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The dignity of a calling is its utility.

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Essay on Weeds.

By B. S. Pickett, '02.

Among the problems which perplex the farmers of our country, few eclipse in importance the eradication and the prevention of the introduction of weeds. That weeds deter greatly the increase of wealth among the individual farmers of our province is most clearly proved in this statement: Ontario loses annually through weeds ten million dollars. When we see such losses occurring, not only through weeds but also in the various other departments of the farm, we cannot wonder at the oft heard exclamation, "farming doesn't pay." For too long a time weeds have been considered necessary adjuncts to the farm, and their presence tolerated with more inward groanings against them than outward labor in their removal.

Any plant which persists in growing where it is not wanted is a weed. In the constant struggle in nature for the survival of the fittest, the same in plants as in animals, our Creator has provided certain species and families of plants with a wonderful power of reproduction, together with almost numberless devices to protect their seeds from injury and to further their distribution. That the greater number of our weeds is to be included among such plants is obvious to every man who knows anything