

introduced, to some of them since you entered college, but choose the great fellow you prefer and read him reverently—not in the spirit of shallow fault-finding, but as if he had a deeper insight into the complex problems of human actions and passions than you will likely ever have. The most valuable part of the library beneath can be placed on a very few shelves indeed, and you can secure its like with but little expense; but secure it and read it, and if you do not know how to read—for pitifully small is the number of men that are true readers—peruse Ruskin's *Sesame and Lilies* or weigh Thomas Carlyle's words on the choice of books.

Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads,  
And recks not his own rede,—

I fancy I hear the critical student exclaim of me. I plead "not guilty," gentlemen, for although I am obliged to read much and quickly, yet I should despond, should doubt if one week found me mentally stronger than the previous: in short—to use a plain Saxon phrase—should not know if I was getting on, unless I kept one of those great fellows on the stocks. The most entertaining man I ever met, one whose memory was marvellous, whose breadth and, as I have since learnt, soundness of view were extraordinary, not less extraordinary than his accuracy in regard to worthwhile fact, showed me his library—the literary counterpart of Sir Humphrey Davy's scientific laboratory, which consisted of a few pipe stems and bottles, if I mistake not: all these, however, instruments of *mind*, just as may be our more complicated apparatus of this age—and that library consisted of one shelf with about ten authors on it—Homer, Virgil, Dante, Shakespeare, Bacon, Descartes, Gibbon, Tennyson, Herbert Spencer. "These books I read," said the owner; "the others I play with: they are but satellites and do my library service." It is profoundly true that the majority of great men, certainly the majority of earnest men, are men of few books. Macaulay's classical training was not of the best at the outset, but you know how famous a scholar he became in later life—and simply by repetition. An author was read and re-read until we find the reader so expert and ready that a year of his reading, reading accomplished under many difficulties, appears hardly credible. Do not, gentlemen, suffer yourselves to accept as gospel what every petty critic and reviewer blatantly asserts. There are reviews and reviews, but leave not refined gold for the course nugget, even if it be that—some of it undoubtedly is, but much of it, alas! is worthless dross. Keep one of those great fellows always on the stocks. Insist on yourself, says Emerson, wisely and well. Do not insist on yourself in print—if you have true knowledge you will be chary of so doing, but insist on yourselves to yourselves. And, again, you know that the function of a University is a *guiding function*; that, and nothing more. You should be enabled to discern the gold I mentioned from dross, or better the wheat from the chaff which is blown about by every little breath. If you cannot do this, lay the fault at our door. Two months of honest reading, be the regular periods very brief, will, if you peruse great thoughts, endow you with the beginning of a library; six months and you have passed beyond and above nine-tenths of the ephemeral publications that discuss the topics you have chosen; ten years and you are an *authority*. You smile, but I am dealing with fact.

Secondly and lastly, and very briefly. However simple and trifling your intellectual work may seem, if you teach, you can do it better from having known its *relations* to other branches of knowledge than it had been done if your views had been circumscribed. These great fellows will not make you narrow, will not make you dissatisfied with, or cut you off from, your thought. One half of the darkness and bitterness of our day is caused by obliquity of vision. Men have not the courage to face new eventualities; they look at them askance, timorously, instead of regarding them as a charitable way. The master painter can throw life into mathematical perspective, the greatest scientists of to-day have written science for schoolboys in simple and graceful English that has all the interest of a novel. Because they are sages they can be soundly simple. It may require talent, almost genius, to assume the mental attitude of others, but although you have been studying the fine lights and shades of language, Differential Equations, and what not, you may have made yourself, by so much the more, apt instruments as primary instructors. And let me in conclusion quote a few lines from perhaps the most wonderful poem ever written in English; words that I would have you learn by rote and often repeat:—

Who loves not knowledge? Who shall  
rail  
Against her beauty? May she mix  
With men and prosper? Who shall fix  
Her pillars? Let her work prevail.

But on her forehead sits a fire:  
She sets her forward countenance  
And leaps into the future chance,  
Submitting all things to desire.

Half-grown as yet, a child, and vain,  
She cannot fight the fear of death;  
What is she, cut from love and faith,  
But some wild Pallas from the brain

Of Demons? Fervid-hot to burst  
All barriers in her onward race

For power. Let her know her place;  
She is the second, not the first.

