

VARSAITY

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LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY THOUGHT AND EVENTS.

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THE VARSITY.

THE VARSITY is published in the University of Toronto every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.
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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.
Contributions when not accepted will be returned if accompanied with a stamp for that purpose.

Topics of the Hour.

TO-DAY is Professor Young's 67th birthday. We are sure that every graduate and undergraduate will join with us in wishing most heartily the honored Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy "Very Many Happy Returns of the Day." Although the snows of three-score years rest upon his brow, Time has not dimmed his eye nor abated his natural force, but has only deepened the sincere regard and unbounded respect of all who know him.

WE are glad to be able to announce that we have arranged with a number of vigorous writers for a series of articles on political and social reform. The questions taken up will be discussed by

these writers from a purely independent and national standpoint. Mr. H. L. Dunn contributes the first article of the series to the present issue. His position relative to politics is somewhat defined by the fact that he was the mover of the resolution in the Young Men's Liberal Club the other night condemning the attempt of the managers of the Reform Party in Toronto to introduce into municipal affairs the party and spoils system with all its attendant evils.

WORTHY of note by all who have earnestly at heart the interests of the Provincial University is that peculiarly advantageous form of endowment adopted by the legislatures of several states, by which each makes its own university in very truth a *State* university. The magnificent endowments consisting in their congressional land-grants being dwindled in some wise—"frittered away, scarce leaving dollars, where there should have been hundreds"—the University of Michigan receives from the state the proceeds of an annual tax of one-twentieth of a mill; the University of Wisconsin, one-tenth of a mill. Of our own original endowment in land, now scattered and wasted somewhat, may we not say that it is as it is through a culpable breach of trust? and if the Universities of Wisconsin and Michigan are granted State aid greater than the revenue arising from their endowment funds; if the State Universities of Iowa and Colorado, not to mention others, receive such magnificent endowments as not to be in need of further aid at all—surely the legislature of the first Province in the Dominion should do something now towards placing the University of Toronto on a similar firm basis.

THE appointment of a committee to make arrangements with professors and others for a course of lectures to the undergraduates is a move in the right direction, and proves that the Literary Society is alive to the importance of an undertaking of this kind. The benefit of really good lectures on subjects of general culture cannot be over-estimated. All the best universities in the States are adopting this way of enabling their students to hear the foremost scholars, orators and *litterateurs* of the day. Ann Arbor presents the following names as lecturers for the current year: R. Burdette, Kate Feld, Albion Tourgee, Will Carleton, T. De Witt Talmage, Canon Farrar and Justin McCarthy. We may not, it is true, be able to obtain so large a number of eminent persons, but we are not altogether devoid of able lecturers. Professor Goldwin Smith's name has been mentioned already, and it is understood that Dr. Wilson is willing to deliver a lecture if asked. Professor Hutton lectured last year to the Chautauqua Society in this city, and Mr. Dale only a week ago delivered a lecture to the same society on the "Influence of Rome on the Modern World." We hope the committee will be successful in obtaining the best men to be had, and we look to the undergraduates to make the lectures a success.

THE tone of Mr. Duncan's letter in another column makes it quite evident that he entirely misapprehends the functions of the editors of the VARSITY, and their attitude towards the University public. The fault is not ours. We stated our position with sufficient clearness in our first issue. Yet to prevent similar misapprehension in the future, we will again briefly outline the policy of the VARSITY. This journal is maintained simply as an organ for the free expression of University thought and opinion. The editors do not claim infallibility. They make no pretensions to oracular utterances. They invite discussion and criticism. Editorials no less than contributions or communications must stand or fall on their own merits. We do not wish to force upon any one our opinions on scholarships or on any other question. We simply state our views as simply and forcibly as we may, and they must then go for what they are worth. If any one has different opinions we ask him to state them, and we throw open our columns to him for that purpose. By this means truth may be reached. At all events the public is in a position to judge between different views of important questions. Since Mr. Duncan differs from us concerning scholarships, we willingly give him the opportunity of stating his reasons for doing so. If he has thrown more light on the question we should be grateful; if he has not we cannot help it. On this point and on others we are content to let his letter speak for itself.

THE authorities of King's College, Windsor, N.S., have done themselves credit by the appointment of Charles G. D. Roberts M.A., to the chair of English Literature in that institution. We hasten, therefore, to extend our hearty congratulations to King's College on its good fortune, and to Professor Roberts, on his appointment to the honorable position for which he is eminently qualified. What especially pleases us is the fact that the authorities of this Canadian College have appointed a Canadian to fill one of the most important positions on their professorial staff. Charles George Douglas Roberts was born in January, 1860, and is consequently but 25 years old. After a preparatory course at Fredericton Collegiate School he entered the University of New Brunswick, and after a most successful course graduated with high honors. After filling various positions in the educational institutions of his own Province, Mr. Roberts was selected, in 1883, to fill the responsible position of editor of *The Week*, of this city. After six months' experience Mr. Roberts resigned, owing, it is said, to political and other differences with Mr. Goldwin Smith. Mr. Roberts has been a contributor to the *Century*, *Manhattan*, *Current*, *Longman's Outing*, *The Week*, and other English and American periodicals. In 1879 he published a volume of poetry, "Orion and Other Poems," which has been most favorably commented on by the press, and elicited, we are told, a most complimentary remark from Matthew Arnold. In Boston literary circles Mr. Roberts has been spoken of as the "American Keats," and his position is well assured amongst the younger poets of America. Mr. Roberts' tastes incline to the classics and classical subjects, and one of his latest poems is entitled "Out of Pompeii," published a week or two ago in *Man*. We regret that space will not permit of a review of Mr. Roberts' writings, but we may refer to them again at greater length. In the meantime we rejoice to know that King's College, in honoring a Canadian, has reflected nothing but honor upon herself, and that in the Maritime Provinces they have given an emphatic denial to the statement "that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country."

Leading Article.

UNIVERSITY MEN AND POLITICS.

IT has been well said that the two things which, above all others, are worthy of a man's serious consideration are religion and poli-

tics. For the end of politics, in the true and comprehensive meaning of the term, is nothing less than the welfare of the members of the State—protection of life and person, material prosperity, mental and moral well-being. "Man," Aristotle says, "is born to be a citizen of the State." As a member of the State he is under an obligation to co-operate in securing its highest good. He who strives to discharge his duties faithfully, and to advance the best interests of the State, is a good citizen; he who performs his part amiss, or who neglects to perform his part at all, is a useless citizen and an injury to the State.

