

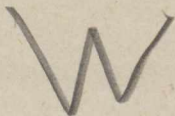
wherever a hope of progress opened; and here I made the experience which I have often repeated since, and laid to heart as regards intellectual work also, that enormous difficulties may be overcome when they are attacked in earnest. Sometimes I found myself so hedged in by fissures that escape seemed absolutely impossible; but close and resolute examination so often revealed a means of exit, that I felt in all its force the brave verity of the remark of Mirabeau, that the word "impossible" is a mere blockhead of a word. It finally became necessary to reach the shore, but I found this a work of extreme difficulty. At length, however, it became pretty evident that, if I could cross a certain crevasse, my retreat would be secured. The width of the fissures seemed to be fairly within jumping distance, and if I could have calculated on a safe purchase for my foot I should have thought little of the spring; but the ice on the edge from which I was to leap was loose and insecure, and hence a kind of nervous thrill shot through me as I made the bound. The opposite side was fairly reached, but an involuntary tremor shook me all over after I felt myself secure. I reached the edge of the glacier without further serious difficulty, and soon after found myself steeped in the creature comforts of our hotel'.

At the end of the other book, called "Mountaineering in 1861", he says:

"To the habits of the mountaineer Milton's opinion regarding the utility of teaching the use of weapons to his pupils is especially applicable. Such exercises constitute 'a good means of making them healthy, nimble, and well in breath, and of inspiring them with a gallant and fearless courage, which, being tempered with seasonable precepts of true fortitude and patience, shall turn into a native and heroic valour, and make them hate the cowardice of doing wrong'. Farewell".

In education much might be gained, perhaps, if pupils could be induced to regard the harder tasks of the day in the light of that mental and moral discipline of the great Mid-Victorian. That is the only moral of this short article, but it may also serve as a reminder to teachers that the works of John Tyndall, the Poet of Science in prose, are still worth reading and re-reading for delight and instruction.

J. C. S.



THE CONTINUATION YEAR

The following is the general statement of the McGill Corporation in regard to the additional (optional) high school year, from page 49 of the Annual Report:

For the past two years consideration has been given by the School authorities and by the University to a proposal advocating the establishment in certain selected High Schools of a XIIth Grade or Continuation Year. The Protestant Committee has not found it expedient to make the Continuation Year compulsory in all High Schools, but a XIIth Year is already in operation in some form or other in one or two schools which have chosen to adopt it.