



VOL. XXXII.

MAY 1st, 1905.

No. 12.

THE COLLEGE MAN IN THE WORLD.

THE idea that is held by most students that a college course fits them for a place in the world is not entirely erroneous. It is well founded. If the course they pursue does not so fit them, it would be a failure. The mere fact that some college men are never able to adapt themselves to their surroundings, and get a grip, is no argument for or against college training. It simply means that a particular individual is lacking. Not the slightest discredit, but rather the reverse should attach to a college graduate, if he is less sordid, more careful of his ideals, and thus open to the charge of being less practical than other men. That is about the same thing as to say that he is not practical and actual to the exclusion of the theoretical and the ideal, and is really a compliment to what he can appreciate. If it were generally true that college life developed an artificial unworldliness in students, and made them to take a false view of the so called real world, the charge would be quite serious. Such a charge is not often made, but it is worth while to look at the situation of the student as the result of his training.

There is no doubt that the practical side of life has received consider-

able emphasis in Canadian Universities in recent years, and it is not without reason that on the part of some students there has been a tendency to resist the influences which they felt were destroying the old university idea. The coming in of a large body of practical science men, of many medical students with very limited education who take no course in Arts, and of many Arts students specializing in science, all tending to lower the average standard of culture among the student body, viewed from the standpoint of philosophy and literature, has quite changed the atmosphere of the universities. That atmosphere is no longer charged with currents that combine to produce preachers, but tends rather to destroy the other-worldliness which existed in colleges a generation ago. Notwithstanding that, however, there usually awaits the student a rude experience in the world after he graduates. Outside the circle of his women friends, who like to see him arrayed with gown and hood, he finds very little importance attached to the fact of his being a university man. And when he comes to rub up against men with keener wits, and sharper memories than his own, he wonders sometimes about that college course. The fact