No citizen, then, can be justified in leaving politics alone. And yet there is at the present time a large class of persons who seem to regard it as an especial virtue in themselves that they are ignorant of public affairs and take no interest whatsoever in them. It is to be regretted that in this class many University men are to be found. This is not as it should be. A University training should fit a man not merely for the professional life, but for "the life beyond the profession, the citizen life." Our University men should be the best citizens and the leaders of political thought. They, above all others, may well be expected to have wide scope of vision, to be above prejudice, to have the faculty of discriminating between good and evil, to be independent in thought and action, and progressive. It was Plato who taught that "until kings are ill." And by philosophers he meant those who can apprehend ideas—the intellectual.

Why is it, then, that so large a number of our leading graduates hold aloof from politics? Is it that they are wholly indifferent to the affairs of their country? Is not the reason to be found rather in the existence of our present system of party government?

It is not wise, perhaps, to condemn party in a wholesale manner. An organization may be most necessary and useful to secure a political end, to carry principles into effect. From this point of view Burke, in his philosophic manner, defended party:—

"Party is a body united for promoting by their joint endeavours the national interest upon some particular principle on which they are all agreed. For my part, I find it impossible to conceive that any one believes in his own politics or thinks them to be of any weight who refuses to adopt the means of having them reduced into practice. . . . Without a proscription of others, they are bound to give to their own party the preference in all things, and by no means for private considerations to accept any offices of power in which the whole body is not included, nor to suffer themselves to be led or to be controlled, or to be overbalanced in office or in council by those who contradict the very fundamental principles on which their party is formed, and even those upon which every fair connection must stand."

But when men are held together by prejudice and interest alone, having nothing more noble in view than the securing of the spoils, we have not a legitimate use of party, but that faction warfare which is the curse of the present day. In England, perhaps, the great political parties are divided on certain important questions, such as the abolition of the House of Lords and Disestablishment. But in Canada the appellations Reform and Conservative as applied to our parties have no meaning. The two parties, divided by tradition and interest and not by principles, opposed to each other on no question of importance, are struggling, the one to hold, the other to obtain office. The chief end of the party is to secure the spoils. The caucus rules and the individual is merged in the party. If there are good men in both the political parties the truth in regard to them is that they are good in spite of party. It is not surprising, therefore, that men of principle and independence, unable conscientiously to attach themselves to either party, are tempted to leave politics alone and to allow unscrupulous partisans and wire-pullers to have their own sweet will in the management of our public affairs.

But the independent citizen cannot find in this unwholesome state of things any justification for his neglect of politics. It is his plain duty to be regardful of the interests of his country and to protest

against this domination of party. And at the present time there is especial reason why the independent class should speak out. The fiat has gone forth on the Reform side, that politics shall be introduced into municipal affairs. Henceforth our Mayors and Aldermen are to be the nominees of the caucus. Allegiance to a political party and not individual merit is to be the necessary qualification of a representative at the council board. Toronto is the unfortunate municipality into which this party warfare is to be first introduced, but we may be assured that the example of the metropolis will be followed throughout the length and breadth of the province.

There are those who, without defending the principle of this innovation, support it on the ground of expediency. It is alleged that the Conservative majority of the Toronto City Council has for many years made a selfish and unprincipled use of its power. Even if this be true, a panacea is not to be found in the transformation of the Conservative majority into a majority of Reform partisans. If the real aim is not selfish party gain but municipal reform, it is evident that the proposed step is most inexpedient. An organization for municipal reform will be supported by large numbers of Reformers, Conservatives and independents, but if the political party warfare above referred to is to be introduced into our civic councils for the purpose of correcting abuses in municipal affairs, none but partisans can sympathize with the movement.

It has been maintained with strange perversity that the introduction of these political party distinctions into municipal matters is sound in principle. It is said that we will thus secure the purest administration, that a man as a member of a party will not do that which will bring discredit on his party, that loyalty to party will keep a man pure. Is not the very opposite the truth? Is not the individual conscience too apt to be controlled by party exigencies? Men as members of parties daily do acts that they would never do as individuals.

This is certainly not the right mode of proceeding about municipal reform. Our civic representatives should be men of intelligence, experience, and moral worth. The introduction of politics into municipal affairs will not secure such men for us. Rather let each citizen take that deep interest which he should in public matters and make a conscientious use of his individual judgment. And, above all, let our University men see that they do their duty.

H. L. DUNN.

Literature.

AUTUMN-END.

In Autumn when the leaves are sere,
And mists blow moist across the lea,
No summer-singing birds we hear,
No song of Summer's jollity;
Only the stubble-fields to see,
Or wan sedge rustling by the wear,
No sweet young life, or love or glee,
In Autumn when the leaves are sere.

At Autumn-end that now draws near,
I dwell and dream with memory,
(The wan sky hangs on marshes drear;
No sunset flame, no sapphire sea);
And ghosts of dead hopes bring to me
The heart-ache and the desolate tear,
The burden of sad winds and sea
Of Autumn when the leaves are sere.

FRED H. SYKES.

CHARLES EGBERT CRADDOCK.*

IN our previous article on this author the position was taken that the writer who appeals in the strongest way to the highest and most universal feelings of human nature is justly entitled to be placed in the first rank of authors, and will attain to permanent popularity. It is our present object to show in some degree, and chiefly by means of quotations, that Charles Egbert Craddock has fulfilled these conditions in quite an unusual measure. Our remarks relate mainly to the series of tales entitled "In the Tennessee Mountains," but some of our illustrations are taken from the author's more recent story, "The Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountain," which first appeared as a serial in the *Atlantic Monthly* a few months since.

We may remark here parenthetically that the greatest surprise which the literary world has experienced since the days of George Eliot was the disclosure recently made that "Charles Egbert Craddock" is really Miss Mary N. Murfree, of St. Louis. There is so much of what is called masculine vigor in her literary style, and her handwriting is so strong and firm, that even the acute editor of the *Atlantic* was completely deceived until it was the pleasure of the author to disclose her identity.

