

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

Vol. VII.

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No. 8.

IN THE STUDY.

Out over my study,
All ashen and ruddy,
Sinks the December sun ;
And high up over
The chimney's soot cover,
The winter night wind has begun.

Here in the red embers
I dream old Decembers,
Until the low moan of the blast,
Like a voice out of Ghost-land,
Or memory's lost-land,
Seems to conjure up wraiths of the past.

Then into the room,
Through the firelight and gloom,
Some one steals, let the night-wind grow bleak,
And ever so coldly,
Two white arms enfold me,
And a sweet face is close to my cheek.

WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

V. FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

The combined movement for the overthrow of the Provincial University, and the division of its endowments among denominational colleges, came to a head, as we have seen, in 1860. The Parliamentary Committee, from whom much had been expected, could not agree on a report, and finally contented themselves with printing the evidence. The attempt to prove any abuse or extravagant expenditure of the funds had failed, but there was still a prevalent belief in the existence of enormous resources, and a surplus of untold wealth. So in 1861, a Commission was issued, setting forth that, "whereas many of our loving subjects believe, and have represented to us, that the current expenses of University College are much greater than is necessary for its efficient working; and that, in consequence thereof, a large amount of the University income fund is annually wasted and misapplied; and other academical institutions in Upper Canada are deprived of the benefit of any surplus;" therefore, the Hon. James Patton, who had by this time succeeded Mr. Langton as Vice-Chancellor,—Dr. John Beatty, of Cobourg, and John Paton, Esq., of Kingston, were appointed a Commission, with full power to cite as witnesses, the Bursar and the President, Professors, officers and servants of the College, and to make the most searching enquiry into its affairs. Their report fills a Blue Book of 206 pages, with an appendix. Much of it is statistical, and so somewhat dry reading; but it will reward the study of anyone interested in University history. Till its publication the University endowment was a fabulous eldorado on which the fancy of educational reformers drew at will. In Mr. Langton's criticism of their various proposals he says:—

"Dr. Ryerson contemplates with satisfaction, the possible establishment of 10 Faculties in competing Colleges, each as he proposes receiving £1,500."

Again, of Dr. Cook's plan for the division of the endowment, he says:—

"To divide a limited sum so that no College would be efficiently supported, must be fatal to the superior education of the country. It is idle to say that because Victoria and Queen's are the only bodies petitioning, they alone, with the addition perhaps of Trinity, would claim a share. When the principle was once established, Knox's College and other Theological Schools, would establish secular chairs and assert their right to a free distribution. Nor would the demand be confined to Colleges connected with a particular religious persuasion. Local interests would come into play, and every large town would claim to have its College. Already there are in Upper Canada 12 institutions of this kind, and this year two new ones have sent in memorials to obtain a share with Kingston and Cobourg, of the Government allowance."

Those and other schemes equally visionary, were all advocated on the same assumption, that the University Bursar was the custodian of a bottomless purse, on which any number of educational reformers, or denominational representatives, could draw at will; while, on the other hand, it was assumed that a few thousand dollars were ample income for the State College. A comment on one of those crude proposals attracted notice at the time by its brevity, when Dr. Wilson, in addressing the Quebec Parliamentary Committee, referred to Dr. Ryerson:—

"Who has told us in his famous scheme of University organization, propounded in his voluminous letter addressed to the Hon. Francis Hincks, in 1852, that he meditated it on some of the highest mountains of Europe—a circumstance which abundantly accounts for the windy and unsubstantial character of its recommendations!"

It was not without apprehension that the friends of the University and University College learned of the appointment of a Commission, the constitution of which could not be supposed to give promise of any friendly leanings toward them. Nothing, however, could have been more fortunate. A Commission, the majority on which was composed of members of the corporations of Victoria and Queen's Colleges, had absolute power to make the most searching enquiry into the whole resources of the University and College. There was certain, therefore, to be no concealment of any abuses; and no lack of zeal in revealing the amount of resources.* The result was that no abuses could be discovered. The most careful economy was proved in relation to the erection of the new buildings; and as to the revenues, they proved to be little enough for the one university. To the astonishment and mortification of its purposed spoilers there proved to be no surplus to fight about! The report was issued in 1862. From that date the representatives of the denominational colleges ceased to take any interest in the provincial University; and by the later Act of 1872, the graduates at length acquired the right of electing certain of their own number to represent them on the Senate. The abortive scheme of affiliation, set forth in the previous Act, came to an end; and the institution was left in peace to grow and prosper, till its success led to the demand for funds to extend the College and provide additional Chairs.

The outcome of this later movement is the new scheme of University Confederation, the final results of which must be left to the pen of some future historian. Our sketch, however, would not be complete without some account of the men who have held office as Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors, Presidents, and Professors, during the period we have passed under review. This also we hope to furnish, with the aid of some of the senior graduates, familiar with the incidents of those early years of University history.

VIDI.

A SUGGESTION.

Literary curiosity-hunters have placed on record many examples of rapid composition—such as Johnson's "Rasselas," Byron's "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," Bacon's collection of jests, which Macaulay calls "the best in the world," etc., etc. I venture to think I shall be able to add one instance of my own, should the present article ever arrive at completion! At nine o'clock on Saturday morning I am asked if I can contribute a paper for the VARSITY, to be ready by Monday. Interpreting "by Monday" to mean, say, noon of that day, this gives me twenty-seven legal hours of work—provided I do not sleep and have nothing else to do. But, positing that I have a great deal else to do; that I certainly should not dream of curtailing my Saturday night's slumbers or my Monday's matutinal meditations; and that I should feel equally disinclined to—ahem—forego the conventional hebdomadal period of rest from secular labours; I have, say, some two or three hours in which to accede to the request. And this means, if I wish to follow Ben Jonson's sage advice, to "consider what ought to be written; and after what manner; to first think and excogitate my matter; then choose my words, and examine the weight of either; then take care in placing and ranking both matter and words, that the composition be comely."

Neither am I, I must confess, at the present moment, particularly prepared either in mind, body, or estate, for the inditing of a VARSITY article. Both my subjective and objective conditions militate against comely composition—especially my objective surroundings. Within ear-shot are two hugely proportioned women (I caught sight of them a moment since)—huge, that is, in their transverse diameters: they are distinguished rather for breadth than for length of limb. One of them is inflicting corporal punishment on what is ordinarily called a *pianoforte*, but which in this case ought to be called only a *forte*, or rather a *fortissimo*. The other is accompanying the resulting noise with vocal sounds as much in unison with the vibrations of the *forte* as it is possible for airs pitched in two different keys to be. The result says more for the arms and throats of the performers than for their ears. The volume of sound varies directly as the bulk of the producers. They are, indeed, ponderous. I fear to approach them. Remembering that gravitation acts directly as the mass, I imagine that centripetal forces (purely physical, by no means emotional) may draw me towards them, that Pharoah's dream of the fat and lean kine may be repeated *backwards*, as it were (and the parallel would not be so very dissimilar, for I should hardly add in any appreciable manner to their volume), and that I may disappear totally from off the face of the earth, and—awful catastrophe—contrary to my own inclinations, join my fortunes with theirs.

