

time that university men should be the first to recognize that all real thinking of whatever kind, everything that promotes study and investigation, however imperfect comparatively, is just so much genuine education; that every man and woman has a right to just as much such education as he or she can obtain; and that the true interests of the State and of mankind are best promoted by carrying into practice the principle, "The greatest possible amount of it for the greatest possible number." The true representatives of University Extension are those who say to the people, in the words of the *Citizen*:

"We will furnish college-bred men as teachers, and give you just as much instruction as you will take, made as solid as you can stand it. If you wish to study, we will furnish safe guides, who will tell you what books to read, talk with you about your work, and test its quality. We will do this for you in the time which you can spare from your vocations, and for the smallest possible fee. We will help you as well as we can to become thinking men and women, capable of seeing that there are things worth serious study."

A Baseless
Fear.

Of a piece with the unnecessary solicitude felt by the classes represented by General Wistar in regard to anything that encourages the unlearned to believe that attendance on a few discursive lectures, eked out with skim-milk from half-a-dozen popular books, is a fair substitute for any real collegiate training" is the anxiety felt by many in our own country lest the over-education of the young should result in a general desertion of the farms and a state of universal famine because no one can any longer be found willing to till the soil. Such notions are being re-echoed from city and country newspapers, and repeated parrot-like by readers, until one might almost fear that we are on the eve of a re-action against popular education. If it were true that ignorance is the foster-mother of agricultural and manual industry, even that fact would fail to prove that ignorance is the ideal condition for the masses. It would rather give rise to the inquiry whether, since mental development and all the higher enjoyments of life are to be denied to the masses, life for them would be any longer worth living. We have referred to this subject before, but we feel that we cannot too often or too vigorously protest against a teaching which militates so directly against all true progress. Grant that the tendency of enlarged mental capacity is to lead its possessors to seek the more congenial and remunerative pursuits for which it fits them. Who can blame them? The corrective is to be found in wider and better education. Suppose that all the children in the country should complete not only the public but at least the full High School course. Does anyone suppose that the soil would no longer be cultivated? On the contrary the direct and sure result of any growing scarcity of farmers would be to raise the remuneration, ameliorate the conditions, and improve the status of farm life, until the reflux of the tide of industry would set strongly in that direction, and a much more intelligent class would become the tillers of the soil, to the great advantage of all concerned. May we not reasonably expect that we or our children shall see the day when farming will become so honoured and enviable a pursuit that the graduates not only of our High Schools but of our Colleges and Universities will crowd into it, with the greatest possible benefit to the country and to all concerned. In a word, "More education, not less," should be the universal watchword.

Remarkable
Trials.

Canada seems destined to become famous as the country of remarkable criminal trials, not to say of dark and atrocious crimes. The Birchall, the Hendershott, and other tragedies

at once recur to the mind, only to be replaced by still fresher instances, such as the Clara Ford case just concluded, that of Shortis now proceeding in Quebec, and surpassing all, perhaps, in the interest which is likely to attach to it as a celebrated case, that of the Hyams brothers now before the court in this city. The Clara Ford case will long be memorable by reason of the acquittal of the prisoner, in the face of her circumstantial confession, or alleged confession, to the detectives, and of the wonderful ability and nerve displayed by her in going into the witness box, boldly and with consummate skill contradicting her own confession, and actually obtaining an acquittal, not through some technicality of law, but by creating an atmosphere of doubt which enabled her to carry with her the sympathies of hundreds of applauding spectators. Whether the detectives in her case were or were not guilty of bringing to bear such incredible pressure, amounting almost to mental torture, as she ascribed to them in her evidence, the public may never certainly know. What is clear is that she succeeded in creating doubts in the minds of the jury, which led to her acquittal. The result in her case will be a warning to detectives, henceforth, not to let their zeal carry them too far in that direction. The Hyams case, now before the court, may not be commented on, but it cannot be amiss to express a regret, which will be shared, we cannot doubt, by many Canadians, that some restriction of the Law Society prevented the judge from extending to an American counsel the liberty, and, from the point of view of the prisoners, the right, of taking a part openly in the defence of the accused. Apart from the fact that we as Canadians do not like to see the members of any profession amongst us outdone by their neighbours in courtesy and liberality, it seems to us a matter to be deplored that men on trial for their lives should be debarred from employing for their defence what they may deem the best available counsel from any country.

Russia's Press
Censorship

The presentation to the Czar of a petition signed by ninety Russian journalists, praying for the abolition of the rigorous press censorship which has destroyed every vestige of freedom of the press in Russia, has naturally attracted a good deal of attention all over the world. The press laws, as rigorously enforced under the *regime* of the young Czar, from whom so much was at one time hoped, have scarcely been surpassed for arbitrariness, even in despotic Russia. According to the present law, the petitioners allege, though the press has a right to criticise the actions of ministers, and is, in fact, allowed to exercise it except in the case of the Minister of the Interior, "if the slightest attempt is made to criticise his actions, the offending paper is warned that its publication will be stopped, and this without explanation or reason." The Press Department, it is further alleged, "continually persecutes writers and uses its powers to gratify the wishes or whims of persons of high rank." Thus, at the demand of one minister, nothing is said about the cholera; at the instance of another, no mention is made of the liquidation of a bankrupt insurance company, and so on. The petition, praying for the abolition of these laws and the adoption of the French code in the prosecution of offending newspapers, has been duly presented to the Czar, but no answer has been received, and it is thought that there is little or no hope that any favourable one will be given. Few things could suggest more forcibly the severity of the laws in question than the fact, for such it is said to be, that hardly any writers or journalists of note, and very few publishers, have signed the petition. If it has been left to be promoted chiefly by jour-