

prejudices, Dr. Bourinot struck a note that finds an echo in the heart of every true Canadian. The passage is as follows:--

"Those who have visited the interesting village of St. Anne's, at the junction of the rivers Ottawa and St. Lawrence—a spot made famous by the poet Moore—may have noticed an interesting natural phenomenon. The waters of the Ottawa are distinctly blue, whilst those of the St. Lawrence are perfectly green. Where these rivers join we can easily distinguish their respective lines for some distance, but at last those differences disappear, and the Ottawa and St. Lawrence form one magnificent stream, bearing on its bosom the traffic and wealth of half a continent. So it should be with the French and British peoples of Canada. They may to a certain point preserve their natural characteristics, but whenever it becomes a question involving the peace, happiness and unity of the Dominion, let us hope that all differences of race will disappear, and the French-Canadian will be found working energetically and harmoniously with the English-Canadian in all matters affecting the interests of Confederation, which owes its origin to their common efforts."

"BOOKS AND READING."

PROFESSOR CLARK.

THE announcement of the lecture by Rev. Professor Clark, on "Books and Reading," attracted a great number of the citizens of Toronto to our Convocation Hall on Friday afternoon, Feb. 1st, so much so that at four o'clock, when the lecturer took his place before the desk, the hall was completely filled, many being obliged to accept standing room only, and others going away, unable to gain admittance. In opening the lecture, the Rev. Professor pointed to the vast extent occupied by the subject, and the need of modest expectations in the treatment thereof. The value of reading, he said, was negative as well as positive. Among the negative advantages of reading he mentioned the tendency to correct the somewhat excessively practical and utilitarian spirit of the age and of the country, and also the fact that reading, and especially abundant reading, would help to stop a good deal of useless and superfluous talking. What terrible trials are inflicted by voluminous talkers! Quoting the definition of a bore as "a man who insists upon talking to you about *himself*," when you want to be talking to him about *yourself*," as also the proverb, of which Carlyle was so fond of quoting, that while "speech is silver, silence is golden," he said a good deal of current coin of conversation was made of a baser metal than silver.

Under the positive advantages of reading, Lord Bacon's striking words were quoted: "Studies serve for delight, for ornament and for ability. Their chief use for delight is in privateness and retiring; for ornament is in discourse, and for ability is in judgment and disposition of business." Even grant that some men have the knack of getting knowledge without reading, and that others read a good deal and are none the better for it, this could bring no doubt upon the value and advantages of reading, to which so many eminent men had testified. The reading of books, says Descartes, is like a conversation with the best men of the past ages, and even like a studied conversation in which they communicate to us only the best of their thoughts. "If," said Sir John Herschel, "I were to pray for a task which would stand me in stead under every variety of circumstances, and be a source of happiness and cheerfulness through life, and a shield against its ills, however things might go amiss and the world frown down upon me, it would be a taste for reading." And Petrarch, who speaks of books as "Friends whose society is extremely agreeable to me, they are of all ages and of every country. . . . It is easy to gain access to them, for they are always at my service, and I admit them to my company and dismiss them whenever I please. They are never troublesome, but immediately answer any question I ask them." On the choice of books, and subjects of study, it was not the intention of the speaker to give any complete list of books. Such information could be found elsewhere. He, however, offered some general suggestions as to the subjects of study.

First, he recommended young people leaving school to continue the studies in which they had there received the rudimentary principles. Secondly, a person should study books adapted to his own special calling in life. Not that he wanted them to aspire to be "a man of one book," yet they should concentrate their attention especially on some one branch. The remark, "Know everything of something, and something of everything," was true in spirit if not in letter. Mr. Dowden's advice to Sir John Lubbock, that we should consult our own inclinations in reading is, with qualifications, frequently applicable. Mr. Frederick Harrison remarks: "The habit of reading wisely is one of the most difficult habits to acquire, needing strong resolutions and infinite pains; and reading for mere reading's sake, instead of for the good we gain from reading, is one of the worst, and commonest, and most unwholesome habits we have." And Mr. Carlyle: "I conceive that books are like men's souls, divided into sheep and goats; some few are going up, and a frightful multitude are going down."

Mr. Frederick Harrison warns us that the apprecia-