But, to return to old Jonson and his comely composition. I think that everything written for the VARSITY should be "comely." I cannot help thinking that to some the VARSITY has been merely a vehicle for the insertion of "copy" which could not be elsewhere inserted—a sort of cloaca for prose and verse. A great mistake this. One's *alma mater* is a jealous goddess. No periodical should be so severely critical as a university periodical. Indeed, by so high a standard would I measure the VARSITY, that I should be willing that to it the nation should look to discover the temper and character of the youth of the Province.

But "comely," truly, VARSITY articles have almost always been. The danger rather lies in the fact that their writers have aimed more at comeliness than at ought else. *Fine* writing seems to be their object. (How I loathe that word "fine.") It should be restricted to the description of the edge of a razor or a cloudless day. It has a history, however—as curious a history as the word "quaint." It was a very favourite word with our great-great-grandfathers—as favourite a word as "genteel." Let us hope it will go the way of "genteel.") But to return: Am I not right in thinking that *form* rather than *matter* has been too often the serious business of VARSITY writers? Both combined, of course, is the desideratum; but if both are not obtainable, I really think *matter* would be preferable to *form*.

To practise what I preach, to present to my readers matter

* Note.—The true meaning of the word is, I think, well shown in the following quotation from the "Ethics of the Dust":—"Yes; and always to dress yourselves beautifully—not finely, unless on occasions; but then very finely and beautifully too."

rather than form, I have a suggestion to make. I need tell no one that there is in England a society called "The Society for Psychical Research." Among the subjects discussed and investigated by this society (taken from the Tables of Contents of its last seven publications) are: "Thought-Transference," "Mesmerism," "Phenomena Associated with Abnormal Conditions of Mind," "Muscle-Reading," "Dreaming and Allied States," "A Magnetic Sense," "Hypnotism," "Telepathic Explanation of some so-called Spiritualistic Phenomena," "Hallucinations," "The Calculus of Probabilities applied to Psychical Research," "Theosophy," "Local Anæsthesia." My suggestion is: Could not a branch of this Society be formed in University College? Already many graduates and undergraduates are interesting themselves in the class of subjects considered by the Society—witness the correspondence which appeared in last year's VARSITY between Professor Young and two graduates on the subject of thought-transference. The Society, I know, has been much vilified, and their labours much derided; but such names as Balfour Stewart (President last year), the Bishop of Carlisle, Richard Holt Hutton, Hon. Roden Noel, Lord Rayleigh, the Bishop of Ripon, Prof. Sidgwick (vice-presidents last year), ought to give it some scientific status. My own opinion is that this Society will one day help to clear our views on the vexed question of the relations between Physiology and Psychology. One of the advantages of such a branch society would be that men of very different mental habits could join and aid each other. As the subjects I have mentioned above will show, metaphysics, mathematics, and the natural sciences, all could be brought to bear upon—let me use the word *Psychics*, I do not know that it has yet been coined, but it is one which may soon be needed. However, I intended merely to throw out this suggestion. Doubtless there are many in University College who know much more of the matter than do I; with them I leave my proposition.

ARNOLD HAULTAIN.

TO CHLOE.

Rondel.

What fearest thou, Chloe, my dainty quest,
That thou unkind shouldst spurn my whispered vow?
The chase but lends thy charms an added zest.

What fearest thou?

Thy ripening bloom is pasture meet, I trow,
Where Love may stray and graze at will or rest,
And ever find delight. Why flee—enow

Of years thou hast to be by lover pressed.
Full ripe for kisses, smooth thy troubled brow,
And tremble not at Love's imperious hest.

What fearest thou?

W. H. H.

LETTER FROM GERMANY.

FAUST ON THE STAGE.

Amongst the innumerable places of interest that I tried to see during a short stay in London was Mr. Henry Irving's theatre, the Royal Lyceum, to which I was especially attracted by Goethe's *Faust* being on the boards. After standing about two hours at the pit entrance (N.B. All the private boxes were taken), I succeeded in getting a front seat. The interval before the rising of the curtain was pleasantly passed in seeing the richly decorated theatre being gradually filled with every variety of spectator, from the wealthy gentleman in evening dress who occupied the stall, down to the common Englishman who owned a beaver hat and sat in the pit.

Punctually at the time announced, the first scene opened with Faust in his study. It will be noticed from this that the two prologues have been omitted, as playing no essential part in the dramatic action; and, indeed, in this adaptation of *Faust* for the English stage, this plan is followed throughout,—omit all those parts that are not immediately connected with the progress of the drama, and curtail those scenes that are, from this point of view, unnecessarily long. Wagner, the *tamulus*, is dispensed with, the dialogue is in many instances

shortened, and parts of the choruses omitted, while not a scene of the *Second Part* is given at all. An enthusiastic admirer of Goethe, who goes to the Lyceum Theatre with the expectation of seeing this great drama fully presented, will come away disappointed; but the lover of dramatic art, who goes there to see a play well performed, will probably have his highest expectations realized to the full. Irving, as Mephistopheles, is the very incarnation of all those qualities that Goethe has given to the character of the arch-fiend, and it would be hard to imagine a more perfect Margaret than Ellen Terry. The minor roles are all taken with relatively equal degrees of merit, and in some of the scenes, especially that on the summit of the Brocken, the stage appointments are a marvel of mechanical skill.

But the *Faust* given at the Lyceum cannot be looked upon as Goethe's complete tragedy. The former is arranged for the stage, the latter is not at all suited for presentation on the stage. Moreover, the adaptation is an imperfect one. Without the *Second Part* the action in *Faust* is not completed. And here I must confess that I entirely dissent from the opinion expressed by Lewes in his "Life and Works of Goethe," when, speaking of the two *Parts* of *Faust*, he says, "The two poems are two, not two parts of one poem; the interval between them in conception and treatment is as wide as the interval of years between their composition." I admit that, when we take into consideration the *First Part* alone, "the theme of *Faust* is the apotheosis of scepticism, the cry of despair over the nothingness of life." But was not this very scepticism of youth effectual in leading the hero, later on in life, to the true goal of man's ambition? Instead of dying in despair, was he not at last able to breathe from the fullness of his heart, "Verweile doch, du bist so schön"? And although it must be apparent to everyone who reads *Faust* that a great deal of the *Second Part* stands in no direct relation to the progress of the plot, yet I think it must be just as apparent that the last act of this *Part*, at least from the scene *Grosser Vorhof des Palastes* to the end, cannot be omitted without directly reversing the moral of the whole play, to say nothing of distorting its beauty as an artistic work. I am not one of those who insist that a certain moral lesson is to be drawn from every work of art; but when the moral the artist intends to convey can be shown without at all impairing the artistic qualities of the work, why not have it so? If, instead of there being an abrupt breaking off at the end of the *First Part*, the last act of the *Second Part*, or even the above-named portion of it, had been added, the true conclusion would have been made manifest; in the one case *Faust*, after causing the death of three innocent persons, is still in the hands of the Devil, while the truth is, that he finally overcomes his baser nature and finds that long-sought-for happiest of moments, not in lustful gratifications of his passions, but in honest efforts for the good of his fellows.