There is a strong feeling in most minds that the best and noblest, the most admirable and the most beneficent, attributes of human character are something entirely apart from all social forms and conventions, and all accidents of birth, wealth, social position or education. It is our author's greatest merit that she has made this eternal fact the basis of all her writings. Then the excellence of her literary workmanship is shown in the circumstance that she does not obtrude the idea formally on the reader, or in other words, she does not preach her high morality. She *assumes* it throughout, and then employs all her art, but artlessly withal, to bring us into sympathy with her assumption. Or probably it would be nearer the truth to say that she does not employ art at all, but rather that, being large-hearted and intensely sympathetic herself, she has through personal observation had a strong admiration and enthusiasm enkindled for the virtues of humble life, and simply by giving sincere expression to her own sympathy she wins ours.

In "The Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountain" the heroine first appears ploughing with an ox in her father's cornfield, but before the story is done the reader forgets all about that. The mother of the "Prophet" is described in our second quotation, and in the third there is a transfiguration of a prayer-meeting in the mountains.

"She wore a dark blue homespun dress, and, despite her coarse garb and uncouth occupation and the gaunt, old ox, there was something impressive in her simple beauty, her youth, and her elastic vigor. As she drove the ploughsh re into the mould she might have seemed the type of a young civilization,—so fine a thing in itself, so roughly accoutred."

"The woman left her work and took off her bonnet, showing her grey hair drawn into a skimpy knot at the back of her head, and leaving in high relief her strong, honest, candid features, on which the refinements of all benign impulses had effaced the effects of poverty and ignorance."

"They all knelt down, huddled like sheep in the narrow spaces between the benches, and from among them went up the voice of supplication, that anywhere and anyhow has the commanding dignity of spiritual communion, the fervor and exaltation, and all the moving humility of the finite leaning upon the infinite. Ignorance was annihilated, so far as Brother Reuben Bates' prayer was concerned. It grasped the fact of immortality,—all worth knowing!—and humble humanity in its least worthy phase was presented as the intimate inherent principle of the splendid fruitions of eternity."

In these days of the worship of wealth, of intellect, and of position, there is urgent need of some influence that shall direct the

* In the *Tennessee Mountains*, by Charles Egbert Craddock, cloth, 13th Edition, price \$1.50
The *Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountain*, cloth, price 1.50
BOSTON: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. TORONTO: Williamson & Co.

eyes of men to higher things. In older settled portions of the United States and Canada the rugged virtues of the first inhabitants are being followed by the worst vices and crimes of a corrupt civilization. The alarming insecurity of property at the present day is not due to the highwayman or freebooters, but to the shameless dishonesty of men of wealth, of education, and of high social position! There are other immoralities in the high life of our large cities, the bare possibility of which is not conceivable to rural virtue. Such a state of things can scarcely be wondered at when we consider that the secular and social education of the day is merely of the intellect, to the almost entire neglect of the moral faculties. Here comes in the immense value of such books as Charles Egbert Craddock's. They keep alive the higher ideals of truth, of duty, of righteousness. To the upper classes of society the authors of these books are the apostles of a higher life than what is usually met with in counting houses and ball-rooms.

The greater number of the Tennessee Mountain stories are tragedies. That is to say, they end sadly. Especially is this true of those unequalled tales, "Drifting Down Lost Creek" and "The Star in the Valley." At the first perusal the reader for the moment is oppressed with an infinite sorrow that all the heroine's noble purpose and high endeavor should seem to be in the end so utterly vain and profitless. But the true revelation soon comes to us. Their lives were not failures, these poor unfortunate people of the wild. Through the dark depths of sorrow and trial they struggled undauntedly onward, they emerged, they climbed upward and still upward and into the pure day, until at last they reached the sublime heights of a great heroic character. Our pity for them gives way to admiration and our regret to reverence.

The heroine of "The Star in the Valley," is described as being "most coarsely habited, wearing a cheap calico sun-bonnet, a green cotton dress faded to the faintest hue, and rough clumsy shoes." She had none of the refinements or accomplishments of civilized life, she could not speak good English, and it is doubtful if she could even write her own name. But this girl yet risked her life willingly for humanity's sake, and the effect of her moral heroism on the cultured mind of a city tourist is forcibly described as follows:

"There had fallen on Chevis a sense of deep humiliation. . . . He began to have a glimmering perception that despite all his culture, his sensibility, his yearnings towards humanity, he was not so high a thing as Celia Shaw in the scale of being; that he had placed a false estimate upon himself. He had looked down on her with mingled pity for her dense ignorance, her coarse surroundings, her low station with a dilettante's delight in picturesque effects, and with no recognition of the moral splendor of that star in the valley. A realization, too, was upon him that fine feelings are of most avail as the motive power of fine deeds."

Next week we shall conclude our articles on this author by illustrations of her powers of description of nature, and of her ability in the minor matters of literary style.

A. STEVENSON.

IN MY GARDEN.

In my garden echoes ring,
And the sweet birds gaily sing
Free from care;
And their liquid music floats
With its clear mellow notes
In the air.

In my garden lilies grow,
Whiter, purer than the snow,
Side by side.

And the moss-rose, blooming fair,
Sheds its fragrance through the air
Far and wide.

In my garden columbine
With its tendrils will entwine
Round the rose;

And the beautiful lovely pair
Shade the modest violet there
As it grows.

In my garden pansies sweet
On the turf beneath my feet
Brightly bloom;
And the daisies, lovelier far,
Shimmer softly, like a star
In the gloom.

In my garden one rose grew
Safe from every wind that blew;
But it died.
How I loved it! how it seems
Ever present in my dreams
At my side!

In my garden, other flowers
Cluster round the scented bowers,
Bright and gay.
While the echoes softly ring,
And the sweet birds gently sing
All the day.

S. WOODS.

OTTAWA, Nov. 9th, 1885.

