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Inter-Varsities or No?

S.G.M. SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

A special general meeting of the Sports Association was held on Monday, March 19, to discuss the following resolution, "In order to demonstrate to the community our consciousness of war obligation, and in view of the difficulties certain to arise in regard to financing teams, and in securing proper and equal representation of the different Universities, this committee recommends to the council of the Australian Sports Association that inter-Varsity contests should be abandoned in Australia for the duration of the war."

Speakers, including Dr. Grenfell Price and Mr. Ward, supported the motion chiefly for the reasons expressed in the resolution. It was suggested that as many students are keen to get their Blues, an award could, perhaps, be made on inter-club contests. But this seems to break with an old tradition, and a Blue gained in this way would hardly be as valuable as one gained through playing for the combined Universities against the State. It was pointed out that some inter-Varsity sports, for instance, the rifle contests, had already been cancelled. If the majority of the Universities feel that one particular sport should be abandoned, there is no need to carry it on, but is it satisfactory to cancel all sport until it is absolutely necessary?

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.

Perhaps the example of Oxford and Cambridge could be followed for inter-Varsity contests. That is in a purely friendly spirit, at the expense of the students and without the award of Blues. As this, an inter-Varsity in one's own State would be an expensive entertainment with no reward in the form of Blues.

OPPOSITION.

Students opposing the motion showed that inter-Varsity sport was an important part of university life, and that it should not be abandoned until absolutely necessary. It was suggested that sport would suffer, as some students would give it up if they had not an inter-Varsity match to work for. As regards expense to the association, students considered they could finance themselves and, in fact, many parents would be only too willing to get rid of them for a fortnight.

WOMEN LACK PUBLIC APPEAL.

The women students soon made it evident that they considered the resolution not to apply to them. They pointed out that they could finance their own teams and, in any case, their public appeal was not as great as the men's. Representation in the teams would not be affected by the war. The resolution was amended to express this opinion.

The resolution was lost by thirteen to twelve. But was the meeting satisfactory? Would it not be advisable for the question of the continuance or abandonment of inter-Varsity contests to go to the A.U.S.A., which could ascertain the feelings of the other Universities and decide the issue on a majority vote.

Wider Union Membership?

Owing to questions raised at the National Union Conference, the delegates, Miss Edith Irwin and Messrs. R. G. Willoughby and F. A. Dibden, have offered as their opinion that limited Union privileges should be granted to all music, massage, and non-graduating students and those Training College students doing University subjects, in return for a small compulsory Union fee of, perhaps, five or ten shillings.

It became apparent at the National Union Conference that the fee the Adelaide University was paying for membership in the N.U.A.U.S. was not in fair proportion to the number of students attending the University. There were, in 1939, approximately 2,700 students, of whom only 900 were union members and that only those 900 were members of the National Union.

In Melbourne, on the other hand, every student belongs to the body headed by the S.R.C., and Melbourne was paying membership fees for every student.

Adelaide, therefore, is required, from now on, to pay for every student to be a member of the National Union, and those fees must come from the Union. That is obviously not a satisfactory arrangement, for it means that 900 students are paying an extra half-fee for the other 1,800 non-union students to enjoy whatever privileges the National Union affords.

We are faced then by the position that every student in this University holds an equal position in the National Union, but that 900 of us are the mugs paying for the other 1,800.

FACULTIES' MEETING

Should We Curtail Faculty Activities?

A meeting was held at the end of the vacation to discuss the question of abolishing the social activities of the faculties.

This meeting was attended by representatives of every faculty and the main point at issue was whether, owing to the military camps, it would be advisable to have no faculty dances, or combine dances for the duration of the war. The arguments for their abolition were, of course, the shortage of men and of money, and the shortage of time that students in the militia will have when they are not actually in camp.

It was generally agreed, however, that no rule should be set down about the matter. As long as it is practicable to continue as usual, we shall do so. When it is apparent that activities must be curtailed, then automatically they will be. It may be said that they will either continue on their way or abolish themselves.

Again we come to the Prime Minister's hackneyed phrase, "Business as usual." That is what the meeting decided. Incidentally, official University opinion is in favour of any activities run on behalf of the Red Cross or some similar cause. Surely that is a good enough excuse and worthy enough to encourage us to continue our happy social round.