Since arriving in Leipzig, I have had the pleasure of seeing the complete *Faust* presented at the Neues Stadttheater. Owing to the length of the drama, a separate night had to be allotted to each part. The company that plays here may be considered to include some fair specimens of German actors, but it is in no way equal to Irving's company, and justice would hardly permit a minute comparison to be instituted between the two. The Mephistopheles of the Leipzig company was by no means the powerful, deliberate and, to a certain extent, dignified "spirit that denies," which Irving portrays, and which, to my mind, is a more perfect reproduction of Goethe's picture. He stands in somewhat the same relation to Irving, as the Mephistopheles of Marlowe does to the Mephistopheles of Goethe. The whole company, indeed, showed a lack of rehearsal—a drawback which is the natural outcome of the German's insatiable desire for something new. *Faust* is on an average produced only two or three times a year by the company, and it is thus to be expected that no great amount of preparation would be bestowed upon it.

Possibly the fact that the play was not presented in an excellent a manner as might be wished for, may have contributed slightly to the *ennui* that I experienced on seeing it; but I think it must be evident to every one who has seen it played, that the complete *Faust*, in two *Parts* as Goethe wrote it, is not well suited for presentation on the stage. This great drama is a picture of human life, which has its quiet, uneventful periods, as well as its periods of stirring action; and, on this account,

Faust wearies the world of theatres goers by the slowness of its movement. To be made suitable for the stage, many parts must necessarily be omitted; and there are, moreover, many parts that may be omitted without interfering with the proper development of the plot. But it seems to me a thing to be deplored, that, when *Faust* is being adapted to the requirements of stage-presentation, it should be presented to the public in such an unfinished form as it is at the Lyceum Theatre,—like a beautiful statue with the head broken off.

G. H. NEEDLER.

Leipzig, Germany.

UNFORGOTTEN.

Fleecy clouds o'er the moon are drifting,
And across the glittering snow,
And the sombre pines pearl-covered,
The wavering shadows go.

My love lies low deep buried,
As the flowers beneath the snow,
But soft o'er its icy covering,
The shadows come and go.

KATE WILLSON.

LITERARY NOTES.

Literary partnerships have been of frequent occurrence in the history of literature. From the time of Beaumont and Fletcher, to that of Besant and Rice and Matthews and Bunner, collaboration in literary enterprises has been adopted with notable success.

Mr. G. Mercer Adam, of this city, and Miss Agnes E. Wetherald, of Fenwick, have entered into a literary co-partnership, and intend to bring out a series of Canadian novels, dealing with the early history of Upper Canada. The first of the series, "An Algonquin Maiden," will be ready this month, Mr. Adam supplying the historical details and local coloring, and Miss Wetherald elaborating the material so furnished.

Mr. Adam has been identified with many literary enterprises in Canada, and many writers of established reputation owe their first encouragement to his generous sympathy and practical help. Of his own attainments, readers of THE VARSITY need not be reminded. Miss Wetherald, not unknown to Canadians as a contributor to the periodical press of our province, possesses literary talents which justify us in looking forward to a very entertaining novel.

Both these authors have been valued contributors to THE VARSITY, which cordially wishes them that abundant measure of success which their most sanguine hopes could desire.

The battle of the Magazines will open this winter with a brilliant campaign. A new candidate for public favour is announced by the Scribners. Though illustrated, the artist's work, it is promised, will be auxiliary to the text. A chief attraction is a series of unpublished letters of Thackeray. The appearance of a new monthly affords an opportunity for expressing an opinion on the distinctively American development of periodical literature. In *Harper's* and the *Century* the artist's work seems to be of at least as much importance as the strictly literary matter. Some objection can also be reasonably urged against contributors following a beaten track. Month after month in the *Century* a monotonous series of war papers has been running, which, however interesting they may be to survivors and others immediately concerned, are of little general interest. Again, it seems a cardinal rule with the editors that a contributor who has once been fortunate enough to command the public attention, must be secured at whatever figure, and their work, independent of intrinsic merit, must be accepted. This will not seem at all an extravagant assertion to those who have attempted to read Mr. Howells' latest farce—"The mouse-trap." Mr. Howells, incomparable as he is as a novelist and showing great dramatic power in his latest work, has in this piece elaborated what might have made one scene in a comedy into a wearisome prolixity. The situation is not so humorous as to require such length in treatment.

THE VARSITY.

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Subscribers are requested to notify the Treasurer immediately, in writing, of any irregularity in delivery.

Copies of THE VARSITY may be obtained every Saturday at McAinsh & Ellis's, corner of Adelaide and Toronto Streets; at J. P. McKenna's, 80 Yonge Street; and at Alex. Brown's, cor. Yonge and Carlton Sts.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITORS, 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.

The action of the School Board of this city in acceding to the request of its Inspector that he be allowed to stump the country on the school question during the present election contest, is one which is to be condemned in the strongest possible manner. For it should be remembered that the City Inspector is a municipal officer, and receives his salary as such for serving the city, and not any political party. It is an unwritten law, certainly, that forbids public officials from taking an active part in party politics. But it is also a law which should appeal in the strongest possible way to any man of fine feeling, endowed with a high sense of the dignity of his office and the importance of absolute impartiality in the discharge of the duties of his trust.

We are most strongly convinced of the supreme necessity of drawing the line of demarcation most clearly and strongly between our system of education and the party politics of the Province. We conceive that not only the proper but the only course for a political head of the Education Office to adopt is to keep himself absolutely free from the discussion of political questions, and only to speak in the House upon topics connected in some way with his office. This is the rule in England and Scotland. The Minister in charge of the Education Offices of those countries are never heard on the stump or in the House, unless on some subject connected with education or of grave Imperial import. This is entirely as it should be. Education and politics should be severed as widely as the poles. The head of the Educational Department should not be a politician—in the ordinary sense of the term.

The City Inspector evidently has a quarrel with the Minister of Education. For he refuses to speak with any one else, and his stumping tour thus far has been a dismal failure. The Minister should really give Mr. Hughes an opportunity, as he is apparently suffering for a fight, and is trailing his coat around in the most approved Donnybrook fashion. Mr. Hughes proposes to speak upon the subject of the Public and Separate School law. In regard to the Public School law—Mr. Hughes, being charged to carry out its provisions, is debarred from attacking it on the stump; with regard to the Separate School law, Mr. Hughes, being an extreme Orangeman, will not receive credit for impartiality in his discussion of it. The School Board in their resolution—or at least the thirteen who voted for it—think that it is in the best interests of education that the City Inspector should stump the country. It will be well for the credit of the Board, if not for the city, if, at the approaching School Board elections, the virtuous thirteen be left at home for a season. The electors have a grand opportunity for proving in the sight of all men that thirteen is an unlucky number. We hope they will not fail to make use of it.

According to established usage, the VARSITY will issue a special holiday number during the Christmas week. The editors have secured contributions in prose and verse from the following writers: Professor Goldwin Smith, Professor Clark, of Trinity College, Professor Charles G. D. Roberts, of Windsor, N.S.; Rev. Dr. Scadding, G. Mercer Adam, W. W. Campbell, W. H. C. Kerr, Agnes E. Wetherald, A. Stevenson, A. O. Brookside, W. H. Blake, T. A. Gibson, and other graduates and undergraduates of Toronto University. The Editors are thus enabled to lay before their readers a literary symposium which will be doubtless much

appreciated by our readers. The Editors of the VARSITY return their best thanks to those who have so kindly seconded their efforts in the direction of producing a holiday number of such an exceptional character as they can promise its readers the one for 1886 will be.