University and College News.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Engineering Society of the School of Practical Science was held in Prof. Pike's lecture room last Tuesday evening, Prof. Galbraith in the chair. After ordinary routine business had been transacted, Mr. Pinhey read a paper on "Methods of laying out lines by means of pickets," which showed evidence of careful study. He was then followed by Mr. H. M. Bowman, with a most interesting paper on "A System of Survey in British Columbia." The writer had spent nearly a year on government geographical surveys between the Selkirk and Cascade ranges during 1885, and explained minutely the systems of "tract" and "distance" surveys they adopted in that mountainous and diversified country. The different instruments used, the solar transit, pocket and prismatic compasses, aneroid and mercurial barometers, the box-sextant and micrometer were described, and the peculiar system of taking notes thoroughly explained. The paper, from its originality and careful preparation, will be a valuable addition to the Society's Transactions. In the discussion that followed the reading of these essays, Prof. Galbraith exhibited to the Society the instruments mentioned above, and made some remarks about the peculiarities of each.

KNOX COLLEGE.

We were glad to receive a call from Mr. R. McNair, this week. He doesn't change!

The Glee Club has been invited to give concerts in Paris and in Brantford. They sing in Paris on Thursday evening, and in Brantford on Friday evening.

The Elocution lectures of Prof. Neff closed on Wednesday evening, when he favored the class with some examples of reading. In returning to Philadelphia he carries with him the best wishes of the students.

The next open meeting of the Literary Society has been postponed from December 4th to Friday, December 11th. A good programme has been prepared. The subject, "Resolved that England is destined to decline from natural causes," will be debated by the following gentlemen:—On the affirmative, J. C. Tolmie, B.A., and D. McGillivray, M.A. On the negative, G. Kinneary, B.A., and H. R. Fraser, B.A.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting of the Natural Science Association was held on Tuesday evening, the Vice-President, Mr. Shutt, in the chair. After ordinary business an interesting paper on the "Anatomy and Development of *Peripatus Capensis*," was read by Mr. Mackenzie. This was followed by an exhaustive paper on "The Determination

of Atomic Weights and Prout's Hypothesis," by Mr. Chambers. A third paper on "The Anatomy of the Hirudinea," by Mr. McArthur, illustrated by drawings, showed that the author had devoted time and care to the preparation of his work. The meeting was well attended and unusual interest was manifested.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The regular weekly meeting of this Society was held in Moss Hall, on Monday, 23rd inst., at four o'clock. The proceedings were conducted in English. Mr. Rowan occupied the chair. Essays were read by Mr. Waldron and Mr. Hardie, the former on Life of Thomas Carlyle, the latter on Hero Worship. Readings were given by Mr. Steen and Mr. Cody, the former selecting a passage from the "French Revolution," the latter from "Sartor Resartus." A discussion on Carlyle followed, in which valuable hints were thrown out by lecturers and graduates present.

The Club expects at no distant day to be favored by a gentleman in the city with a lecture on the phonology of the vowels. Further notice of this will be given next week.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

This society held its regular meeting on Tuesday evening. The president being indisposed, vice-president L. J. Bowerman occupied the chair. After the regular business had been disposed of, Mr. Bowerman proceeded to illustrate by experiments the physical explanations of the vocal organ in producing sounds, and showing how it is possible from the properties of Accoustics to construct instruments in imitation of the human voice. The subjects for discussion were "The giving of awards for proficiency in Mathematics," and "The division of the course in the final year." The former was dwelt upon at considerable length by Messrs. Stephen, Bowerman, Sparling, Pendergast, and Carveth, the latter being left over until the next meeting of the society.

L. J. Bowerman gave notice that he would move at the next meeting "That a medal be established similar to the McMurrich medal of the Natural Science Association."

A number of problems were solved by Messrs. Crawford, Carveth, and Stephen, Mr. Stephen showing the ready application of quaternions to the solution of some difficult geometrical problems.

Andy Elliott was among the visitors at the society. Mathematical students having difficult problems to solve are reminded to hand them in to the secretary one week prior to each meeting.

OSGOODE LITERARY AND LEGAL SOCIETY.

Every Saturday night the students-at-law meet in Osgoode Hall with the object of "promoting the study of the law, the cultivation of public speaking and reading, and the writing of essays on legal and other subjects"; and the carefully-prepared and well-delivered speeches one often hears at their debates have made the Society quite prosperous and the meetings well attended. A clear, judicious decision from the president and a neatly worded criticism from the critic may always be counted on.

Last evening the programme opened with a reading from Mrs. Browning, after which followed an essay on "The United Empire Loyalists." The strong part taken by the essayist on the side of the Americans seemed to nettle the critic, a young English barrister, who accordingly pronounced it too historical, and brought to light a grammatical error. An error there was, but it lay in the critic's apprehension. The censure of the style of delivery was as just as it was severe. Nothing keeps back the sympathy an audience would gladly give to one who tries to entertain them more than fame, inexpressive reading. But a critic, too, has a thankless task, when, saying nothing of the presence or absence of serious faults in diction, or taste, or style—errors that he should with kindness explain and condemn—he goes to make mountains out of mole-hills for no conceivable reason but to flourish a trivial reminiscence or to display to greater advantage his own consciousness of excellence. However, one cannot always be wise and temperate, loyal and neutral.

The subject of debate was an interesting one—Should we foster a military spirit? The decision was given in favour of the negative, and no doubt, on the merits of the question, with reason. Foster a spirit of patriotic sentiment and good sociability, with the assistance, if you like, of a scarlet uniform and the splendor of parade, but why should we keep up the pride and servility of military discipline, common to the corporal and the general, with its ruffianism of force always ready to burst forth? Let us have a wise people and we need no military spirit.

In the general business some considerable discussion arose over a motion to hold open debates every alternate meeting. The motion was ultimately carried, and the meeting then adjourned.

UNDERGRADUATE DINNER.

A large and representative gathering of Undergraduates was held in Moss Hall, on Tuesday last, to discuss the holding of the annual dinner. Mr. D. J. MacMurchy was chairman, and Mr. G. A. Cameron, secretary. After an expression by the meeting of a general desire to have the dinner an Undergraduate affair, the following were elected to manage the banquet:—Chairman, D. J. MacMurchy; Vice-Chairmen, Messrs. A. H. Young, F. B. Hodgins. Committee, 4th year, Messrs. Martin, T. Marshall, A. G. Morphy, J. Ross, W. P. Mustard, A. Elliott. 3rd year, Messrs. C. J. Hardie, J. G. Hume, F. A. C. Redden, A. H. O'Brien, J. A. McMillan, T. A. Ferguson. 2nd year, Messrs. W. J. Healy, W. H. Hodges, J. R. S. Boyd, W. Mackay, D. Ferguson, T. A. Gibson. 1st year, Messrs. Moore, Cody, J. Moss, Snetsinger, F. M. Robertson, G. C. Biggar.