THE CASE FOR NON-GRADS.

Of course there is a case for part-time students. They have not the opportunities to use the Union buildings and make use of other advantages provided by the Union to the extent that graduating students have. But, nevertheless, if they were to pay an annual Union subscription of, say, five shillings, then they would be at liberty to use those same Union buildings, etc., whenever they wished.

This is the case put forward by the three delegates and, although it has not yet come before the general body of the Union for discussion, it is probable that if it is brought up at the annual general meeting, as it is sure to be, it will receive a wide support.

If the Union is in favour of this alteration to the constitution, then it will go before the Union Committee, which will then lay it in the hands of the Council. The Vice-Chancellor has been approached about the subject. Nevertheless, "negotiations are proceeding" and if the Union supports the move we can do no more than hand on our suggestion to the Council for consideration.

FREE TEA.

Women's Union A.G.M.

All women freshers and all members of the Women's Union are invited to attend the Freshers' Tea, to be held in the Refectory on Wednesday, March 13.

There are various attractions which should make you wish to attend. This is one of the very rare free meals that it is possible to get in your career at the University. Freshers will have an opportunity of finding out who are the top-dogs in the Women's Union and what they look like, and some of these same top-dogs will tell them in friendly and warning words what one is to expect in University life.

After the tea the annual general meeting of the Women's Union will take place.

The main subjects for discussion will be those raised at the National Union Conference—that University women students should make a definite contribution to the national efforts of the community in time of war by:

1. Undergoing training given by the V.A.D. and the St. John Ambulance or any other approved course.
2. Organizing a "Women of the University Appeal" to raise funds and comforts for persons affected by the war. The term "women of the University" includes undergraduates, graduates, wives of staff, lecturers, and demonstrators.

This is the first appeal to the women students and you should make up your mind as to what you are prepared to do before you come.

Diploma Course in Physical Education

The Federal Government moves on with its schemes for National Fitness. In line with this and in an endeavour to further physical knowledge and well-being among University students, the Council of the University has instituted a diploma course in Physical Education.

To receive the diploma a candidate must have matriculated in either Arts or Science, and have passed in the equivalent of one year's study in the Faculties of Arts or Science students are also required to pass a medical and physical fitness examination.

CURRICULUM.

The course will take two years for full-time students, but it is possible for it to be taken in parts for which certificates will be issued. There will be four certificates: The first, in Human Biology and Human Physiology, covers a course which is intended to serve as an introduction to a more detailed study of particular aspects of biology; the second certificate is in Principles and Practice of Health, which includes lectures in First Aid, Body Mechanics, Hygiene, Dietetics, Preventive Work, and Clinical Observation; another certificate is given in the Principles and Practice of Physical Education, which includes Elementary Psychology, History of Education, Practical Teaching, and Principles of Physical Education. The fourth certificate is given for practical work. It requires knowledge in exercises, apparatus work, various sports, dancing, hiking and camping, fencing, and archery. The practical work will be carried on at the Y.W.C.A., the Olympic pool, and on the sports ground. Students are also required to spend three weeks of their course at one of the schools to get practical experience in teaching and managing children.

FREE LECTURES for OUTSIDERS.

The course is similar to one established in Melbourne some years ago. It is comprehensive and most interesting, and its introduction to South Australia should in time help in making the community more health conscious. Within the University itself, its establishment should lead to a rise in the standard of sport, which is at present appallingly low. The course gives a sporting offer to all students; it is not limited to its own members but allows matriculated students attending lectures in any faculty to be admitted free to lectures and, subject to size of classes, at a low fee for practical work.

DR. F. W. MITCHELL.

Arrangements for the course are under the charge of Dr. F. W. Mitchell. He is a busy man, for it is no easy work establishing a curriculum, finding lecturers, and doing the hundred and one other tasks that are necessary. Dr. Mitchell is a South Australian, educated at St. Peter's. He is a B.Sc., B.A., and Ph.D. He has always been particularly interested in Physical Education, and gained a Carnegie Fellowship at the Institution of Education in 1935. He then did post-graduate research for two years. Last year he was lecturer in the Diploma of Secondary Education at the Teachers' Training College. In the Physical Education course he will take the lectures in Organization and Management of Physical Education and in Practical Teaching.

