

Edinburgh University to deliver a valedictory address before them, closes his letter to his young friends as follows:—"Bid them, in my name, if they still love me, fight the good fight, and quit themselves like men in the warfare to which they are as if conscripts and consecrated, and which lies ahead. Tell them to consult the eternal oracles (not yet audible, nor ever to become so, when worthily inquired of), and to disregard nearly altogether, in comparison, noises, menaces, and deliriums. May they love wisdom, as wisdom, if she is to yield her treasures, must be loved piously, valiantly, humbly, beyond life itself, or the prizes of life, with all one's heart, and all one's soul—in that case (I will say again), and not in any other case, it shall be well with them. Adieu, my young friends, a long adieu."

4. BRIGHT ON MILTON'S DEFINITION OF ELOQUENCE.

The Right Hon. John Bright, in his speech accepting the freedom of the City of Edinburgh, to which he was welcomed as "an orator and statesman," replied:—

"More than thirty years ago, when I was very young indeed, in my beginning to think about public affairs, in reading the prose writings of John Milton I found a passage which fixed itself in my mind, and which time has never been able to remove. Milton says: 'Yet true eloquence I find to be none but the serious and hearty love of truth.' And I have endeavoured, so far as I have had the opportunity of speaking in public, to abide by that opinion. So far as I am able to examine myself, during the thirty years that I have been permitted to speak at meetings of my countrymen, I am not conscious that I have ever used an argument which I did not believe to be sound, or have stated anything as a fact which I did not believe to be true."

5. A WELCOME PROPOSAL TO BOYS.

The following extract from the *Pall Mall Budget* will have much interest for the friends of education generally, and especially for teachers, trustees of schools and others in authority:—"A new and not unimportant reform is about to be introduced in German schools, viz.:—The abolition of all afternoon classes. It was principally during the past summer months that the experiment was almost forced upon the authorities. The results are on all sides reported to have been more than brilliant. The forenoon classes are, we believe, somewhat, but not much, longer than formerly, but it is said that the pupils show an eagerness and a vigour in those short morning hours which has never been known before, and their progress is quite in keeping with their keen and energetic assiduity. The most curious point about the matter seems to be the fully authenticated fact, that schools have hitherto only been closed experimentally, earlier or later, according to the wishes of the respective head-masters, the progress shown by the various schools stands in an inverse ratio to the duration of the classes, or, in other words, the less hours beyond the four or five in the morning in school, the more did the boys get on with their work. May it not be worth while to try the experiment in our schools? We do not think that we need be ashamed to take a lesson from Germany, at this time of day, in educational matters."

6. HON. J. YOUNG ON VALUE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The following reminiscences of the early life of the Hon. John Young, Montreal, most forcibly illustrate the great value of the free Public Libraries established by the Education Department throughout Ontario. At the meeting lately held in the hall of the Mercantile Library Association in Montreal, on the occasion of the presentation of a bust to the Hon. John Young. That gentleman, after tracing the history of the Association from its origin to its present prosperity, gave a brief sketch of his own history to illustrate the value of such Associations to young men, in the following extract: "I was one of a family of seventeen children. I was obliged to leave school at the early age of thirteen to provide for myself and help the others. My first employment was that of a schoolmaster. From thirteen to fifteen I kept school in the Parish of Coyton, near Ayr, in Scotland, and at one time had over thirty-five scholars. My dear old master and venerable friend, John Torrance, Esq., at this time visited his native place, and called on my parents, and I was delighted by his engaging me to come to Montreal. I arrived here in 1826, having just completed my fifteenth birthday. Books at that time were to me an imperative necessity. I could not buy them, and the Montreal Library, in little St. James Street, was the only one then in Montreal (which was afterwards purchased by this Association). After paying for board and lodging, my income the first year was only forty dollars,

and I gave a fifth part of this to be a subscriber to the Montreal Library. Burns says,

"What's a' the learning o' your schools,
Your Latin names for horns and stools."

So far as my experience has gone, Burns was wrong, for I think that it is a privilege for a man to have had the opportunity of attaining a good education. But it is a great privilege also for a young man, whose early education has been deficient, to have such an Association as this, where he can by classes throughout our long winter evenings educate himself."

V. Biographical Sketches.

1. THE REV. HENRY COOKE, D. D., LL. D.

Who died the other day in Belfast, was eighty-one years of age, and served in the ministry of the Presbyterian body in Ireland for sixty years. He was educated in Glasgow. His first remarkable public successes were in connexion with the Arian controversy in the Irish Presbyterian Church, Mr. Cooke being the principal Trinitarian champion. In 1829 that struggle closed with the expulsion from the General Assembly of the Arian Ministers. In the same year Mr. Cooke received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Jefferson College, United States, and was promoted to the principal church of the denomination in Belfast. The University of Dublin afterwards conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. He subsequently took an active part against Voluntaryism, opposed O'Connell's repeal movement, and supported the Episcopal Church and Conservative politics. In 1845 he was appointed distributor of the *Regium Donum*, an office under the Government, with a liberal salary. In 1847 he became Professor of Sacred Rhetoric in the Presbyterian College, Belfast. He was three times Moderator of the General Assembly, and had a great reputation as a preacher of charity sermons. Although the Conservatism of Dr. Cooke was increasingly unpalatable to the younger ministers of the Presbyterian Church, his personal influence never waned.

2. CAPTAIN FREER.

The Quebec papers announce the decease, on Thursday evening, of Capt. Freer, at the advanced age of 85 years and 7 months. The deceased was born in London, England, and at the age of 16 years accompanied the Duke of Kent to Halifax, when H. R. H. was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the forces in B. N. A. In the year 1809, after the arrival in America of Sir George Prevost, Mr. Freer was appointed one of his Aides-de-Camp and Military Secretary, which appointments he held until Sir George's death, in 1816. Mr. Freer obtained his Lieutenancy in the Canadian Fencibles in Oct. 1812, and the following October a Captaincy in the New Brunswick Fencibles. Capt. Freer was present in several actions during the war with the United States; at Fort George, Niagara, Chateauguay, and at Plattsburg. Capt. Freer, after the death of Sir George Prevost, served on the staff of Lieut.-Gen. Sir Gordon Drummond. In 1818, having retired from military life, he was appealed to by the Directors of the Quebec Bank to accept the duties of cashier on the opening of that institution, which appointment he held for thirty-three years, retiring therefrom on a pension. Capt. Freer resided in Quebec for many years, where he was Colonel of Militia, Justice of the Peace, etc., and removed to Montreal in 1843.

VI. Miscellaneous Friday Readings.

For the Journal of Education.

1. THE LEAVES AND MAN.

As the leaves of the forest, so faces of men,
Having much of a sameness, are never the same;
And their surfaces injured midst tempest and strife,
Betoken the changes in man's chequer'd life.

How aptly they symbol the buddings of youth,
In form and beauty, in goodness and truth;
The rush towards manhood—its term, decay;
Bespeaking all passing, aye, passing away.

The leaves of the forest, how fitly they seem
To mark the strange wand'rings in life's varied dream;
Some seek in the distance a home and a grave,
While others rush in to the shelter they leave.

Yet, as in the distance or at home tho' they be,
They fatten the soil, or they nourish the tree;
So man's early training diffuses abroad
The blessings of Earth and the mercies of God.