It was decided to hold the dinner on Thursday, December 10th, and the arrangements were left to the committee. The meeting then adjourned.

At the general committee meeting yesterday afternoon, Mr. G. A. Cameron was elected secretary, and Mr. A. G. Morphy treasurer. It was decided that the price of the tickets be not more than \$1.50 each. On motion it was adopted that no liquor should be provided.

The following committees have been struck off:—Dinner—Messrs. MacMurchy (Convener), Marshall, Morphy, Cameron, G. A. Printing.—Messrs. Young (Convener), O'Brien, Gibson, Hodges. Toast and Invitation.—Messrs. Marshall (Convener), Elliott, Martin, Ross, Redden, Hardie, Hodgins, McKay, Robertson, Biggar. Music.—Messrs. Morphy (Convener), Mustard, Hodgins, Hume, Ferguson. Finance.—The above committee as a whole.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

The fifth public meeting of the U. C. T. L. was held in Moss Hall, on Wednesday. The attendance was rather poor, but those who were there were well repaid by the interesting addresses given.

After singing a hymn, the Honorary President, Prof. Young, dwelt briefly on the constitution of the society, its double-barrel quality, and its successes during the last year, 287 being the membership last year. He regretted that there were not more hard cases present. He then introduced the first speaker, Rev. Mr. Stafford.

Mr. Stafford congratulated University College on having a Temperance League. Many parents had an idea that everything bad, but very little good came out of the University. He said the question of temperance is, "How does it affect me?" It had done great things for him; all who tried it would find the same. Taking stimulants is constantly drawing on one's resources. This is short-sighted policy. As age goes on the power of resistance decreases, and so the habit grows. Though some good men defend the use of liquor, yet the scum and dregs of society are its main supporters.

Mr. Ross then took up the question, "Is total abstinence a good thing?" Subject it to tests. Wolseley in our North-west, Greely in the Arctic regions, Livingstone in Central Africa, and scores more, under severest trial, had successfully done without intoxicants. "Does it promote the well-being of society?" Go to prisons, poor-houses, and even the gallows, and we see the effects of intemperance—where the liquor traffic is put down, crime decreases. Much has been done, but there is much left to be done; let us be up and doing.

The Lord Bishop of Algoma was the next speaker. After expressing his pleasure at being present, he congratulated "the boys" on being up to the times in having a Temperance League. He held that Government has a right to interfere, and even prohibit in these matters, if it sees sufficient cause. We should help on the cause of temperance by the circulation of literature of a judicious character. He thought he was a fair specimen of 21 years total abstinence. He then dwelt on the particular value of abstinence for brain workers. This is what we need. Our duty to others is no less than that to ourselves. There is no command "Thou shalt be a total abstainer," and so many did not join the cause. But we have an equally strong principle of expediency. No inducement is so strong to one falling into intemperance as a friend saying, "Come and join us," not "go and become a total abstainer."

A hearty vote of thanks was then tendered the speakers, the chairman remarking in conclusion that too much stress could not be laid on the words of the last speaker, viz., the principle of abstaining for the sake of others from the moderate use of intoxicants.

The meeting then adjourned.

Y. M. C. A.

The regular meeting was held on Thursday afternoon, 26th inst., at 5 o'clock, in Moss Hall. Mr. T. M. Logie led the meeting. His subject was 1 John 5: 12; Christ Our Life. Note in the first place the assurance given to every believer—he that hath the Son hath life; and secondly, the blessing they miss who do not believe—he that hath not the Son, hath not life. This life, this condition of having the Son, is just faith. If, however, one connection with the Son be severed, there is no more life. But if the union is kept strong we experience eternity as a present blessing. How are we going to get more life? The only way, as we find is the case in everything else, is by living. We are to exercise our spiritual functions and our life will be sure to increase. The surest way this life, this faith, we have will reveal itself is in prayer, in a spiritual state consistent with continual prayer. Prayer is the language of faith. Further, we must not neglect what may be termed the lower functions of this life; we are to absorb all truth, assimilate and spiritualize it. Again, life has been defined as correspondence with environment, and spiritual life is simply correspondence with God, our Spiritual environment.

PERSONALS.

C. P. Smith, B.A., '83, has since graduation been farming in Elgin Co.

W. F. W. Creelman, B.A., is about to commence the practice of law in Collingwood.

M. F. Muir, B.A., '85, is studying law with Crown Attorney Van-Norman, Q. C., Brantford.

Messrs. Palmer, Malcolm, Elliott, Fraser, McKendrick and Thompson, of the Varsity Association Football Club, are members of the Canadian International Football Club, at present in Newark, N. J.

Miss F. H. Churchill and Miss Marie Strong appear together in a concert in Shaftesbury Hall next Thursday. Both of these ladies will be remembered by those who attended our last two conversations.

Communications.

THE SCHOLARSHIP QUESTION.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—I have read with satisfaction all that your journal has contained of late in condemnation of the Senate's continuing the system of awarding scholarships, prizes, etc. I can heartily endorse, from my own experience as a teacher, all that you have said as to the baneful influence of such *stimuli* on the learner. Once "enter" a boy in the race for a scholarship, and every part of your teaching is valued in proportion as it promises to secure that object. For a youth to work from a desire merely to pass some examination is craze bad enough; but for him to work from a desire to win a scholarship is the "Examination craze" ten times intensified. It "doth work like madness in the brain."

You have generously thrown open the columns of VARSITY "for the unlimited discussion of this (scholarship) question." Perhaps, then, you will permit a few words from me. Though an alumnus of a sister university, I cannot, with any decency, be charged with having hostile feelings towards Toronto University; seeing that for the greater part of the twenty years I have had charge of the Port Hope High School, it has, in addition to having representatives at Victoria and Queen's, maintained its quota of four, five and sometimes six students *in attendance* at University College. At the present writing, it has five there; all honor men in more than one department and among them a general proficiency scholar. Neither can my opposition to scholarships be laid to the fact that few of my pupils have succeeded in winning them; seeing that not a few of those, whom the University has delighted thus to honor were sent up from this school during my *regime*. I make these remarks in no spirit of boasting, but simply for the purpose of stop-

ping uncharitable mouths, and of putting myself *en rapport* with your readers, who are naturally attached to Toronto University.