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TAILORS OF CORRECT CLOTHES

FOR 'VARSITY MEN

On the Trail

By The Watchdog.

We feel more than a little dubious about taking up the task assigned to us by the editor. To become just another news commentator seems a hard fate for one to whom life has promised so much. Nevertheless, our word being our bond, the editor being what the editor is, times what they are, and the press what it is, we have decided to do our bit for the nation by standing shoulder to shoulder with our backs to the wall and giving, week by week, reasons why the Allies are superior in all departments to the Germans who are rapidly losing heart on account of starvation, Mr. Churchill, blood on their fangs, etc. But we must place on record our conviction that news commentators flourish in inverse proportion to the efficiency and clarity of the general news services available to the public. They are fungus growth, springing from the arid soil of ignorance.

Talking of clarity and efficiency, have you noticed the curious trend of the Russo-Finnish war? Up to February 20 a close perusal of the newspapers and the taking of a daily count revealed that the Russians had lost 325,250 men dead or wounded, 1,000 airmen, 412 aircraft, 12 balloons, 214 field guns, 294 machine guns, 750 tanks, 720 lorries and armoured cars, 185 automatic rifles, 125 revolvers, 1,560 horses, 8 warships, and 1 submarine. Against this the maximum Finnish losses reported were 33,787 killed and wounded, 37 aircraft, 420 machine guns, and 170 field guns, though the casualties actually admitted by the Finns were only 3,700 killed and wounded, and 37 aircraft. Since November 20, when the Russians began to make more rapid headway, reports of Finnish losses have grown rapidly. Most extraordinary, however, is the apparent resuscitation of Russians at the rate of 50,000 a week. Making due allowance for the difficulty of finding out anything at all from the modern war communique, it would seem that somebody with a good imagination has been betting on the Finns. It is very doubtful, however, whether the publication of inaccurate and sometimes fantastic figures does anything but injure the Finnish cause. Its primary effect is simply to divert attention from the fact that the Finns are, and have all along been, fighting a brave but hopeless fight against overwhelming odds. This in turn means that help has been withheld from Finland until it is now too late to do anything which does not involve large-scale operations by the Allies against Russia.

GERMAN AND HER NEIGHBOURS.
The opinion seems to be gaining ground in England that the blockade of Germany is not as successful as had been hoped. The reason is clear enough. It simply cannot be while the supplies of Sweden, Russia, China, the Balkan countries, and Italy are available to Germany. If you have followed the Hore-Belisha articles published in the "Advertiser," you will have lately read a fair and realistic summing up of Germany's raw material and foodstuff position. According to Mr. Hore-Belisha, who is patently not pro-Nazi, the present prospects of Germany weathering the blockade are much better than we have been led to believe—so good in fact that if the Allies continue to allow her access to the markets now open to her, she will not only live but thrive. Mr. Hore-Belisha has resigned from the Cabinet. One reason was probably that he wished the Allies to intervene in force in Finland. If so, and if what he writes is true, it seems a fairly safe bet that the Allies intend either to attack Germany through the Balkans or, better still, force Germany to attack Roumania and then go to the help of the latter.

CORIO.

The Federal Government has received another setback in losing its fourth successive by-election. Yet it is probable that Mr. Meuzies is the least perturbed of all the party leaders. One can imagine Mr. Curtin, despite his brave words, praying fervently that he may not be called to office while those men are in Palestine. Mr. Cameron will be indignant that the public demands him to serve under the Prime Minister. Only Robert G. pursues his Olympian way just 366 days ahead of us all.

"ON DIT" STAFF, 1940.

Editors:

P. M. Viner Smith, S. J. Jacobs.

Business Manager:

J. E. Jenkins.

Sports Editors:

J. M. McPhie, N. Osman.

Editorial Staff:

G. W. Irwin, E. Teesdale Smith, K. Sanderson, E. F. Johnston.

"Business As Usual"

With the war now six months old, the call still comes to the community from poster, press, and radio—"Business as usual." Misleading as this slogan may be in those circles where it is most meant to have effect, it must apply to the University. When the representatives of the faculties met recently, they decided not to curtail faculty activities; the Sports Association voted against a move to suggest a temporary abolishment of inter-Varsity sports. It would be fatal to retreat into our shell or unduly to curtail student activity, unless the exigencies of the situation were particularly pressing.