A higher hand must make her mild,  
If all be not in vain; and guide  
Her footsteps moving side by side  
With wisdom, like the younger child:

For she is earthly of the mind,  
But Wisdom heavenly of the soul.  
O friend, who camest to thy goal  
So early, leaving me behind.

I would the great world grew like thee,  
Who grewest not alone in power  
And knowledge, but by year and hour  
In reverence and in charity.

## GENERAL.

The *Princetonian* will become a weekly.

McClure's History of College Journalism is just out.

Six hundred men daily frequent the gymnasium at Harvard.—*Ex.*

Harvard is going to have a new dormitory which will cost \$250,000.—*Ex.*

The average graduate of Ann Arbor spends \$1,750 during the course.—*Ex.*  
The term at Oxford and Cambridge is only six months long, the other six being vacation.—*Ex.*

All the English Cabinet save Mr. Chamberlain are University men—seven Oxford, six Cambridge.

There are 145 College Y. M. C. A.'s in the United States, with a membership of over 1,491 students.

At Acadia College a resolution has been passed making the wearing of caps and gowns compulsory.

A college has been opened in Persia, under government protection. The professors are all graduates of European Colleges.

We have not received the "Tech." for about five months. We hope that it will arrive more regularly next year.

The *Harvard Advocate* of March 30th, is almost full of athletics. The remainder of the paper is very light and rather amusing.

The editors of *Astrum Alberti* should keep out of their columns such very poor productions as the article on Evolution which appeared in their April number.

An enquirer wants to know from what aspect the picture on the *Presbyterian College Journal* was taken. We are unable to give him the desired information.

A National Catholic University is about to be established in the vicinity of New York, which the founders intend to make the equal of Yale or Harvard.—*Harvard Herald.*

Mrs. A. T. Stewart is building a new College in New York to cost \$4,000,000. It will be the largest in America, non-sectarian, co-educational, and the expenses will be put at a low figure.

Mr. John W. Garrett's recent arraignment of his fellow trustees of Johns Hopkins University has excited deep interest throughout the country. He charges that they are not carrying out the wishes of the founder with sufficient haste, and that in the location of some buildings they are violating his wishes.

The *Argosy* for March has some creditable reading matter. The paper on Design in Nature is not without merit, but the writer should remember that harmony in nature does not prove design if the phenomena can be simply explained on other grounds. He should study the principle of Natural Adaption.

The endowments and the number of students of some of the principal colleges in the United States are as follows:—Columbia—endowment, \$5,300,000; income, \$281,000; number of students, 1,587. Harvard—endowment, \$903,000; income, \$223,000; number of students, 879. Johns Hopkins—endowment, \$3,500,000; income, \$200,000; number of students, 132. Yale—endowment, \$1,500,000; income, \$187,300; number of students, 656.—*Ex.*

For the college year 1882-83, there were 1,096 students in attendance in the various departments of Yale. In the department of theology, 106; of medicine, 30; of law, 85; of philosophy and arts, 898. This gives a total of 1,119, from which 23 names are to be deducted for double insertion. On the other hand the Harvard catalogue for the same time shows an attendance of 1,657, of which number 27 study theology; 134, law; 229, medicine; and 221 are officers and instructors.

The new Faculty of Law at Dalhousie has been organized. The *Gazette* hopes that the Medical School in Halifax will soon become affiliated with the University, and we can easily understand that such an event would be for the benefit of both. Concentration always leads to increased efficiency. But what Dalhousie is most to be congratulated upon is the recent establishment of two tutorships, one in Mathematics, and one in Classics, of the annual value of \$1,000 each. The establishment of such tutorships is just what is wanted in our Canadian Colleges. We have spoken before on this subject in connection with our own University, and we are still of the opinion that it would serve educational interests more if something were done in this matter of fellowships than if the College were forced into the task of educating women.

The *University Monthly* has started upon the second year of its existence. During the past its condition has been rather unstable, but the editors are apparently starting again with renewed vigour. By the way, we notice a strange proposal in the March number, viz., that proficiency in Biblical knowledge should be required from candidates for B.A. As at the same time the University is to remain non-sectarian, we presume that the *Monthly* recommends a critical study of the Scriptures simply as a masterpiece in literature. It would be interesting to note the result of such a change, not only as far as it affected the feeling of reverence with which the Holy Writ is at present regarded by most students, but also as affording an exemplification of the degree to which Scriptural teaching can be carried without becoming in the slightest degree sectarian. We should rather not try the