A correspondent of the Queen's College *Journal* takes us to task for what he calls our narrow view of the *raison d'être* of honorary degrees. Our position in regard to this question is this: If the regular degrees of a university are not worth much—as our critic seems to think—of how much less value, then, are honorary degrees? If we must have these honorary degrees, let them be awarded for attainments in scholarship, and not for social or political position. But let us do without honorary degrees if we can. Our critic's plea is that it would be degrading for an eminent literary or scientific man to submit to examination by his (presumed) inferiors to see if he was worthy of a degree. If we are rightly informed, the highest degrees of the German universities are only attainable by examination. The high esteem in which these degrees are held, and the numbers of men who yearly try for them, show that there are yet living on the earth examiners who are at least equal, if not superior, to the examinees. The difference between the German and American systems appears to us to be this:—That in Germany the possession of a higher degree makes a man distinguished or famous, or at least gives him the right to be called learned; in America, the higher degree is given because he is distinguished or famous. On the whole we prefer the German method. The absurd length to which this craze for conferring honorary degrees has gone was illustrated by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, which, within a few days of one another, conferred the Doctorate of Laws successively on Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes.

The undergraduate dinner was held on Thursday night, December 9, in Convocation Hall. About 265 persons were present, including the College Faculty.

Representatives were present from McGill, Victoria and Queen's Universities; also, from the Toronto and Trinity Medical Schools, of this city.

The following is the Toast list:—

1. Our Queen and Country.
2. Alma Mater; responded to in a neat speech by President Wilson.
3. Sister Colleges; represented by Mr. Henderson, of McGill; Mr. Starr, of Victoria; and Mr. McLellan, of Queen's.
4. Lady Undergraduates; replied to by Mr. J. A. Ferguson.
5. Affiliated Institutions; responded to by: Mr. F. T. Lynch, of Wycliffe; J. B. Kennedy, B. A., of McMaster Hall; Mr. J. B. McEvoy, of St. Michaels; Mr. C. E. Gordon, B. A., of Knox; Mr. Scott, B. A., of Trinity Medical School; and Mr. G. Acheson, M. A., of Toronto Medical School.
6. Colleges Societies; replied to by: Mr. J. O. Miller, of the Literary Society; Mr. T. Nattress, of the Glee Club; Mr. T. Rogers, of the Y. M. C. A.; and Mr. J. A. Sparkling, of the Mathematical Society. The graduating class and other organizations were also toasted.

The representatives of the other eight Societies included under this Toast were debarred from speaking, owing to the meeting breaking up at this point,—1.30 a.m.

The other toasts, viz., College Athletics, and The Freshmen, were also left out.

Songs were given, during the evening by Messrs. J. G. Hume, R. L. Johnston, C. E. Gordon, B. A., J. J. Ferguson, R. J. Gibson, J. J. Hughes, O. McMichael, W. H. Grant, and others.

The caterer was H. E. Hughes, of the "Criterion."

The chair was filled by Mr. A. H. Young, and the vice-chairs by Messrs. J. E. Jones and E. C. Acheson. Secretary, T. A. Gibson; Treasurer, J. C. Stuart. The twenty additional committeemen were selected from the various years.

During the evening the best of good feeling prevailed, and quite overcame any discomfort resulting from delay and lack of accommodation. University students are ordinarily disposed to be enthusiastic, but on this occasion they quite surpassed themselves.

THE VARSITY has delayed its hour of going to press this week to secure a report of the Dinner. We are unable to do more than give the programme of the Public Debate. The Glee Club will open with "Oh, who will o'er the downs so free," after which Mr. W. J. Healy will read an essay. After the "Canadian Boat-Song" Mr. T. J. Parr will recite "Spartacus." Mr. J. A. Garvin is down for a solo, "The Vagabond," after which Messrs. J. A. Sparkling and

H. J. Cody for the affirmative and Messrs H. F. Laflamme and T. M. Talbot for the negative will debate whether or not it is a proper function of the State to provide facilities for the higher education of the subject.

The Senate met on Thursday night. The following Examiners were appointed for 1887:—

Law—W. F. Walker, M.A., LL.B.; W. H. P. P. Clement, B.A., LL.B.

Medicine—Physiology and Pathology—G. A. Tye, M.D. Medicine and Therapeutics—J. J. Cassidy, M.D. Midwifery and Forensic Medicine—W. Britton, M.D. Anatomy—D. B. Fraser, M.B. Surgery and Surgical Anatomy—I. H. Cameron, M.B. Clinical Medicine—J. E. Graham, M.D. Clinical Surgery—L. Tesky, M.D. Hygiene and Medical Psychology—T. S. Covertton, M.D.

Medicine and Arts—Chemistry—F. T. Shutt, B.A. Biology—A. B. McCallum, B.A.

Arts—Creek and Latin—Rev. N. MacNish, M.A., LL.D.; G. H. Robinson, M.A.; J. E. Hodgson, M.A.; W. S. Milner, B.A. Mathematics—J. H. McGeary, B.A.; J. W. Ried, B.A. Physics—J. M. Clark, M.A.; T. C. Campbell, B.A. English—T. C. L. Armstrong, M.A.; J. Seath, B.A. History and Civil Polity—J. W. Bell, B.A., Ph.D. German—W. H. VanderSmitten, M.A. French—J. Squair, B.A. Italian—A. J. Bell, B.A. Mineralogy and Geology—H. R. Woods, B.A. Metaphysics and Ethics—Rev. R. Y. Thomson, M.A.; A. S. Johnston, B.A. Oriental Languages—Rev. F. R. Beattie, M.A. Civil Engineering—Alan Macdougall, C.E.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the letter from the Gilchrist Trust, respecting changes in the awarding of the Gilchrist Scholarship was submitted and adopted. The principal recommendations to the trustees were that these scholarships be open to graduates only of Canadian universities, and that they be tenable at any British or foreign university instead of as formerly at the University of London and Edinburgh. Mr. Mulock was re-elected vice-chancellor for the ensuing two years.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents. No notice will be taken of unsigned contributions.

THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—Since I troubled you last, I have received a copy of the Montreal Star containing a sketch of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association. As, probably, very few of your readers have seen this sketch, I thought it might be interesting at the present moment, to reproduce its main points, omitting eulogies and praises which yet are of value as showing the pride taken in the Association and the clubs comprised therein by every Montrealer.

The M. A. A. had a comparatively humble beginning. The first step was the affiliation of the Montreal Snowshoe and Montreal Lacrosse Clubs for the purpose of leasing the Montreal Gymnasium, which was in financial difficulties. This they did in 1877, and met with such success that four years later they purchased the building for a club house. No sketch of the Association would be complete which omitted mention of the club house. The various clubs hold their meetings in the capacious, cosily furnished club rooms, whose walls and show cases are adorned with the hard-won trophies of all departments of sport. A skilled instructor is engaged for the gymnasium, and is always at hand. The basement contains a billiard room, shooting gallery and bowling alley. There is also a well supplied reading room. A large and well equipped stage affords an opportunity for the performances of the Dramatic Club.