And because we value the privilege of free thought and speech, "On Dit" remains as it always has been, an impartial press, save that we assume there is in everyone some degree, however large or small, of loyalty to the cause for which we are at war. Therefore, if you feel that you could make a better job of the U-boats than Mr. Winston Churchill, or if you think that Hitler is an angel with his wings cut, do not hesitate to express your opinion through the columns of this paper. We doubt if your opinion will have much effect on the course of world events, but it's always worth a try.

Leaving the war, we stress that this paper is not produced every week solely for the amusement and occupation of the editors. Our aim is to make it as interesting as possible to as large a number of people as possible; so if there happens to be an article that bores you stiff, just remember that Willie Jones, who is doing Honours Economics, paid his Union fee, too, and expects something back. But to make the paper more interesting for you, it is necessary that we should know what you want. We are open to suggestions, to criticisms, and to offers—suitable articles will be received with open arms, while it is hoped that the correspondence columns will go on filling themselves. But on one thing we insist: We will not take the responsibility of publishing any letter or article, the writer of which has not made his name known to us. We will guarantee not to publish the name, if a non-de-plume is used, and we will disclose it to no one without authority. But we insist: No name—no letter.

To those who are new amongst us we extend a warm welcome. May all join the Sports Association and never leave refectory crockery on the verandahs.

ABC for Freshers

A is a letter of the alphabet, A stands for . . . art.

B is for Blackburn, the Rhodes Scholar smart.

C is for Cloisters, where butterflies dart.

D for debating; we urge you to start.

E for Engineers with rather quaint habits
(A bit "Oriental," they dig holes like rabbits).

F is for French, Fonetics, Ffilology.

H for Sir Hicks, and Hicks for physiology.
(Now we've gone and left out G; well, here goes!—)

G—Georgie Amos, kiddin' and chaff,
Kissed the girls—don't make I laugh.

I stands for "invite" to drink at a pub.

J for the jazz and jitterbug club.

K for Ken Hamilton Union Sec.

L for Law—and Luv—by heck!

M is for Meds, with corpses and itches.

N for their needles that put in the stiches.

O for "On Dit," which has 9,000 uses.

P for the Pres., who will stop all abuses

Q for those questions that nobody answers.

R for Refectory, where they have all the danswers.

S is for Science and Speeding—go slow.

T for the Torrens, where nice people go.

U for the Union, where big brains get busy.

V for V8—it used to be Lizzy.

(That's not too good—just as well we're near the end!)

W for weddin's day (if ever you wed).

And you know what to do with X, Y, and Z.

Front Office News

(The editors are pleased to announce that this column of Front Office news will be both regular and official. All information that the Council and Front Office wish made known to the students will appear in this column. Watch this same corner every week for all University war-time arrangements.)

MEDICAL COURSE.

It is very doubtful that the Medical course will be shortened. If it is shortened, it would mean not less work but less time to do the work in.

The question was considered at the recent Vice-Chancellors' conference but was left in the hands of the Deans of the various faculties of medicine for further investigation.

TRAFFIC IN GROUNDS.

The traffic in the grounds is to be regulated and the drive between the Art Gallery and University will be for one-way traffic only, i.e., as an entrance from North Terrace.

Exits will be in front of the Bonython Hall and into Kintore Avenue.

COMMONWEALTH VACANCIES.

A number of notices have been received from the Commonwealth Government and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in regard to vacancies for graduates.

Particulars have been posted on the notice board and students interested should make a practice of watching for further announcements.

Further information may be had from Mr. Eardley.

COMFORTS FUND

Do you remember wishing the night were longer? That was at the cabaret held at the end of last year. In fact, it was a great success, thanks to the secretary, Alan Pilgrim, members of the Staff Wives' Club, a good band, and merry company. It was the first Union function arranged to assist a war charity, and fulfilled its task nobly by raising £60 7/3 for the Fighting Forces' Comforts Fund.

A floor was laid over the refectory lawn and coloured stars (of the electric type) spangled the sky. Miss Jean Bedford arranged cabaret items and Harry Boake Smith kept the ball rolling. For the first time for several years the cabaret was under Vice-regal patronage, and the Lord and Lady Mayoress were among our guests.

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COMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, March 13.

Entries close for non-pennant tennis tournament.