In a recent issue you say:—"The chief argument that has been advanced in favour of money scholarships is that they furnish indispensable aid to needy students." You, Sir, do not need to be told how egregiously the method of awarding these scholarships hitherto pursued has failed to discover the really needy student; nor need you be told that a score of scholarships are thrown away upon students that do not need them in the effort to discover the one student that does. The fact is, and your remarks in THE VARSITY show that you are well aware of it, that this plea of giving scholarships because they help needy students is all moonshine.

But even if this was their aim, and they succeeded in reaching the needy student, I would even then question the propriety of bestowing them. Far be it from me to deny help to the needy student. But I hold that if he is worth helping, he will spurn help of this eleemosynary kind; and my chief object in now writing you is to suggest a method by which he may be helped without wounding or lowering his self-respect.

Many are not (and none need be) ashamed of being poor, for poor is only a comparative term; but many are ashamed—and all honour to them—of receiving pecuniary aid in the shape of a gift of public money. Then if you must aid the needy student, don't pauperize him or blunt his self-respect by *donating* him pecuniary assistance, but *loan* it to him as an act of business, and not of charity. If he is made of the right stuff—if he is such a one as the State should aid—he will gladly accept the loan and as promptly repay it. This would be, perhaps, a legitimate use of public funds and one for which a much less sum than the \$4,000 now wastefully spent in scholarships every year would suffice.

But I have an idea that public funds need not be used for the purpose. The Senate in its liberality must have given away, in scholarships, etc., since the establishment of the University and College, considerably over \$100,000. As a result of this liberality, doubtless many of the recipients, having in return served well the State—and themselves, it is to be hoped—are now in circumstances of ease and affluence. If it were known that the University was now in need of a fund out of which loans could be made to needy students, I am confident that nearly every one of those gentlemen, mindful of their own whilom necessitous condition, would gladly give back to the University, now in her time of need, what she gave them in theirs.

Yours truly,

Port Hope, Nov. 25th, 1885.

A. PURSLOW.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:—

SIR:—Will you kindly allow a little space for pointing out a consideration or two in connection with scholarships which Mr. Fraser seems to have overlooked in his letter of last week to THE VARSITY?

We hear a good deal of outcry against the sufficiency of written examinations as tests either of the knowledge of candidates or of their ability to think. Doubtless this outcry is in a large measure well founded. For an examination paper covers generally but a small part of any given subject, and some candidate may happen to know the greater part of what is on the paper, and very little of what is not on it. So he gets credit for more knowledge than he really possesses.

As to the problems that require thinking out, the examiners cannot well know whether the candidate works them out for himself at the examination desk or remembers some other person's solution of them.

Nobody needs to have actual cases pointed out to prove that what is here regarded as possible has been indeed realized. The fact is well known; every one of us could point out illustrations of it, but it would be rather an unpleasant task.

But supposing the candidate to be possessed of a good deal of

information and fair reasoning powers, how is the examiner to say exactly just how many marks he is to have? It is not at all likely that of a dozen good examiners any two would allot the same value to the answers of a candidate in any subject whatever.

Now, if these things are so, written examinations are not very well fitted to find out who is the best scholar in a class, and the truth is they ought never to be put to that use. If by this means we tried to find out only who ought to be in first-class honors, and who in second and third, examinations would not be nearly so dangerous. But when we try to decide through them which one of two persons, who are very nearly on an equality, should be placed ahead, we are just as likely to be wrong as right. Written examinations are not delicate tests; they do fairly well for dividing a class into groups in a general way, but they are not to be relied on in making a nice distinction between two men whose marks may differ only by one or two per cent.

It appears then that the new plan adopted by the Senate (which will apply at least to the fourth year) of arranging honor candidates alphabetically in three classes and of not attempting to tell who is best and who second best, is good and sensible, and the sooner the Senate applies it to all the years the better.

Mr. Fraser thinks that the scholarship system is good because poor men are helped. But unfortunately, just as you cannot tell on account of the insufficiency of the test, whether the scholarship is going to the man who deserves it, neither can you tell whether it is going to him who needs it. If it goes to him who has had the best preparation, is he not generally the rich man's son, and if it goes to the most capable, is he not best able to earn money if he needs it?

Mr. Fraser also doubts that the sharp competition caused by the scholarship system has any bad effect on the intellect and morals of the candidates. There is certainly a very strong *prima facie* case against him. It is his business to prove that what we should naturally suppose to be true is not true. Many graduates and undergraduates are painfully conscious of the fact that, induced by the hope of winning scholarships, they have studied in wrong ways, acted meanly towards their class-mates, and cherished feelings which were far from what they ought to have been.

In regard to Mr. Fraser's low estimate of undergraduate opinion, let nothing be said, for it has not much to do with the question at issue. It would have been just as well, perhaps, if he had refrained from giving utterance to it. Undergraduates are the stuff out of which graduates are made, and they may have sound opinions on many questions, especially on one which touches them so closely as the matter of scholarships.

Yours truly,
R.

THE CLASS-LIST AS AN INDEX OF MERIT.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

Ever since the beginning of the present term the Editors of THE VARSITY have been most assiduous in warning men who have attained or are seeking academical distinction of the danger and folly of striving for such ends. One would almost imagine from the tone of some of the articles of the last few weeks that it was, in the opinion of the editorial staff of THE VARSITY, a sort of intellectual misdemeanor for a man to occupy a place at the head of a class-list unless the first letter of his surname gave him a claim on that position.

An editorial in the issue of October 24th contains the following sentence: "Our fellow-students need to be constantly reminded that education is not rank in the class-lists, nor scholarships, nor medals." I suppose no one will challenge this statement. But there are some who are old-fashioned—I am afraid the editors or THE VARSITY would say "old-fogy"—enough to think that the attainment of a high place in the class-list or the winning of a scholarship or medal is a fairly good indication of ability and culti-

vation. Some might go so far as to say that, as it requires at least as much intellectual effort to win a scholarship as to write VARSITY editorials or deliver half-prepared speeches at the meetings of the Literary Society, the development of mental powers may be furthered quite as much in the former occupation as in the latter. At any rate there does not seem to be any such lack of real ability or correct ideas of true education among those who are accustomed to appear on the dais on Commencement or Convocation Day as to call forth the repeated and somewhat patronizing admonitions of THE VARSITY. In the issue of October 31st, we find the following: "A scholarship student need not care whether he understands the subject or not, so long as to the examiners he may seem to understand it." Passing by the obvious criticism that this remark will apply with quite as much force to pass men as to honor men, I think it is quite incorrect to say that a man can win a scholarship in Toronto University unless he understands the subject he is being examined in. If the above quoted sentence be true it is a serious reflection on the acumen of University examiners.