The Amateur Athletic Association was organized in the spring of 1884. Since then several other clubs have joined, and the Association has cleared off a debt of \$9,000 and expended \$4,000 in repairs, etc. Last May it had as clear capital in excess of all liabilities, \$20,289, of which \$400 was in cash. The following will show the membership of the Association in 1886:—

	Life	Paying
Whole Association	34	1,078
Club House only	195	
Lacrosse Club	28	47
Snowshoe Club	71	42
Bycicle Club		13
Toboggan Club		208
Football Club		38
Total Life Membership		328
Total Paying Membership		1,426
Total Membership		1,654

The Star thinks that the object of the Association, "The encouragement of athletic sports, the promotion of physical and mental culture among young men, and the providing of rational amusements and recreations for its members," has been accomplished in every particular.

Of course, in making a comparison we must remember that our constituency is much smaller and our circumstances very different. Nevertheless, I feel sure that our Association will be as beneficial as theirs. If it be not presumptuous, I would suggest that the members of the Y. M. C. A. and of the Temperance League should actively support the scheme. Athletics and "bumming" are utterly incompatible.

JOHN S. MACLEAN.

ESPRIT DE CORPS.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—So much has been said of late concerning good-fellowship among us students, that really I know not in which sense I may be most excused a letter on the matter.

Truly I do know of those that are so filled and suffused with schemes of greater social intercourse, that they have not time to say "How do you do!" when they meet you. Then there are others that would drop every friend on earth to keep up *esprit de corps* in College. I remember once meeting this expression in a school-story, and wondering much what a school could possibly want with the spirit of a corpse; and why they did not regularly go in and get fond of one another instead of being content with this cold, lifeless piece of tormented air. It is funny the mistakes one makes when young in translating French.

Then there are those that would consummate in one evening all the duties and enjoyments of a year's sociability—to have all their golden eggs at once, *they kill the goose*. They would knit us into a solid square by the edge of a dinner-table; and connect us all by the straight line of an appetite. The heart, they say, is reached through the mouth. The stomach is reached through the mouth, not the heart. And the proverb has reference to those that, long accustomed to carry their hearts in their mouths, have finally yielded to hunger and transformed them to their stomachs.

A dinner that is the result of good-fellowship is as the spire of a glorious steeple, itself springing from a church whose creed is love. To effect good-fellowship through the agency of a dinner is to begin the social arch with the key-stone. This unsupported stone will but fall, and by its fall will add in its ruins, a fresh obstacle to the more patient builder.

Let us give up less of our time to *esprit de corps*; less of our energy. Let us, more humble in our aim, be more successful in its result. Let each resolve to linger a little longer in the corridors: to speak a little more to his companions; to speak a little more kindly and frankly; above all, in this companionship let the desire to please, rather than that of being pleased, guide the course of each. Let every student try to make brighter and more successful the lives of those around him, and all University will not contain your long-wished-for *esprit de corps*, nor all heaven and earth the new happiness of that student.

H. C. BOULTBEE.

THE ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Editors of THE VARSITY.

SIRS,—From the heading of the department in the College Calendar, it would seem to those outside the select circle that the staff of instructors in Shemitic Languages was composed of a lecturer whose instructions are supplemented by those of a tutor—the thorough equipment of which Mr. Duncan speaks. This, indeed, was the case last year, but at the commencement of the present session the students of the second year were distinctly told, in an interview, that the two lecturers stood on an equal footing, and they are accordingly in their lectures covering the same ground, with the apparent exception that the two honour men prefer to form a class of two than two classes of one each. These, sirs, are simply facts; each can draw his own conclusions, *e. g.* "attendant circumstances."

Aside from all this, VARSITY is indeed pertinent in asking, "How many are studying Orientals simply as a branch of higher education and not as a branch of their purely theological education?" It may not always be so, but some are inclined to think that the day is far distant when the student of four years will devote his undivided attention to the elaborate course mapped out without having in view either a lectureship or a future theological course. The popularity of some courses sufficiently demonstrates that students, having but a short time at their disposal, choose that which to them will be most valuable for its information, although any other course would afford the same amount of "education."

R. H. JOHNSTON.

ROUND THE TABLE.

In *Harper's Monthly* for last December it was announced that the management had concluded an arrangement with Howells, by which "all his new writings,—his novels, short stories, descriptive sketches, and dramatic pieces—would be exclusively at their disposal;" and with the January number he began his charming literary talks in the *Editor's Study*. It will soon be a year since this arrangement came into force; and he has not yet stepped out from the *Editor's Study*. It may be that like G. W. Curtis, with whom the Harper's made a similar arrangement some years before, which is to be regretted in that though his conversations from his *Easy Chair* are never less delightful than we may expect from the author of *Prue and I*, he has foregone the writing of books,—Howells, too, prefers to loiter in his study in slippers ease. But one would judge that his habits of life are altogether different.

"Lemuel Barker,"—for the publication of which in the *Century* arrangements had been made before the time of his contract with the Harper's,—is nearing the conclusion; and still the opening chapters of a new novel have not yet appeared in *Harper's*. This is not in accordance with Howells' wont. His talk in the *Study* cost him little more than the mere taking up of his pen from month to month; his literary friends, I am sure, have the pleasure of hearing many unprinted pages. He has always been an untiring brain-worker; what then is he doing now? You will remember that there was a rumour a long time ago that a drama written by himself and Mark Twain, had been found unfitted for the stage.

(This, you may be sure, taking it for granted that the rumour was not all a lie, was due to Howells' discriminating artistic sense of unattainment, and not to the strictures of the managerial mind, which, after original and startling scenic effects, regards the box-office as the adjunct of the drama which has the finest possibilities. From the point of view of the advance agent, turning reluctantly from a grand inspiring Pisgah-sight of HOWELLS and MARK TWAIN on play-bills and posters all over the continent, their withdrawal of the drama must have seemed sheer, disgusting imbecility.)

You will remember, too, what was said of the American theatre in a conversation between Evans and Sewell in *Lemuel Barker*. It is likely, then, that—

"I, bearing in mind all these things," said the ingenious man, taking the pipe from his mouth, "and in addition thereto the fact Wiggins, of Ottawa, has met with indifferent success as a prophet, do hereby venture so far as to predict,—smiting with my fist the table in THE VARSITY sanctum, on this the ninth day of November, at eleven minutes to one in the morning,—that Howells is going to do something big at the drama some of these days. Give me a match, I prithee, good me lord, that I may light me pipe again withal."

This was how we talked round the Table a month ago. We thought it best, however, to allow Howells more time, and we are pleased to see that in this month's *Harper's* a comedy of his appears, and, moreover, the announcement is made that in the number for February he will begin a new novel. I may mention in this connection that within the past month two letters were printed in THE VARSITY, with the heading "A Street Wanted." The City Council has posted placards along St. George street announcing that the new street is to be opened at once. We begin to perceive that we have weight. Our feelings are like those of the editor of the two-sheet paper in the country town who came in on a dead-head ticket to see a company of barnstormers act *Richelieu* in the town-hall. At the words,

"The pen is mightier than the sword," he arose and removed his hat. Or as Artemus Ward reports the meeting in Baldinsville—

"I am identified, young man, with a Arkymedian leaver which moves the world," said the Editor, wiping his auburn brow with his left coat tail. "I allude, young man, to the press. Terms, two dollars a year, invariably in advance. Job printing executed with neatness and dispatch!" And with this brilliant burst of elekanee the editor introduced Mr. J. Brutus Hinkins, who is sufferin' from an attack of College in a naberin' place."