Baseball Club A.G.M., 7.30 p.m., in George Murray Hall.

Thursday, March 14.

S.C.M. lunch-hour address on University life, 1.30 p.m., in George Murray Hall.

Chess Club Meeting, 1.30 p.m., in Lady Symon Hall.

Saturday, March 16.

Play begins in non-pennant tennis tournament.

Wednesday, March 20.

Living Club Meeting, 1.30 p.m., in Lady Symon Hall.

Thursday, March 21.

S.C.M. address "The Significance of Easter," by Rev. Norman Lade, 1.30 p.m., in George Murray Hall.

WEST END

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FOOTLIGHTS CLUB.

Revue to Be Abandoned.

News comes from the Footlights Club that the excellent idea of holding the revue in the first term has been abandoned. It was hoped that this change would enable more students to take part in the revue and give freshers an introduction to one side of University life. It is still doubtful whether the revue will even be held at the end of the year.

UNIVERSITY CHESS CLUB.

Mr. V. C. Matison has announced that he is forming a University Chess Club. He has already received a grant from the Union for the purchases of tables and chessmen, and has some hope that the room opposite the Union shop will be made available to the club.

Women may join as well as men, and the inaugural meeting is to take place on Thursday, March 14, at 1.30 p.m. in the Lady Simon Hall. Anyone interested or even curious is cordially invited to attend.

MEDICAL STUDENTS

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COMMENCEMENT SOCIAL.

The Commencement Social will be held on Friday, April 5. Freshers free. This time you get something for nothing, so bring a partner and get your tickets from Mr. Hamilton, Union Office, not later than Thursday, 4th.

SWING CLUB.

The Swing Club is getting down to business early this year. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, at lunch time in the Lady Symon Hall. Colin Alderman will be playing recordings, by Benny Goodman, Bud Freeman, Jimmy Dorsey, and many others. Meetings of the Swing Club are open to all members of the Union with no further subscription to pay. If you like swing music or do not know whether you like it or not, be sure to come along on Wednesday week.

NOT SO UNKIND.

As our projected final issue was not published last year, the usual editorial word of thanks to staff and other contributors was necessarily not printed.

An unusual amount of thanks was due to last year's staff, so this was doubly regrettable. However, I should like in this first issue for this year to give a belated recognition of the invaluable services rendered to "On Dit" last year by these people.

Their number is too great and their services are too vast to permit detailed elaboration, so I shall content myself with saying that it was entirely due to them and their efforts that "On Dit" was what it was last year.

O. E. NICHTERLEIN.

Mud in the Public Eye

PROF. K. S. ISLES.

Professor K. S. Isles, M.A., M.Sc., B.Com., is the newly-appointed Professor of Economics and Chairman of the Board of Commercial Studies. We would take this opportunity of welcoming him to the University, were it not for the fact that he has already been here for some months.

In those few months he has been appointed a member of the South Australian Disabilities Committee and a member of the Youth Employment Advisory Committee.

A Tasmanian by birth and education, he taught at St. Peter's College after graduation from the Hobart University, and then went to England where his academic life has ranged from post-graduate student at Cambridge to lecturer in Edinburgh University, and to Professor of Swansea University.

MR. R. A. BLACKBURN.

Perhaps we should be keeping up the custom set by the editor of "On Dit" last year, of publishing a photo of the Rhodes Scholar as a baby. But, firstly, we can't afford to have a block made, and, secondly, most people already know what Dick Blackburn looks like and I suppose he looked much the same when he was young.

Because of the war he will, of course, not be able to begin his work at Oxford, and in the meantime is continuing with his Law course. Last year he received his Honours Arts degree, with a first class in English. We have not the space to enumerate the items in his record, but we congratulate him and wish him luck.

MR. R. W. T. COWAN.

It is set down somewhere that the purpose of the Rhodes Scholarship is to take a brilliant University man, give him an extra training at Oxford, and then pack him off home to take the fruits of his knowledge back to the State that produced him. In Mr. Cowan, therefore, we find the perfect Rhodes Scholar.

Leaving Adelaide, after having received an Honours Arts degree in History, he studied Modern Greats at Oxford. He has now come back with another B.A. and a B.Litt. and has been appointed tutor in History and Political Science at St. Mark's and a W.E.A. lecturer in Political Institutions.

