

## A TOO MUCH NEGLECTED STUDY.

Amid the daily increasing life and vigour of the great educational centres of this country, and the almost painful struggle for knowledge which characterizes the present generation, when we find men eagerly seeking for information on every subject which they think may help them on in their race of life, when mathematics and science have reached a degree of perfection that would have seemed miraculous not many years ago, and even classics hold a very fair place, it seems strange that a subject, to my mind, more important than all others, is so put in the background in our schools and colleges, and indeed to all appearance, so little cared for by the great majority of Canadian students. I mean history. That this subject is put very much on one side in our common schools, is a fact that I have often had to deplore. Instead of its being one of the first things taught to children by way of stories, etc., it is put off till later, and then given only a secondary position. But worse still, in our colleges, where we should expect to find this subject given its due prominence, we find the same thing to a great extent. In our own, for example. Honour courses are established in five different subjects, but none in history, and even the pass lectures do not seem very popular among the men. This is not as it should be; if men considered the vast importance (not to speak of the beauty) of a knowledge of what has taken place among older nations, the lessons for a young country that lie hid in the past, the long chain of events, the causes of many of our own conditions of life and civilization, of what we most prize and most condemn, they would soon be filled with an enthusiasm that would cause our colleges to give it one of the very first places among the subjects on their curriculum. The saying has become so hackneyed that I am almost ashamed to repeat it, but still it is true as ever that: "The proper study of mankind is man," and, that being the case, the study of history is indispensable. Moreover, it is the most comprehensive study that can be taken up. To know history thoroughly is to know languages, philosophy, geography, etc., and many another subject that is sure to come before the eyes of the faithful historical student. It gives food for the most strictly logical, reasoning mind, as well as for the most imaginative one; it stimulates all man's better qualities to action, as he looks back on the grand deeds of the past; it fills him with loathing for the evil passions of humanity, as he beholds them portrayed in all their hideousness, in individuals and in nations; it teaches him to suffer and be patient, when he sees how, by slow degrees, great evils have been overcome, and also to be calm and cheerful when he is led to believe that the foundations of nations and of societies are tottering, by shewing him that all such events have but led to improvement, and that the worst periods in the story of nations have had their bright side.

Especially is it necessary to lay stress on the importance of the study of history in this age, as a protest against the

great and increasing want of respect and veneration for the things of the past. One of the most painful features of this continent is the almost total absorption in the present shown by the great majority of the population. How often do we hear a sneer at any old-fashioned notions. "It won't do for this age of *progress*." The lessons of old are despised, and all trust in their own cleverness and capability. But human nature remains the same, and we can never be too careful not to despise or cast aside as useless old ideas and practices, until we have carefully examined how they have stood the test of time, in other words, till we have learned their history. We need far less of the idea that all knowledge must tend to dollars and cents, far more liking and respect for the finer side of learning, and much more perception of the beauty of fire, or as it used to be termed "elegant" scholarship. This need history will help to supply. Canada in her youthful vigour, thinks she can strike out a path for herself—well and good—only let not her people despise the landmarks of old, or think that nothing is to be gained from the records of other lands, because she herself has but a short page of history to show.

ORIENS.

## Rouge et Noir.

Published by the Students of TRINITY COLLEGE. Contributions and literary matter of all kinds solicited from the Alumni and friends of the University.

All matter intended for publication to be addressed to the Editors, Trinity College.

No notice can be taken of anonymous contributions. All matter to be signed by the author, not necessarily, &c.

Advertisements, subscriptions, and business communications should be directed to CHAS. H. SMITH, Business Manager.

Terms, post paid—Annual subscription, \$1.00.

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LENT TERM, 1887.

This year a change has been made in the number of issues of ROUGE ET NOIR, and instead of appearing twice a term as formerly, it will now be issued on the 15th day of each month during term time. It is hoped that more frequent appearance will obtain for ROUGE ET NOIR an increased interest among our graduates. The change would have been made before, had the amount of literary support which we were receiving, warranted us in doing so; however, encouraged by a promise of more assistance we have made the change and hope to be better supported than we have been hitherto.