

all means abolish the normal schools. If four fifths of the pupils in the academies instead of receiving a training that will fit the young women to take charge of elementary schools, and the young men to become intelligent agriculturalists, artisans and merchants have to be neglected in order that a very few young men may acquire a smattering of Greek and Latin, sufficient to enable them to matriculate in a university and eventually swell the over crowded ranks of the professions of law or medicine, we say that the usefulness of the Normal is gone. About nine years ago a Normalite assumed the control of an academy situated in the central part of an isolated county of this Province. The schools in this county at the time were in a wretched condition, the modes adopted in teaching being those in vogue in Great Britain about fifty years ago. The average attendance at the academy was about 60. During the three years of his principalship he prepared 18 pupils to pass creditable examinations for diplomas before the local board of examiners, two of whom received model school diplomas, three young men were fitted to enter universities, and the large remainder went back to the duties of the home, farm, shop and office, there to enjoy and to impart the knowledge gained.

This was the result of three years' teaching, insignificant, indeed, had it ended here. The Normalite left but his love of order, excellent methods, energy and ability were reproduced in the eighteen teachers he had trained. They carried out the task of reform which he had begun, and in consequence, a revolution was made in the schools of the county. This may be taken as a fair indication of the nature of the work done in many of the academies. All honor to the McGill Normal for the benefits she is yearly conferring on the English speaking portion of the population. Would that her real work were more generally recognized. Her greatest wants at present seem to be a new building and an increase in the staff of professors. Although these may not soon be obtained yet we expect much from it, under the able Principalship of Dr. Robins, in our opinion the best teacher in Montreal. A few years ago we were conducted through the garden, halls and classrooms, of the Ottawa Normal School, and could not but compare this beautiful building with the one in Montreal. We would like to see erected near McGill an edifice for the better accommodation of the hundred, or more, students in the Teaching Faculty before all the available space is taken up by denominational colleges.

If the United States can afford to equip and maintain over four hundred Normal Schools, the Province of Quebec should not feel impoverished by bequeathing

a paltry sum for the support of three. The rising generation of the state of Michigan, are being taught by the one thousand teachers who annually graduate from the State Normal School. The four thousand students are trained by over two hundred professors and teachers, and occupy five magnificent buildings situated in a well shaded campus comprising forty acres. The Library alone cost \$375,000 and is filled with one hundred thousand volumes. These few facts give but an imperfect idea of the best Normal on the American continent. They may serve, however, to awaken a desire for improvement in this direction in our own land. The masses must be educated. Ignorance is dangerous. We welcome, therefore, each band of the Old Normal's *alumni* as they pass out beneath its portals into the larger world of usefulness and bid them God-speed in their noble work. Selfish man shrinks from the task that gently nurtured woman has undertaken. To her is entrusted the all important duty of moulding and training the youthful minds of Canada. The welfare of the nation depends upon the result. We have hope for its future.

GOING AHEAD.

As will be gathered from another column, the students are at last to have that object of their fondest dreams, a dining hall. Such an institution cannot fail of being a great boon, relieving the students, as it will, from most serious annoyance and discomfort, and fostering an *esprit de corps* which at present is lamentably weak. It will add an element of much power to the attractions of the University, and is moreover an augury of the advent of a residence, the one thing which will now be wanting to place McGill, as far as the comfort of its students is concerned, on an equality with its better endowed competitors.

It is also exceedingly gratifying to know that the Arts Faculty is to be strengthened numerically. There are many subjects proper to a college course which cannot at present be touched in McGill, and altogether too much work is exacted from the present staff. A professorship in modern history and political economy has become a necessity, owing to the vastly greater attention which American and Toronto universities are now giving to these subjects. Such a chair, too, would lighten to some extent the burdens of the present professors of Philosophy and English, whose enthusiastic zeal has placed their lectures among the chief attractions of our Arts course, but has also led them to undertake a larger share of work than should be expected from them. To this topic we intend to return at an early date, when, with a view to arriving at an exact