

condition of intimacy would, I believe, not only improve the general political atmosphere, but would vastly increase the influence of our universities and colleges in their efforts to prevent popular delusions or correct them before they reach an acute and dangerous stage.

I am certain, therefore, that a more constant and active participation in political affairs on the part of our men of education would be of the greatest possible value to our country.

It is exceedingly unfortunate that politics should be regarded in any quarter as an unclean thing, to be avoided by those claiming to be educated or respectable. It would be strange indeed if anything related to the administration of our government or the welfare of our nation should be essentially degrading. I believe it is not a superstitious sentiment that leads to the conviction that God has watched over our national life from its beginning. Who will say that the things worthy of God's regard and fostering care are unworthy of the touch of the wisest and best of men?

I would have those sent out by our

universities and colleges, not only the counsellors of their fellow-countrymen, but the tribunes of the people—fully appreciating every condition that presses upon their daily life, sympathetic in every untoward situation, quick and earnest in every effort to advance their happiness and welfare, and prompt and sturdy in the defence of all their rights.

I have but imperfectly expressed the thoughts to which I have not been able to deny utterance on an occasion so full of glad significance, and so pervaded by the atmosphere of patriotic aspiration. Born of these surroundings, the hope cannot be vain that the time is at hand when all our countrymen will more deeply appreciate the blessings of American citizenship, when their disinterested love of their government will be quickened, when fanaticism and passion shall be banished from the field of politics, and when all our people, discarding every difference of condition or opportunity, will be seen under the banner of American brotherhood, marching steadily and unflinchingly on towards the bright heights of our national destiny.—*New York Evening Post.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY :

SIR,—Very much of the illiteracy of matriculants, so greatly complained of on both sides of the line, is due to the plans employed in teaching reading in primary schools. The letters should be taught and "spell and pronounce" should be insisted on from the beginning.

The characters used as letters are : a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, oo, au and aw, ou and ow, oi and oy, .ch, ck, gh,

ph, qu, sh, tch, th and wh. The names which should be given to these characters are :—a, be, ke (and se), de, e, ef, ge (and je), he, i, ja, ka, el, em, en, o, pe, koo, ar, es, te, u, v, wou, eks, yi, ze, oo, au, ou, oi, che, ek, af, fe, kwe, she the (and the sharp) and hwe.

If this plan be adopted the result will be better reading, better spelling, and a great saving of time. The difference in time will in many cases be three or more years. Teachers try it.

EXPERIENCE.

December 12, 1896.