Do we not sometimes miscall novelty progress? Whether progressive or not, there is something very attractive in ideas that point to a revolution in society. The majestic sweep of the new tide of thought, (looking merely at its deductions without scanning too closely its hypothetical foundations) carries us away with enthusiasm, and we forget how to reason patiently. It is tame and insipid in comparison to laboriously examine the old, to detect its

kernel of truth. For such core even the most barbarous of polities assuredly had. No society can be based upon a lie. But when in the course of time the civil constitution becomes untrue and therefore unjust, it cannot persist. For then men's minds begin to run wild and riot to the tune of the French Revolution. Such was the lesson of that upheaval, and so sharp, that repetition must be unnecessary.

While thus much may perhaps be sufficient to indicate the general attractiveness of communistic theories, it must be supplemented in the case of those educated visitors to the old world who return imbued therewith. Anarchism, indeed, may be left out of view, for such form of thought can be forgiven the educated man only on the plea of dyspeptic pessimism.

But our friend, who has a natural bent for social investigations spends a few months in Paris where he examines the proletariat at close quarters. The misery and hopeless degradation of the lowest class appeals to his sensibility, and he seems to pay all demands in full (without much self sacrifice it is true) when he rushes to embrace the proletariat, and in the fulness of his feeling exclaims, "Brother, I too am of the *commune*; my heart bleeds for you." On his return we naturally ask about the great Redflagged. With a knowing nod of the head, and in mysterious tones, the reply will be, "Well! I think there's something in it." Perhaps there is the least spice of vanity in his dilettante socialism. It is so picturesque to hint darkly that one has advanced views on social questions. I would not like to say that this picturesqueness is the motive that prompts the profession; but it is pleasing to know that there is this compensation.

If there is one word that a first year student comes to have a positive dislike for it is *freshman*, until the period of his trial is over, and he obtains the footing of an all-wise sophomore, his seniors never lose an opportunity of informing him that he is fresh. This epithet dates back to a time when salt was actually administered to new students by their considerate elders, for salt was a classical emblem of learning and wisdom. Here follows an extract describing how a freshman was qualified at old English colleges.

"On this important occasion the freshmen were obliged to doff their gowns and bands, and look as much like scoundrels as possible; after which they mounted a form that was placed upon a table, and declaimed to the grinning and shouting students below. In the meantime a huge brazen pot of caudle was bubbling on the fire before them, to refresh such of the orators as had recited their speeches gracefully; but those who had acquitted themselves indifferently had their caudle qualified with salt; while those who declaimed very ill were drenched with salted beer, and subjected to sharp admonishment by pinches on the chin from the thumb-nails of the seniors."—*Knight, History of England*.

How different all this from the mild treatment in our college of the few luckless wights that have incurred the great displeasure of their seniors. Called before ye mufti, they have counsel graciously allowed them, who spare no quirks of student law to get them off. Ye chariot of the sun, from long disuse has its lustre dimmed, for none but the gravest offences are now visited with aught but reprimand and humiliation. This year, I am informed, no one of the accused was forced to tread the mystic dance to clear himself from the taint of freshdom by that trying ordeal.

A friend of mine has written to me an account of a letter by Keats, which was sold with the Osgood collection in New York last winter. The handwriting is small, and on one quarto leaf. The first page has some lines scratched out at the top, and beneath them "Oxf—" and "My dear friends." The reverse page contains the address, "Miss Reynolds, Mrs. Earle's, Little Hampton, Sussex," in the middle of the page; at the bottom are eight lines, and at the top nine lines, signed "Yours truly, John Keats." There is a postmark "1817," and a clearly impressed seal of a classical head, slightly broken. The letter is curious:

".....But let us refresh ourselves from this depth of thinking and turn to some innocent jocularly, the Bow cannot always be bent, nor the gun always loaded if you ever let it off..... There you are among sands, stocks, stones, pebbles, beaches, cliffs, rocks, deeps, shallows, weeds, ships, boats (at a distance), carrots, turnips, sun, moon, and stars, and all these sort of things—here am I among colleges, halls, stalls, plenty of trees, thank God—plenty of water, thank heaven—plenty of books; thank the Muses—plenty of snuff, thank Sir Walter Raleigh—plenty of segars, ditto—plenty of flat country, thank Tellus's rolling pin."

"In Lord Houghton's life of Keats," said the ingenious man, "we read of how the poet once scorched his epiglottis with red pepper, to enjoy the delightful sensation of cooling it with claret. It's a pity he did not know enough to fill up on claret some night,—he'd have had a thirst next morning that he wouldn't sell for fifty dollars."

Then Spinx said: "That's a great scheme, but it's nothing!"

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

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

The present is the last regular issue of THE VARSITY for this term. The holiday number will appear in Christmas week, and will be sent to the addresses desired by our undergraduate subscribers, who will find a list for that purpose in the janitor's room.

Cricket I know, and Rugby I know, but what is this Hockey?

What about a course of Saturday Popular Lectures for the winter months?

R. J. Duft, '85, is in law with Coatsworth and Hodgins, Barristers, of this city.

The familiar sound of "Shove Varsity!" is no longer heard on the lawn. The "Elevens," too, have time to reflect on past victories.

Mr. W. H. Hunter, '87, was appointed by the Young Men's Liberal Club as delegate to the Reform Convention, held in Temperance Hall last Thursday evening.

Several of the affiliated colleges, as well as a number of the societies and clubs in and around University College, fail to report regularly to the news columns of THE VARSITY. Let us have regular and full reports. If at any time they are handed in and do not appear in the next issue, or appear in shortened form, it is on account of limited space.

The GLEE CLUB met for practise as usual on Friday afternoon. A communication was received from Mr. D. G. Symons, inviting the club to sing at the Church of the Redeemer on the 16th inst., on which date a "Pound" concert is to be given. The invitation was accepted.—Mr. T. Nattress was elected to respond to the toast, "The Glee Club," at the Undergraduate Dinner, Dec. 9th.—It will be necessary that extra rehearsals be held in order to meet engagements.

The S. P. S. Engineering Society held their last regular meeting for this year on Tuesday last, Dec. 7th, at 3 p.m.—Professor Galbraith presiding. Mr. T. Wickett, of the 1st year, read an interesting paper on "Masonry," Mr. J. L. Leask, of the 2nd year specials, following with one on "Shafts, Belts and Pulleys." The subject for discussion—"Preservation of Iron"—was opened by Mr. Martin, and discussed by the society. Discussions of late have become more general and interesting. Mr. G. H. Richardson was elected to represent the Society at the "Undergraduate Dinner" on Thursday next.

The regular Thursday evening meeting of the University College Y. M. C. A. was held in their hall, with a somewhat smaller attendance than usual, owing no doubt in part to the undergraduate dinner, which was held that evening. Mr. F. Tracy, who was leader for the occasion, opened up a profitable discussion in a clear and interesting way on the "Christian's commission" (John 17: 18). The point that was insisted on was the similarity which exists between the business of the Christian and the work of Christ, viz., the preaching of the gospel. It is expected that Hon. S. H. Blake will give an address next Thursday evening at the usual hour.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.—A French meeting was held on Monday afternoon in the Reading room of the Y. M. C. A. building. Mr. Gibbard read an excellent essay on Gautier's *Emaux et Camées*, finishing with a translation of *Ars Victrix* by Dobson. Mr. Jeffrey read an essay on *Le Capitaine Fracasse*, in which the plot of the story was sketched. Readings were contributed by the Misses Withrow and Robson. Mr. Steen was elected to respond on behalf of the Club on Thursday night. Owing to the resignation of Mr. J. H. Moss, the position of Recording Secretary is vacant. Election next Monday—Messrs Spence and W. C. Ferguson are the candidates. Schiller's "*Die Räuber*" and "*Kabale und Liebe*" form the subject of next meeting.

TRINITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.—Lectures close on the 16th inst., and commence on 4th Jan. '87. Mr. Philip represented the School at the recent McGill College dinner. Our own dinner, held in the Rossin House, was a great success. Mr. McLurg was the elected chairman on the occasion. The Lieut. Governor and other celebrities of the city were present; also a representative from the Toronto Womens' Medical College.—The Lieut. Governor gives our students a Reception on Saturday afternoon.—Our new Professors, J. L. Davison, L. R. C. P., on *Materia Medica*, and E. B. Shuttleworth, on *Pharmacy*, are making themselves efficient and popular. Mr. Davison especially, with his entertaining lectures, is a fine addition to the staff.

A MISSIONARY CONCERT (the second of a series to be continued monthly) was held in Y. M. C. A. Hall, on the afternoon of Dec. 7th. A large number of University and Theological students were in attendance. Mr. T. Logie, B. A., Fellow in Mental and Moral Science in the College, occupied the chair and, in a few well chosen words, introduced the Rev. Dr. Kellogg, of this city. The doctor has been a missionary in India for some twelve years himself and, on this occasion, spoke from experience on the subject, "India as I saw it." He regards the people of India very favorably as a social people, and gives a vivid sketch of the climate and country. He speaks encouragingly of the difficulties and pleasures of mission work there. At the close of the address, various questions were handed in to the rev. gentleman, and were ably answered. These concerts are both interesting and instructive.

TORONTO MEDICAL SCHOOL.—On Wednesday of last week the students attended in a body the funeral of the late Mrs. Dr. Barret. His Honour the Lieut.-Governor gives an "At Home" to all medical students on Saturday, 11th inst. The following officers were elected, on Tuesday, the 7th, to reorganize the Glee Club:—President, Mr. Egbert; Musical Director, Mr. Halliday; Secretary-Treasurer, T. H. Halsted; Business Committee, Messrs. Egbert, Halliday, Tovell, and Proctor. Mr. Galloway represented Toronto School of Medicine at the Annual Dinner of McGill Medical School. Mr. Kitchen dines with the Dental students. Mr. G. Acheson, M.A., was elected by acclamation to represent the School at the dinner in Convocation Hall, on Thursday night. Mr. G. Chambers has overcome his dislike to the dissecting room, and now Cherry W. may be found at all times of the day busy on one of his three parts. Mr. A. T. Hunter, after an absence of several years, has returned to his studies.

The following is the PROGRAMME of the "K" Company Concert, on Tuesday evening, December 14th, in Convocation Hall:—Part I.—1. "Canadian Boat Song," University College Glee Club. 2. Violin Solo (piano accompaniment) Gavotte op. 23, Miss Geikie and Dr. A. J. Geikie. 3. Song, "The Soldier's Goodbye," Mr. Mercer. 4. Piano Solo, March (Tannhauser) *Wagner-Liszt*, Miss Gunther. 5. Duett, "Coming Home," Messrs. J. L. and W. A. Geddes. 6. Song, "A Dream," Miss Berryman. 7. Presentation of prizes won at annual rifle match, November 6th, 1886. Part II.—1. Part Song, "The Three Chafers," University College Glee Club. 2. Song, "My Own True Love," Miss Fanny Wright. 3. Reading (selected), Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison. 4. Romance, "Alice, Where Art Thou?" Mr. Gorrie. 5. Song, "Alone in the Desert," Mr. Walker Sparkes. 6. Song (selected), Mr. W. Restall. 7. God Save the Queen. Musical Director—W. Elliott Haslam. Members of "K" Company and other corps are requested to appear in uniform. Concert to commence at eight o'clock.

WYCLIFFE'S first Public Debate of the year was held on Friday, Dec. 3rd, before an audience numbering over four hundred. His Worship, the Mayor, graced the chair. A very *à propos* Inaugural was given by the President, N. W. Hoyles, Esq., M.A., on the subject of Debating Societies. Messrs. Lynch and Skey charmed the audience as Brutus and Cassius in their celebrated quarrel. A fairly sung Glee by the students paved the way for a debate on the weighty social question, "That the Selfishness of Wealth is the Main Cause of the Mental, Moral and Religious Degradation of the Poor in Cities." W. A. Frost, B.A., stated the case very moderately, showing the carelessness and indifference of the wealthy to be a great factor in the degradation of the poor. His grand finale of a Syllogism in Barbara concisely stated almost took the ground from under the negative. However, Mr. Hamilton spoke up boldly and being ably supported by Mr. O'Meara, who worked against Mr. May, turned the audience in favor of the down-trodden capitalist. The "Vesper Hymn," as a quartette, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, closed a pleasant evening's entertainment.

The regular weekly meeting of the Historical and Political Science Association was held in McMillan's Hall, Dec. 8th, President Houston in the chair. After the transaction of business, the President introduced Mr. Alfred Jury, who addressed the Association on "Convict Labour in Competition with Free Labour." The address was from the stand-point of the Labour Party, and was delivered in a clear and vigorous style. The speaker showed the rising practical importance of the question on this continent—a question not so much of the production of wealth as of its equal distribution, which is more important. He held that the present system of employing criminals is unjust; for (1) it does not reform criminals, but often makes them, by transferring a great portion of a trade to the prisoners, thus throwing labourers out of employment and bringing them to want, which is a parent of crime; (2) it discriminates in favour of the rich against the poor. Contractors secure the labour of convicts at very low rates, so that the labour of honest men is degraded by their being obliged to compete with felons for labour, besides assisting to support prisons; (3) it places a premium on crime by giving criminals the knowledge of a trade, while honest men have to make sacrifices in order to pay some one to teach their sons a trade. When the speaker finished, a number

of questions were asked, and a lively discussion followed, in which Messrs. Hume, Aikins and Russell took part. On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Jury. Next Wednesday Mr. Philips Thomson is expected to speak on "Socialism."

