

TRUTH.

OLD SERIES.—21st YEAR.

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WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

The marvellous success that has attended the Chautauqua movement, which in a single decade has grown until it numbers more than 100,000 students in its Literary and Scientific Circles, has encouraged the authorities of Chautauqua University, of which Bishop Vincent is Chancellor, to put forth even greater efforts to bridge the gulf that lies between a common school and a university education, and to bring within reach of the general public the more practical and useful of the higher branches of learning. This newest enterprise will be known by the name of University-Extension and contemplates the establishment of courses of lectures in towns and cities which are prepared to furnish an audience of 200 or 250 persons. A course will consist of twelve weekly lectures, each occupying about an hour, and will be delivered by specialists who have been already trained in American or European Universities and who have been successful in conducting popular courses of instruction. In order that students may have an opportunity of familiarizing their minds with the principles of the subject and getting their special difficulties explained, three quarters of an hour preceding or following the lecture will be spent in conversation and discussions. The curriculum embraces subjects bearing upon good citizenship, popular government, modern science and its practical application, etc., etc. It is not designed that these local lectures shall in any way act as rivals to the regular colleges and Universities; on the contrary, it is the wish of the promoters of the enterprise that the different colleges and universities of Canada and the United States will co-operate with them and from the ranks of their best men furnish lecturers who shall take part in the work. Not vainglory but the welfare of the citizenship of this continent is the motive which inspires and impels them.

Though the movement is new on this side the Atlantic, it is not by any means an untried experiment. For nearly twenty years it has been carried on in England. It originated in Cambridge in 1872 and is largely the work of public spirited professors and graduates. The work is under the direction of a committee in behalf of whom a smaller Executive Committee appoints lecturers from among the younger university men, who are qualified not only by special attainments but by natural ability and a genuine interest in popular education. According to their annual report of 1888, "The purpose of the local lecturers is to provide the higher education for persons of all classes and of both sexes engaged in the regular occupations of life. It is, in fact, an attempt to solve the problem of how much of what the Universities do for their own students can be done by means of University teachers for persons unable to go to a University." Very gratifying success has attended the efforts of the Cambridge men. Within ten years, six hundred organized courses of local lectures were given, reaching in all no less than sixty thousand Englishmen. Following the example of Cambridge, Oxford has entered

vigorously upon the work of Extension-Lectures and has enjoyed a popular success no less gratifying than that of the pioneer in the work. Others besides these ancient institutions of learning are moving along the same lines. Speaking of this department of their work Dr. J. G. Fitch, Chief Inspector of the Training Colleges of England recently remarked: "Our Universities, two of which are at least a thousand years old, instead of being worn out are putting forth every year new energy, sending out missionaries in the form of University Lecturers to the most distant towns and hamlets, are instituting examinations all over the country, helping every form of higher secondary education."

It is too much to hope that all will regard this new enterprise with favor. It is to be expected that some will condemn the scheme because of the relatively superficial nature of the knowledge that will thus be gained. Certainly the study of the different subjects cannot be as exhaustive and thorough as in the regular colleges and Universities; but as Bishop Vincent was wont to remark when advocating the Chautauqua reading circles, "It is better to know a little of everything than nothing of anything." But while the knowledge gained can only be somewhat general, this advantage may be confidently hoped for, that the students will get a start in their chosen branches, and that they will have had explained to them many of those perplexing questions which lie so thickly strewn about the entrance of every department of study. It may be hoped that they will have had their feet placed firmly on the way so that by individual effort and study they will be able to steadily progress in gaining a fuller and more complete knowledge of the subjects chosen. In view, therefore, of the history of the movement in the Motherland; in view of the character of the men who are leading in this country; and in view of the incalculable benefits that must come to those communities that avail themselves of this agency, the movement deserves the hearty support of every citizen who believes in education as a means of uplifting and refining those who receive it.

The British extradition treaty with the United States has finally received Her Majesty's signature and been published in the official Gazette. The old treaty made in 1842 restricted the right of extradition to charges of murder, assault with intent to commit murder, piracy, arson, robbery, forgery and the utterance of forged paper. To these the new convention adds manslaughter, counterfeiting, or dealing in counterfeit money, embezzlement, larceny, fraud by bailee, banker or agent, perjury, rape, burglary, revolt or conspiracy on board ship, and crimes against the laws of both countries for the suppression of slave trading. The London Times regards it as creditable to neither party that two nations united by so many and so various ties as England and the United States should have been contented for half a century with these inadequate provisions of the Ashburton Treaty. It also fears that the limitation regarding political offenders may be so interpreted as to prevent the

to protection is conditioned only upon citizenship, so in the new order the obligation to work would be conditioned upon the strength to work, but the right to support upon citizenship only. Accordingly, the whole body of citizens is to be organized into an industrial army. All persons between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five are to be mustered in by force of law, women as well as men. This vast body is to be formed into companies, regiments, brigades, divisions, and corps, constituting in its aggregate the grand army of industry. Officers of appropriate rank are to be assigned to the command of the several subdivisions. Every member is required to serve in whatever place and at whatever work may be prescribed, his own peculiar qualifications and the needs of society being taken into the account. In order, however, to reduce the element of compulsion to a minimum, that is, to substitute volunteering for conscription as far as possible, the "administration" will seek to equalize the advantages of the different kinds of service. Thus, if one sort of work is disagreeable or arduous the hours of labor therein will be diminished to the point where as many persons shall apply for service in that capacity as are required to meet the demand, the number of hours at lighter and pleasanter tasks being increased to whatever point shall be necessary to keep the number of applicants down to the demand.

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