Preventing and Avoiding Them. By George H. Ireland, Springfield, Mass.

These papers, selected by the Committees of Award as the best of a very large number presented in competition, are exceedingly valuable. They have been published in book, and also in pamphlet form. The prices of these essays, 25c. for the four, is such as to bring them within the reach of all, especially that class to which they are addressed.

It would be well for the public health if a copy could be placed in every school, every workshop, and every home in America.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

The Thursday meeting was led by James Gill. His subject was "The Necessity of Preaching the Gospel," based on Ezekiel 33: 8, 9. At the business meeting afterwards nominations were received for next year's officers: for president, W. H. Harvey and F. Tracy; for 1st vice-president, Wm. Gauld, F. W. McConnell, and W. H. Grant; for 2nd vice-president G. Forgie, W. R. Rutherford, and G. B. McLean; for recording secretary, W. H. Graham and N. MacMurchy; for treasurer, C. A. Stuart and A. E. Segsworth. The committee appointed to nominate a general secretary for 1888-89 consists of H. B. Fraser, J. D. Spence, F. Tracy, W. H. Harvey, and Wm. Gauld. Elections take place at the annual meeting, next Thursday, when reports will be presented by the various committees.

The Sustentation Fund canvass has succeeded so well that the Executive was able to recommend that \$400 be paid the general secretary next year, he to give four or five hours daily to the affairs of the Association. This falls short of what was aimed at,—\$600, and a man to give all his time to the Association, but is the best arrangement possible under the circumstances.

THOUGHTS.

Of the 1563 students of Ann Arbor University last year, at least 805 were professing Christians.

The four gospels are used as a reading book in the higher classes of the primary schools throughout Greece.

Dr. McCosh says, "Young men are swayed in religious belief more by the spirit of the college than by the instructors."

Anything which makes religion its second object, makes religion

no object. God will put up with a good many things in the human heart, but there is one thing He will not put up with—a second place. He who offers God a second place offers Him no place.—*Ruskin.*

It has been said, and very truly, "Reputation is what men think of us; character is what God knows of us."

Use sin as it will use you; spare it not, for it will not spare you; it is your murderer; kill it, or it will kill you.—*Richard Baxter.*

"God is love." The ocean is but *one* sheet of water, but it assumes different names as it washes different shores. The various attributes and perfections of God are only modifications of one principle, and that is *love*. The same principal which builds an infirmary erects a prison.—*Christmas Evans.*

Though the sun is the source and foundation of light, there is little good in gazing at the sun except to be made blind. No one ever saw the better for looking the sun directly in the face. It is a child's trick. Grown-up people know better. We use the light which the sun gives to see by and to search into all things—the sun excepted. Here we cannot explore beyond what he reveals of himself in the light and heat which he sheds upon us, and by the colours by which he is reflected from the earth. There is no searching of the sun, our eyes are too weak. How much less can we reach the sun's Creator, before whom all suns are but as so many cloud-bodies! His revelation of Himself in His works and in His word, in His Son and in our souls is more than enough for us. Persons who dare to go, as they say, in a directer way to Himself, are like children looking at the sun, who, instead of getting more light and better eyes, get less light and an incapacitated eye.—*Quiet Hours.*

ANNOUNCEMENT.

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

In this number appears Dr. Hodgins' paper on the Civil Service, being No. 7 of our series on the University and the Professions.

CONTENTS OF THE PRESENT NUMBER.

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DR. J. G. HODGINS.

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The Reading Room.

Class Spirit and Class Organization.

The Baptist Convention.

Round the Table.

University and College News.

College News.

Y. M. C. A. Notes.

Di-Varsities.

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DI-VARSITIES.

One of the boys just before returning to Cornell, the other day, sent a young lady friend of his a cake of Lubin's finest variety of toilet soap, with the request that she would draw no inference on receiving such a gift. The next day the young man was somewhat astonished when he received a letter from the young lady containing the present of a fine-tooth comb, with the request that he would draw no inference therefrom.

THE CONCISE IMPERIAL DICTIONARY.

"Although the etymological part is not the most important thing in a dictionary for popular use, it is naturally the first point which attracts the critic's attention, because it is in this department that the ordinary English dictionaries are most conspicuously wanting. A very hasty examination of THE CONCISE IMPERIAL is sufficient to show that it is at any rate far superior in this respect to all its rivals. Of course the book must be judged by the standard of the present state of philological knowledge, and the author's etymological remarks for the most part give evidence of sound scientific judgment and careful study of the most trustworthy authorities. Nearly all those of his derivations, which we should ourselves dispute, have been sanctioned by scholars of deserved repute, such as Professor Skeat, Eduard Muller, and Littré, in whose company it is pardonable to err. The "Hints on English Etymology," prefixed to the work, deserve very high praise. In the compass of only three pages the author manages to give a lucid and accurate summary of the mutual relationship of the Aryan tongues, and of the leading phonetic laws affecting the etymology of English words. Not only is Grimm's law described in some detail, with well-chosen examples, but wonderful to say, even Verner's law receives a passing mention, and in terms which are quite correct as far as they go."—Extract from a review in the London Academy, by Henry Bradley, the eminent philologist.

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"Yes, dear." "Do you think I'll have
the same papa all this yea?"

Smythe, who is something of a con-
noisseur in art, says his servant girl, who
lit the fire with kerosene, was done up in
oil.

"The times will improve when tobog-
ganing is over," said Jones. "How's
that?" asked Smith. "Well, we won't
see so many people going down hill
then."—*Boston Courier.*

A negro preacher described hell as icy
cold, where the wicked froze to all
eternity. Asked why, he said, "'Cause,
I don't dare tell dem people nuffin else.
Why, if I say hell is warm, some dem ole
rheumatic niggers be wantin' start down
dere de very fus' fros'."

Frenchman (learning English).— Ah,
yees. Now I begins to onderstand
vot I nevare could make de sense of
before. De small *vaisseau*, de weak
one, de female, you call it de sheep,
and de strong one, de vot you call man-
o-bar, de ionclad, he is de ram, *n'est ce
pas?*

CONSCIENTIOUS TO A FAULT.—Native
of those parts, to stout commercial per-
son (to whom it is a life and death matter
that he should catch the train seen in the
distance), very deliberately, indeed, and
between mouthfuls of bread and cheese—
"Well, sir, I can't rightly say which is the
shortest cut, I'm sure, for you see both
roads leads to it, as it were, and some says
one is the highest, and some says the
other is nigher still; I myself says one's
half as far again as t'other; but then,
bless you, that's only my opinion, you
see, and the Lord forbid I should mislead
you when you are in a hurry."

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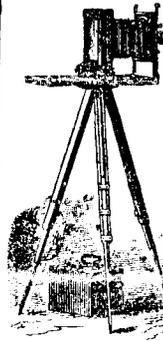
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