A BUSINESS MEETING was held in Y. M. C. A. Hall on Friday afternoon, Dec. 3rd, to consider the final report of the Building Committee. The President occupied the chair, opening the meeting with reading and prayer. The Committee reported favourably and handed over the new Y. M. C. A. building to the Association, furnished and free of debt. Following is the financial statement:—

(1) Subscriptions—By the Senate.....	\$1,125 00
" Faculty.....	232 00
" Undergraduates.....	939 07
" Graduates.....	1,419 25
" Outside friends.....	3,198 88
Making a total of.....	\$6,914 20
(2) Receipts—From the Senate.....	\$1,125 00
" Faculty.....	232 00
" Undergraduates.....	\$79 07
" Graduates.....	1,384 25
" Outside friends.....	3,144 88
Total Receipts.....	\$6,765 20
(3) Expenses—	
For Masonry, to Crutten.....	\$2,215 87
" Carpenter work, to Forbes.....	2,448 80
" Gas fixtures.....	83 20
" Painting, to O Connor.....	251 20
" Slating, to Rennie.....	230 00
" Plastering, to Walsh & Sharpe.....	306 80
" Plumbing, to W. J. McGuire & Co.....	158 37
" Galvanized Iron, to John Douglas.....	232 00
" Furnace, to J. F. Pease.....	252 00
To Gordon & Helliwell, architects.....	200 00
Travelling expenses in collecting.....	64 99
Balance on Organ (which was in part a gift).....	51 61
Mantel.....	57 00
To Gas Co.....	12 40
Printing, Stationery and Postage.....	49 68
Insurance for three years.....	44 00
Coal.....	24 80
Telegraphing.....	1 18
House furnishings.....	20 92
Cleaning building.....	8 00
The total expense in connection with the erection and completion of the building was.....	\$6,712 82
(4) Losses, consisting in subscriptions unpaid and unobtainable.....	\$ 73 00
(5) Assets—(a) Balance on hand.....	52 13
(b) Subscriptions unpaid, but which may yet be collected.....	76 00
(c) Postage Stamps.....	18
Total.....	\$128 31

Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the retiring Building Committee, of whom Mr. A. J. McLeod collected \$4,256 83, Mr. J. McP. Scott \$365.00, and Mr. A. H. Young \$788.12; to the ladies of the city for furnishing the building so handsomely; and to the Bursar of University College, through whom the Committee received \$1,355.00. The Committee, in handing over the surplus money, recommended the purchase of a table, book-case and such other necessary articles. It is just two years ago last Thanksgiving Day since Mr. S. H. Blake headed the list of subscribers toward the erection of a building for Y. M. C. A. purposes. The College authorities donated the ground to build on. It remains now for the students themselves to make the success of the Association even still greater than it has been in the past in University College circles.

Last Friday evening, Dec. 3rd, the usual meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society was held in Moss Hall. The attendance was unusually small, doubtless owing to the fact that public debates were held in both Wycliffe College and McMaster Hall. Mr. Thompson opened the programme with a song, "The Mermaid," and, on receiving an encore, rendered "Dere's a heap ob Trouble on dis Ole Man's mind," in a style which showed clearly that comic singing is his forte. Mr. Pearson then made his first appearance before the Society with a recitation. These two gentlemen succeeded in confirming the already formed opinion of the excellent ability of the freshman year. Mr. W. H. Hunter read an essay on "The Puritan Element in American Character." Mr. A. H. Young also favoured the audience with a solo. Then followed the debate, the subject of which was, Resolved: "That Anarchy, Nihilism, and Socialism might be abated if proper concessions were made by the

wealthy and privileged classes." J. McP. Scott and W. Prendergast argued in support of the affirmative, while J. A. Sparling and J. D. McD. Spence maintained the negative. Mr. Scott treated of Nihilism and German Socialism in a speech which, if somewhat prosy, was, nevertheless, telling, and showed careful consideration of the subject. He said that it was useless to try to stamp out that which contained an element of truth, and that so far the only way to deal with these evils had been to treat their supporters as reasonable men. In Germany, for instance, by judicious and proper concession Socialism had lost so much of the objectionable element as to become the popular party in the last elections. Mr. Sparling confined himself to a refutation of the preceding speech, which he apparently failed to grasp. He believed education of the masses to be the only remedy for admitted evils. Mr. Prendergast advocated concession in such a state of affairs as we find at present existing in Ireland in the matter of land tenure. Mr. Spence, in a fluent speech, closed the debate for the negative. His argument was that concession means simply the triumph and consequent strengthening of Socialism, and that, as a matter of fact, society, as a whole, is moving in that direction. He considered Socialism, not in the sense which inevitably attaches to the word when associated with Nihilism and Anarchy, but as he himself defined it, "The governing by society as a body of everything concerning them as a body." None of the speakers seemed to thoroughly grasp the subject. Concession of their rights will certainly take the ground from beneath the feet of agitators of whatever kind, but this can only be accomplished by the conversion of a majority to at least a part of their views. Socialism, *so far as it is evil*, will, however, be diminished by proper concession. This view was evidently taken by the meeting, for, when Mr. Biggar, (who, on the President being obliged to leave, had taken the chair,) submitted the question, it was decided in favour of the affirmative. The committee was given power to arrange, if possible, for intercollegiate debates. Mr. J. O. Miller was appointed to reply on behalf of the Society to the toast of College Societies at the Annual Dinner.

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. In the present issue appears the fifth of a series of articles on the University of Toronto. The news columns are full and accurate, containing reports of all meetings of interest to its readers. A special holiday number will be issued during Christmas week.

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	University and College News.
	Di-Varsities, &c., &c.



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DI-VARSITIES.

Japan boasts of a singing fish. It has
musical scales, we suppose.

In the olden time we lived by days of toil.
Now we live by Knights of Labour.

"The good die young." That accounts
for the bald-heads at dizzy shows.

Shakespeare never billed his plays. Yet
he builded better than he knew, Bill did.

Silence may be golden, but it doesn't
necessarily make a millionaire of a mule.

"Now, then," said the dancing master,
when he was setting his clock, "all hands
around."

The degree that Harvard conferred on
Princeton seems to be somewhere about 260
Fahrenheit.

When the roast turkey was stuffed with
chestnuts, Jones said it was time to ring the
dinner bell!

"Have you ever seen a ghost, Pogkins?"
"No, Snippet," was the spirited reply, "and
I never expectre."

Diner.—"Waiter, I see you have got turtle
soup on the menu. Is it mock turtle?"
Waiter—"No, sir, mud."

Women have been admitted to the Bar in
several States. We have always contended
that the country was drying up.

This is the latest witticism with which W.
S. Gilbert is credited. "It is easy enough
for bishops to be good on a salary of £5,000
a year," said the satirical dramatist, looking
round on a select circle of literary friends,
"but we have to be good for nothing"—a
pause—"and some of us are."

"My son," said the father of a convicted
bigamist, "you have brought degradation
enough upon me, without this final blow to
the family name." "I was only following
your advice, father," answered the prisoner.
"You told me the last time I got into trouble
to 'take a brace'—and I took them."

"How is it none of my contributions are
ever used?" asked a would-be contributor of
an editor. "You must be mistaken. Do
you write on one side of the paper only?"
"Certainly." "Then it's all right. We write
our editorials on the blank side. Never be
afraid of your contributions not being used."

"Yes," said Mr. Hendricks to the minis-
ter, "I am proud of that dog. Why, he
knows the different days of the week." Just
then the dog began to run to a gun which
stood in the corner, then back to his master,
and wag his tail. "He's made a mistake
this time, Pa," said young Bobby, "He
thinks it's Sunday."

"Habit" is hard to overcome. If you
take off the first letter it doesn't change "a
bit." If you take off another you have a
"bit" left. If you take off another the whole
of "it" remains. If you remove another it
is not "t" totally used up. All of which
goes to show that if you wish to be rid of a
bad habit you must throw it off altogether.

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Young man: Yes, sir. But I haven't called to see Miss Clare this time. I have a two months' gas bill to collect.

Head of the House (in a milder tone): I see. You will please call again.

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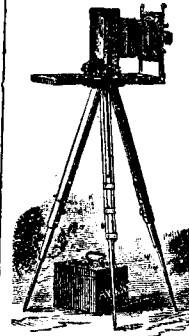
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