

of what is printed in the French reviews, Mr. Béranger's essay is neither declamation, fiction nor theory; it is a simple but striking presentation of stubborn facts.

Ours is an age of education—superficial, it may be, and shallow—but education none the less, in the popular phraseology of the day. And those who do not get their share of this universally admired and desired intellectual training are rated as nobodies. Yet Mr. Béranger presents some statistics that are apt to startle the supporters of modern education as the panacea for all our ills and evils. He makes it clear that in France there is many a product of the educational system perilously near being unable to provide the necessities of life.

Every year twelve hundred doctors in medicine are sent forth by the Universities of France, while the vacancies are between six and seven hundred. Scarcely one lawyer in a dozen makes a decent living, and many a doctor-in-law works for from \$360 to \$600 a year. Eleven hundred students are annually licensed as professors; there are never more than three hundred positions open, and the salary ranges from \$400 to \$600. But the case is still more deplorable with regard to primary teachers. Mr. Béranger assures us that out of one hundred and fifty thousand teachers, at least one hundred thousand are on the verge of starvation. Yet, there are no less than fifteen thousand applications for the one hundred and fifty vacancies

that occur annually in the city of Paris, and while, from 1869 to 1896, the population of France has remained practically stationary, the number of students has increased by almost 300 per cent.

In Canada we are beginning to feel the evils of false views, on education, of unreal advance, of baseless vanity and of incorrect ideals of life. Too many amongst us regard education as merely a handy means of making a living, and the rush to take that means betrays our utter blindness to the true end of education as well as to the many avenues of success that this world offers to the worthy.

Our professions are rapidly becoming overcrowded; not so with our vast and fertile agricultural areas. If a larger number of our Canadian youth would continue to follow the plow, and would give up their rainbow chasing and yearnings after the infinite, the future of the country would be more easily prophesied, and its development more than a disturbing probability.

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THE CATHOLIC STRAIN IN SHAKESPEARE.

Rev. Dr. Barry, the eminent scholar and writer, lectured recently before the Historical Research Society of London, England, on "The Catholic Strain in Shakespeare". Like everything that proceeds from Dr. Barry's pen, the lecture was deep learned and eloquent. For the benefit of our students of Shake-