I am quite at one with THE VARSITY in its opinion that scholarships and medals ought to be abolished, though I may differ with it as to the grounds on which I hold that opinion. But I very decidedly refuse to believe that the winning of a scholarship or medal is the evidence of a man's lacking some of the elements that go to make a true scholar. Quite as conclusive evidence of this lack, I think, may be found in a man's continual gravitating to the bottom of the list. It seems to me that the scholarship men and their rivals might be left alone for a little, and that some prelections on the subject of true education might be addressed from the editorial chair to those gentlemen who frequent Convocation Hall in September. The hard-working student is tolerably sure of a high place in the list, and is not, I imagine, so apt to be devoid of taste and cultivation as some seem to fear. Possibly, though, he may be so much occupied as to have little time to parade the knowledge that has cost him dear.

J. MCD. DUNCAN.

University College, Nov. 21st, 1885.

A PLEA FOR BASEBALL.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

SIR,—I read in your issue of Nov. 14, with a great deal of interest, Mr. Frost's letter on "Lawn Desecration." Mr. Frost, I am sure, voices the sentiments of all his colleagues when he says: "There is one picture which in the reminiscences of the great majority of graduates forms the centre of their brightest associations, and this is the College lawn."

Which of us, on emerging from the College porch after a long day in the reading room, has not had his toil-wearied brain refreshed by a single glance at the cool green? Those of us who have watched it at all seasons, under its many different aspects, know what a never-failing source of solace and delight it is for us.

I would be the last to discourage Mr. Frost in his efforts "to induce the undergraduates of Toronto University to refrain from any course of action which would encourage disreputable persons to frequent the lawn," but I think he is rather precipitate when he says that "the associations of the game (baseball) are of the very lowest and most repugnant character," and that "the name baseball cannot fail to suggest a tobacco-chewing, loud-voiced, twang-nosed bar-tender, with a large diamond pin and elaborately oiled hair." It cannot but be granted that in many respects the associations of baseball are bad. Unfortunately for the game, by its very nature it occupies a great deal of its lovers' time, and such men as have sufficient leisure to bestow on it are in part those whose occupations as "wine clerks" or "chevaliers d'industrie" do not demand their undivided attention. Nevertheless, it by no means follows, as Mr. Frost says, that "our students in elevating the game a little would lower themselves a great deal." Our students and our friends at St. Michael's College have plenty of time to de-

vote to the game, and therefore cannot be placed in the same category as the "chevaliers" aforesaid. Furthermore, when Mr. Frost says that the game has been "degraded by Yankee professionalism," he surely fails to remember that cricket in England is played largely by professionals, many of whom, in spite of all that has and may be said to the contrary, are not so "respectable" as they are painted.

As I understand the case, the baseball club is now playing on the authority of a remark made by Dr. Wilson last summer to the effect that "the lawn was for all legitimate College sports." I also understand that the cricket and football clubs are regularly authorized by the University and College authorities to use both the College name and the College lawn. Now, I would humbly suggest to our baseball friends that they take proper steps towards obtaining enfranchisement, then call a public meeting of the students, appoint officers and committees for the drawing up of a constitution, by laws, etc., and come out as an equal in every respect of all our other sporting organizations. As at present constituted, nothing is known by the great body of the students of the internal workings of the club.

Of course the existence of so many clubs would necessitate the appointment of a general athletic committee, with powers to finally adjust all differences arising from disputes as to the disposition of the lawn on certain days, etc. Moreover, the delegates to this committee from the several clubs would in self-interest see to it that no one body of players was guilty of spoiling the lawn.

Mr. Frost's statement that the introduction of baseball would "divide the athletic force of the College into two separate channels, with a consequent bad effect on each," is rather surprising. The honest emulation engendered by the healthy life and growth of such a number of first-class clubs would give an impetus to College athletics such as nothing else could give. Instead, as Mr. Frost proposes, of proving ourselves masters of only one game, "whatever it might be," we would then be able to demonstrate to the entire student body of America that as in liberal education so in general athletics, the children of our Alma Mater stand second to none.

J. A. GARVIN.

Editor's Table.

SIDE-LIGHTS OF HISTORY.

Under the above heading the New York *Critic* of last week gives a favorable notice of a pamphlet recently issued by Dr. Wilson. The *Critic* says:—

"The interest which historical subjects have awakened of late years, is shown not merely by the many volumes on those subjects which issue from the press, but by the flight of pamphlets which accompany them, and many of which throw unexpected gleams of light on dark corners in the past."

After noticing a pamphlet by Prof. Paul Fredericq, of the University of Ghent, in which reference is made to the remarkable apathy and indifference which prevails in Scottish Universities regarding the subject of history, the *Critic* continues—

"That this indifference reflects but too faithfully the feeling of the people of Scotland in spite of the great names of Hume, Robertson, Scott, Burton, and other famous writers, whose works adorn their literature, is shown clearly enough in a pamphlet by the eminent antiquarian and ethnologist, Dr. Daniel Wilson, President of Toronto University, describing the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity, which was founded at Edinburgh by Queen Mary of Gueldres, widow of James II., in 1462, and had been swept away in our time to make room for a railway station. Prof. Wilson had already given a brief account of this church in his charming work, the *Reminiscences of Old Edinburgh*. He has now furnished a complete history and description of it, with many exquisite illustrations from his own pencil. The church seems to have been a gem of mediæval architecture; and its destruction quite unnecessary, and a mere vandalism."

In deference to a request made by members of the Glee Club, we reproduce the "College Song of Songs" which appeared in THE VARSITY two years ago:

THE COLLEGE SONG OF SONGS.

