

"When Gran'Pop" went to College

With "The Brunswickan" of the Eighties

Approximately three years ago the supposedly first issue of the "University Monthly" was found and taken to the archives of the University Library. That first issue was published in the month of September, 1867. It was entitled:

THE UNIVERSITY MONTHLY
Devoted to Literature, Science, and General Information
Vol. One Fredericton, N. S.,
September, 1867 No. 1

Now, note the words "Volume One, Number One." Fifteen years later, the second issue of the "University Monthly" appeared with the same title except for the date "March, 1882." We have the date "March, 1882." Yes, the "Vol. One, No. 1" was still there. We have no record of any other issue being published between the year 1867 and 1882 but there is the first 1882 issue masquerading as the first edition of our U. N. B. college paper! Were the editors misleading the public or was it just a coincidence that they named it the "University Monthly, Vol. One, No. 1, March, 1882?"

The Editor-in-Chief of the 1867 issue, Mr. George E. Foster, stated in his editorial "To The Public" the following:

"In this, our first appearance before the public, we are subject to much the same feelings and tremblings as those that move the orator on the occasion of his maiden speech. We know that in this day, when newspapers of every party, and we may say, of every grade of moral tone, from the simply ridiculous to the noble and elevated, are scattered broadcast through our Province; when news in the shape of telegrams, and literature, in the form of magazines, abound in our towns and country places, the appearance of another on the stage as an aspirant for public favour and popular patronage will be deemed by some premature and uncalled for, especially when that one comes from a source which has never before given birth to even the semblance of the like."

The First Brunswickan

On page eight of the 1867 issue we have the Prospectus of the "University Monthly" which will clear up many questions as to why such a college newspaper was started.

"The University Monthly will be published at Fredericton on the last Thursday of each month. It professes to be a journal devoted to Literature, Science, and General Information; and will supply in some measure at least, the existing want which is felt in our Province for a periodical of this kind."

"What is contained in its pages will be, in the main original and no pains will be spared towards rendering it a pleasing and at the same time instructive, fireside companion."

"We trust that in these efforts we shall receive the hearty co-operation of all friends of progress and education and especially of all those graduates of the University who still retain a feeling of love and regard for their alma mater, and who may be inclined, to look with favour on this, we believe, laudable undertaking of the young men now pursuing their studies within her halls."

With special reference to the set-up and style of this newspaper I desire to present you with a clear description.

To any person it will be readily noticeable that both the 1867 and 1882 issues were great undertakings for the times and that the editors certainly set a precedent in publishing newspapers of such enormous size. The "University Monthly" appeared as a newspaper nearly three-quarters the size of our present "Brunswickan", although in 1883 the "University Monthly" resembled a magazine more as it was dressed in a blue-covered jacket. The first addition contained eight pages but later the paper increased to over twenty pages an issue. The Literary and Debating Society, then the most important campus society, published the "University Monthly" "In Nine Numbers during the Session". Each session was from the month of September to the month of June inclusive.

Freedom of the Press

In the October, 1892 issue, to mention in passing, the "Salutatory", I presume being written by the Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Stephen S. Ritchie, showed that the staff had formed a definite policy, viz. "The Monthly is the students' special property therefore we shall speak out fearlessly on all matters connected with the students and the college." They did, too, in that very issue! I quote, "We do not hesitate in condemning the action of the Senate and especially that of the president, with regard to Professor Murray. To let so fine and accomplished a lecturer leave us because of a mere trifle was sheer foolishness."

A cover to the paper appeared in 1883 and on it including the title were the motto, "Sapere Aude", an etching of the Arts Building showing the stables protruding from behind, and either a list of the Faculty of the University or the Table of Contents.

Advertising — "Get a Tonsure"

In the 1867 issue only four small 1/2 page advertisements appeared, but in subsequent issues advertising usually appeared on the front inside, back inside, and back covers, as well as an extra page of advertising. Truly about twenty-five per cent of the paper was advertising in comparison with forty per cent advertising to-day.

For your own amusement I must quote one advertisement that appeared in the 1867 issue:

CHARLES SOULIS
Professor of the Tensorial Art
Regent Street

"... Is prepared to perform all work in his line of business with neatness and despatch, and feels confident that he will be able to give the utmost satisfaction to all who may wish a fashionable cut or a clean shave. Mr. Soulis also keeps constantly on hand a large assortment of the most approved Hair Oils and Perfumes, as well as an unlimited supply of his well known and favourite "Spanish Lustral", which acts like magic in preventing the loss of hair, and in causing a rapid and luxuriant growth on heads prematurely bald."

Being thus prepared to send all comers "rejoicing on their way", he hopes still to retain a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed upon him by the students and the public generally."

Famous Alumni

Several prominent New Brunswickers at one time or another worked on the staff of the "University Monthly", among whom we find Sir Charles G. D. Roberts, the Corresponding Editor in 1882, and Bliss Carman, the Corresponding Editor a year later. The Editor-in-Chief of the 1867 issue was Sir George E. Foster, later a Dominion Cabinet Minister.

In the last decade of the nineteenth century we still find Bliss Carman contributing poetry to the Literary section of the magazine among which are included "Sojourners", "Overlord", "Triviolet", and many others. Indeed, Carman's cousin, Theodore Roberts, a U. N.

