

upon this continent, cities which in an infinitely shorter space of time, have engrossed commerce and accumulated wealth far exceeding that of Carthage or of Tyre; and, although it be true that our progress in Canada has been more equable, that it has been more generally diffused over the country as well as in the towns, and that therefore we have no reason for the same degree of apprehension here; yet, can we say that the caution which I am now giving you is altogether uncalled for, when we find that questions most deeply affecting the well-being of ourselves and of our children—questions involving the highest considerations of public duty and of public morals, are discussed and determined on without exclusive reference to commercial considerations? (Cheers.) Now, gentlemen, among the agencies which I believe to be most potent in keeping this spirit in check—a spirit, allow me to say, which is most valuable and useful within its proper sphere, but most dangerous when allowed to transgress beyond it—is education; an education such as a university can give—an education which proceeds upon the assumption, that it is well for man that his highest faculties should be cultivated—an education which proceeds on the assumption, that knowledge is desirable for its own sake alone, independently of the adventitious advantages which it affords to its possessors. (Cheers.) Ladies and gentlemen, we all know how frankly and unreservedly the philosophers of the olden time admitted this great truth; we know that the best and purest among them based their conception of human felicity upon earth, not on the acquisition of wealth or honour, or in the hot chase after such transitory good, but in a condition which was designated by them by the term *σχολή*—a condition of beatific repose, in which the highest faculties of the human soul, secure from perturbations from without, and from the cravings of appetite within, might be enabled peaceably to energe. It may be true that we cannot, as practical men, or as Christians, accept without qualification this ideal of the heathen philosophy; it may be true—as it undoubtedly is true—that few among us can expect, while we are in this militant condition, to be able to give to those who would counsel us to take repose, any other reply than that which was given by a lion-hearted hero of the Church at the time of the Reformation, to the friends who tendered to him similar advice, in these memorable words, “Rest, rest, have we not eternity to rest in?” (cheers); it may be true—as it undoubtedly is true—that we have a better and surer definition of *σχολή* than any which the schools can furnish in the sublime but simple sentence, “*ἔρα ἀπολείπεται σαββατισμὸς τοῦ λαοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ*.” Nevertheless, I feel that the University of Canada has a high office to perform—to hold aloft the lamp of science above the mists and murky vapours that would obscure its lustre—to inculcate constantly and steadily a love for all that is loveable and of good report, and to point to those sublime heights which can only be scaled by the patient, persevering and single-hearted. God, in his mercy, grant, that under all vicissitudes and changes, under all circumstances of season and of time, the University of Canada may ever remember how holy and how important are its functions.

His Excellency here resumed his seat, amidst enthusiastic and prolonged cheering from the crowded audience.

At the conclusion of his Excellency's speech, the meeting was closed with the customary formalities.

[We are compelled to omit the list of graduates, &c., for want of room.—*Ed. Agr.*]

The earth is the great nursing mother of all plants; they in their turn minister, directly or indirectly, to the nutrition and sustenance of animal life; the lamb and the kid feed upon herbage, the direct growth of the soil; the wolf and other of the carnivora feed upon the lamb and the kid—thus they derive their food indirectly from the soil.

NORMAL SCHOOL, TORONTO.

The semi-annual examination of this valuable institution was held on the 10th, 11th and 12th of October, and it was throughout of a very satisfactory character. We regret that our space will admit only of a brief, general notice. His Excellency the Governor-General attended some parts of the examination, and evinced great interest in the proceedings. His Lordship then rose and addressed the auditory with that fluency of speech for which he is celebrated. He expressed his gratification at the information he had derived from the explanations offered by Dr. Ryerson and Mr. Hind, and satisfaction at the creditable examinations through which the students had passed, complimenting Messrs. Robertson and Hind on their efficiency as teachers. There was scarcely any of the duties which devolved upon him, in which he felt greater interest than in promoting education; and if there was any part of the observations which fell from Mr. Hind, which he would feel disposed to criticise, it was that which related to Agricultural Chemistry—a study which his Excellency would wish to see pursued in all the public schools of the province. It seems that in all new countries, Canada included, there was too little attention paid to agriculture. The learned professions, as they are generally called (and he did not wish by any means to depreciate them), appeared to be elevated at the expense of agriculture. He could not see why this should be so—for there was no more honourable pursuit than the cultivation of the soil, and there certainly should be none more so in an agricultural country like Canada. His Excellency related an anecdote which he overheard in the course of his tour. A farmer with a large family of sons, in conversation with a friend said, that he was determined to make a man of one of them at least. And how do you suppose he was to make a man of him? By making him a lawyer, a doctor, or a clergyman. (Laughter.) The clergyman had to study those subjects which connect man with his God—which connect eternity with time; the lawyer had to study those matters which relate to the social condition of those amongst whom he lives; and the doctor had to study subjects relating to human physiology; while the farmer, by making his business a profession, and paying due attention to the study of vegetable physiology and agricultural chemistry, would find an ample field for the exercise of his mental faculties, of more than ordinary interest, sufficient to elevate him in the scale of human beings, to an equality at least with those who prosecute either of the learned professions. He regarded the pursuit of agriculture as the most honourable of all, and he felt greatly interested in elevating it to its proper sphere in this country—which is peculiarly an agricultural one—by the introduction into the common schools of the study of agricultural chemistry. A man may be a good farmer, under present circumstances, without a knowledge of this important branch of study, but surely a knowledge of it would not make him the less so. His Excellency expressed his regret that his intentions respecting the prizes had been misinterpreted—he certainly intended that they should have been competed for and awarded at each semi-annual session of the Normal School. His Excellency again expressed his gratification at what he had witnessed, and resumed his seat amidst great applause.