Of College songs we have a few,
Which, if you like, we'll sing to you:—
On every Convocation Day
The students chant this solemn lay:

CHORUS—Old Grimes,
Old Grimes, &c.

The Freshmen think when here they come,
Attending lectures is the sum
Of happiness It's no such thing!
What we come here for is to sing:

CHORUS—Litoria,
Litoria, &c.

When Freshmen go, with brazen face,
To Fourth Year lectures—not their place:—
When 'bazed' for doing such a thing,
It's not surprising they should sing:

CHORUS—We won't go there any more,
Way down by the Bingo Farm, &c.

When Freshmen go to Residence
They're 'spitted' on ye Picket Fence.
Where sits in state ye Mufti-King,
And round him all his court, who sing:

CHORUS—O! What's more fun
Than a 'hazing' party
With the Freshmen all on the ground;
How they kick,
How 'hey splutter,
And what naughty things they mutter.
While the Seniors buzz all round.

When 'peelers' stop our march at night,
When looms the awful 'Beak' in sight,
When batons high in air they fling
Indignantly at them we sing:

CHORUS—Vive le roi,
Vive la compagnie, etc.

When students from McGill come here
To play football, and taste our cheer,
We always like to do 'the thing';
And so, in compliment, we sing:

CHORUS—En roulant,
Ma boule roulant, &c.

Then quakes each undergrad. for fear
And when the Conversat. draws near,
His girl should ask, with witching glance,
'Oh! won't you take me to the dance?'

CHORUS—Oh! the price of a ticket is high,
And the dining-room is small;
Why won't the Council let us dance
In Convocation Hall?

Now, listen hard to this next song,
For mystic words to it belong;
'Tis writ in languages unknown,
And we have no Rosetta Stone.

CHORUS—Kemo, Kimo, &c.

We've got more songs, but are afraid
You'd tire if here we longer stayed:
We'll sing this one, at any rate,
Sung when the students graduate:

CHORUS—Farewell, farewell,
My own true love, &c.

But just one more before we go,—
The words of it I you think know;
The tune you must, in any case,
And to it now our songs give place:

CHORUS—God save the Queen,

F. B. HODGINS.

GRIP'S COMIC ALMANAC.—This publication for 1886 is to hand. It is brimful of amusement, containing—besides its other attractions—a double-page cartoon, "Ancient Nursery Rhymes for Modern Politicians." For sale by all booksellers; price 10 cents.

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29:

At 11 a.m.—"An important question"
At 7 p.m.—"A solemn warning."

Fun and Fact.

The Board of Education—the schoolmas-
ter's shingle.

There is a lady who is taking the *military*
course at Cornell.—*Ex.* Surely a misprint
for *millinery*.

Lawrence Barrett, the actor, has been in-
vited to deliver an address before the faculty
and students of Harvard College.

Thomas A. Edison has given Cornell Uni-
versity a complete electric lighting plant for
its workshops and mechanical laboratory.

Professor in Systematic Theology.—
"Where is the lesson to-day, gentlemen?"
Student: "It begins at good angels and goes
to the devil."

"Sweet are the uses of the University,"
is the way one of the College ladies put it,
one calling night.

An enthusiastic German student, as he sat
at a table in a German restaurant, ejaculated:
"Wie gehts." "Wheat cakes?" repeated the
Irish waitress. "Nein! nein!" said the stu-
dent. "Nine," cried the surprised girl, "be-
gorra and you'll be lucky if you get three."

Ex-Minister Lowell has presented to Har-
vard a collection of 686 books, which he gath-
ered during his past eight years abroad. They
consist mainly of Spanish works, and com-
prise many volumes of great rarity and value.

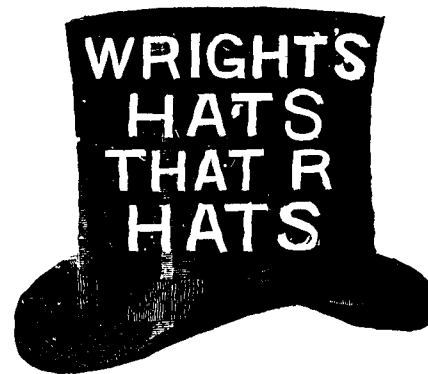
It was in September, 1879. The train that
bore Bode Hawkins to college caught him
away from the arms of his mother and the
kisses of his sisters. Very glum was Bode
Hawkins, and very reluctant he to go to
school.

"Aw, shaw!" he growled, "I donkare to
go nuther, so what's the use? Doggone the
collidge, it don't do no good, an' I won't
know no more w'en I come back than I do
w'en I go away. I'd drahter drive a team 'r
learn a trade 'r somethin'. Dod fetch the
thing, anyhow."

June, 1883. Ambrose Hawking returns to
his home on the farm; his family weep for
joy. All rush to embrace him as he steps
from the train. Ambrose Hawkins gazes
fixedly at them through the oriel window
that includes one eye, and delicately extend-
ing two fingers for them to grasp, he mur-
murs:

"Aw, fathaw! gently, my deah fellah, gen-
tly; easy on the rings, ye know; bless you,
me mothaw; aw, no, thanks; kiss you when
we get home, ye know; how do, brothaw—
brothaw—well, bless me soul, but, aw, I've
forgotten the boy's name. Sistah, deah, will
you kindly hand these browses faw me boxes
to the luggage mawstah? Aw—is this—is
this—is this the vehicle?"

And all the way home the old man didn't
say a word, but just drove and thought, and
thought and drove, and nearly all the night
he sat up twisting hickories and laying them
to soak in the watering trough down by the
cow barn. And he told a neighbor the next
morning that Charles Francis Adams was
right, and "he had about four years of col-
lege larnin' to unlarn for Bode afore the boy
could holler at a yoke of steers like he used



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A French grammarian has bequeathed to the Mazarin Library at Paris, a collection of 3,500 specimens of bad French, written by members of the Academy from its foundation to the present time.

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Deep wisdom—swell'd head—
Brain fever—he's dead—
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A Junior—

Went skating—'tis said—
Floor hit him—he's dead—
A Sophomore—

Milk farmer—not fed—
Starvation—he's dead—
A Freshman."

A chair of Journalism has been recently established at Harvard, and is to be filled by Mr. Joseph McCallagh, editor of St Louis *Times-Democrat*. After delivering ten lectures he will receive \$4,000.

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