B. graduate, entered many fine poetry selections also.

It is interesting to note when glancing through the various issues that there were only three or four campus organizations. The most important of these organizations was, apparently, the Literary and Debating Society which besides publishing the "University Monthly" regularly conducted a mock parliament which proved of great interest to the townspeople.

The only other organizations I find mentioned are the Glee Club and the University Athletic Club which became known as the University Amateur Athletic Club in 1884. Interest in these two societies, especially in the Athletic Club, proved very disappointing at times, because the boys seemed to be more interested in an intellectual education, i. e. mock parliament, rather than a physical education which led to many articles being written in the "University Monthly" on the poor turnout of students for sports.

Mock Parliament Centre of Interest
The mock parliament conducted by the Literary and Debating Society attracted much interest from the entire province. Each Saturday night, the Library was turned into the House of Commons or Legislative Assembly where many eloquent speakers were the order of the evening.

For example in the March 1898 issue of the University Monthly we notice that "Mock Parliament closed on Saturday, March 3rd, after several fruitless attempts on the part of the Opposition to upset the Government. This session has been a very successful one, and no doubt the confidence of the people in the present administration has been confirmed."

In those days this mock parliament discussed many pressing problems like economical reform, prohibition and stock farms.

As an example of the development of the university's mock parliament at that time I quote an article from the "University Monthly" of March, 1894:

"February's editorial left our Mock Parliament just about to have the Budget delivered. Well, it was delivered. There are two kinds of Budgets, a 'gross' and a 'net' one. This was grossly 'net.' The discussion on it was animated and erudite, the Liberals being especially successful in their attacks upon the Government's financial policy. The amendment of Hon. Mr. McKnight, the Liberal leader, for economical reform, was lost by a close vote. The next business of the Parliament was the discussion on the passage of the prohibition bill of the Liberal leader. From the outset it was stated that this bill was not a party measure, yet the Conservatives would not accept the statement. To a man they opposed the measure, amending and hacking and striking out and changing till the parents themselves did not recognize their own darling child. Almost every section of the bill as prepared was, in the eyes of the Conservatives, found necessary to be amended. The Leader of the Liberals in moving the Bill surpassed himself and the most sanguine expectations of his supporters. He reviewed in detail the temperance policy of this country for the past

few years, then branched out on the necessity of Prohibition and finally concluded his eloquent speech with a masterly peroration on the superiority of this country over every other, pointing out the only blot on its fair escutcheon as Intemperance and Conservatism. He finished by saying that the triumph of Prohibition would erase the one and the triumph of Liberalism, the other. All agreed that his effort had given to the house a new measure of dignity and a new standard of eloquence."

"The member for Carleton, Mr. McKee, in rising to move that the 1st Section pass, made a lucid and exhaustive statement of his opinion on temperance questions and on Prohibition in particular. You would think, if you had heard him, that he was well fitted for a position with a minority section of a Prohibition Commission."

The Problem of Liquor Control in '88

"The leader of the Government, the Hon. Sir Charles Elliott, avowed his sympathetic identification with the liquor interest. He spoke against prohibition at first and then changed his opposition to a mild measure of liquor importation, manufacture, and consumption. The example of the leader had its desired effect on his tame Conservative supporters in the house. To a man they stood by him with a clanishness worthy of the mediaeval Scots. They repudiated the principles, which, on their mother's knee, in the holy shadows of the paternal roof, the west wind playing joyfully round their then pure and innocent brows, they had gladly embraced and vowed forever to defend and champion. The Liberal speakers charged their arguments home and won the support and sympathy of the house. As every section, after amendment by the Conservatives, came up for the vote to be taken you might see the Government's majority decreasing. The last vote taken at the last meeting on the 17th stood 18 to 19 in favour of the Conservatives, the chairman being compelled to vote to save them from defeat. So pushed were the Government that they decided to talk against time in order that another section might come on to be voted upon. The Postmaster General was given the onerous and

unpleasant task. He performed it in his usual manner and while he was speaking in no way surprised the house. But when he had at last sat down and the Lieutenant of the Liberals commenced answering him he raised no less than ten points of order in something like twelve minutes. This will sufficiently indicate the attitude of the Government and the extremity to which they had come."

U. N. B. vs. Mt. A.

It might be mentioned here that rivalry with Mount Allison University, then Sackville College, was great indeed. The rivalry went so far at times that it would develop into an argument regarding the merits of the universities, and the requirements into Mount Allison and U. N. B. respectively where "at Mount Allison two books of Euclid are required, and at U. N. B. four books of the same." At times the reader of these old magazines acquires the impression that ill-feeling was great, and that one of the colleges was soon going to sue the other for libel.

Personals from "Chas. G. D. Roberts, A. B. '79, is now assistant editor of the "Current", a Chicago weekly journal devoted chiefly to literature" to "J. M. Palmer, A. B. '80, principal of the Chatham High School, recently visited his friends in the Celestial City" were types popularly in vogue. Even the Local Police Force and Gleaner.

"De Omnibus Rebus" sub-titled "Many articles under this head are intelligible to Undergraduates only" was the students' column. Anything could happen here, and did, from a discussion on the loss of the 'cap and gown'—our last tradition, to tuition for the year \$22.50, prayers, the local police force and Gleaner, a row at the University, to such humour as "Mathematical Professor (to the Co-eds of '96). "Young ladies, your minds must get to be flexible as well as your jaws."



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