MR. L. F. CRISP.

And yet another Rhodes Scholar, of whom good reports are flocking home, is Fin Crisp, who left here in 1938. Besides his University work, which, apparently, is earning him fame, he is doing work for the Information Department, giving Air Raid Precaution lectures and digging a trench for Helen Wighton.

This, however, is not all; he has been elected to the Oxford Union Committee, which is an honour rare to South Australia, and is making an extraordinarily good name for himself with his debating. Soon after his appearance in his first debate at Oxford, he was asked to partner the Finnish Ambassador to London in a debate on England's policy towards Finland.

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MR. R. R. P. BARBOUR.

Everybody knows that Mr. Barbour was a Queensland Rhodes Scholar, that he has various arts degrees and about twenty different University Blues and Interstate colours, so it would be fruitless to go into all the details here. Suffice it to say that in losing him we are losing a man with an extraordinary scholastic and sporting record.

He has taken up the position of Warden in the Melbourne University and we are left without a Student Adviser. Perhaps he shall be most missed by the debaters, for it was in 1938 when he was coaching them that Adelaide won the inter-Varsity debating.

One-time master of St. Andrew's, he was, in Dr. Price's absence last year, Acting Master of St. Mark's.

MR. G. S. BRIDGLAND.

In Geoff. Bridgland we have another Adelaide graduate making a name for himself, this time in the world of politics. He has been appointed assistant secretary in the Australian High Commissioner's office at Ottawa.

In 1937 and 1938 he was President of the Union, and in 1938 first President of the N.U.A.U.S. Then, with an M.A. to his credit, he obtained the position of under-secretary in the Department of External Affairs in Canberra.

He was awarded a special prize by the Royal Empire Society for an essay on Australian foreign policy, to which graduates of all Empire Universities were free to enter.

His ability to write an essay on such a subject may explain his political success.

MR. R. G. WILLOUGHBY.

For another year he can claim the title of President of the Adelaide University Union. But this being his second year of office he is, unfortunately, not news.

Last year he was the third successive student President. This year, however, he is just a President. He obtained his degree in dentistry in 1938 and last year studied Political Science—which, incidentally, he passed. But now he just comes under the category of graduate.

Roger was one of the delegates to the recent National Union Conference and has come back filled with bright ideas, some of which you can see dished up in various forms on the front page.

MR. K. F. NEWMAN.

Any man who can so fully understand the extraordinary game called Statistics as to be able to continue for a whole year lecturing in it, must have no small brain. And so we pay the homage due to such a man in the form of Mr. Newman.

With Mr. Barbour's departure, the post of Ethics was temporarily vacated, and Mr. Newman has been elected to fill his place.

Mr. Newman is an Adelaide man. Educated at Scotch, he became dux of the school. He graduated from this University after a brilliant career, gaining a degree of Bachelor of Economics and becoming an associate of the University on completing his Diploma of Commerce.

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To Our New Editors

The editors feel it necessary to attach a few preliminary remarks to this, the first of a series of regular articles—or better regular contributions.

This first specimen is, unfortunately, very short but we found it necessary to get out our blue pencils and do a little censoring. We, the editors, do not object to having a little mud in our family histories scooped up for public exhibitions, but the virgin copy of this contribution contained enough mud to bury all the family skeletons that were dug up along with it.

However, we are not complete pikers. Short selections of the original have been kept and you may take them or leave them, as you will.

A MAIDEN'S PRAYER.

"Miss P. M. Viner Smith (N.B.—Prim. objects to being hyphenated.)"—Union Handbook.

Although I'm prim,
It's not my whim
To join the Social Cherubim
Who hyphenate
And derogate

And faintly nauseate me;
My lusty kith,
The men of Smith
No lesser breed will hyphenate with;
Who'd undertake
To share my cake
Must first de-hyphenate me.

THE GENESIS OF JACOBS.

To honour Mr. Jacobs,
Who co-edits our "On Dit,"
We scanned the page of Holy Writ
To check his family tree.

At 29 and 30 Genesis
We took one look,
Then coughed and flushed and blinked
and blushed
And quickly shut the Book.

The Roman historian Livy
Did not go the pace with his skivvy;
The rumour arose
From some scurrilous prose
That was chalked on the walls of a privy.

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