

that certainly unfits him. But neither pride nor conceited vanity, is the characteristic of a gentleman or of a Christian. And I will point not only to the Clergy, but to the laymen who were pupils of this Institution, and ask whether they are worse farmers, worse lawyers, worse merchants, worse bankers, worse surveyors, worse railroad employés—in one word, worse members of society in any of its departments whatsoever, whether they have become and whether they will become so, by passing through a process of refinement in manners by being taught to regard themselves as Christian men and gentlemen.

To return to my more immediate subject. I have spoken of Universities in two points of view—as intended to place upon scientific discovery a Christian stamp and aspect and as tending to produce a higher and nobler character in its subjects. Let me add a few words in another point of view on Universities, and on a duty incumbent upon them, which I could wish were more faithfully discharged—I mean that of regulating and keeping up the standards of educational attainment. Here again it has been objected to us that our Institution has aimed at too high a standard for the wants of the country, and that we mar our success by attempting too much.

I know as well as any one, that we might raise the number of our pupils, and perhaps gain in the eyes of the world a larger front and appearance by lowering our standards, and I admit that the country wants any amount of effort that you please to indicate, thrown into the work of raising the tone of such education as is directly preparatory to, or at any rate must precede, University education. And our Institution has endeavored to keep this assertion practically in view. One of its standing rules is that “in order to encourage education generally, the Corporation of the College shall assist in the establishment of commercial and grammar schools, and also affiliate existing schools throughout the country. And the College is now throwing itself into a great effort to meet this very want of the Country by erecting in immediate juxtaposition with the existing buildings, accommodation for pupils desiring the sort of education which is thought to be especially needed, and to offer that education on such terms as shall make it as widely as possible available to all the country. There is no exclusive spirit, no wish to encourage one and discourage another, but on the contrary a desire, in the large spirit of an University, or all educating power, to provide for the wants, and as far as may be, meet the varied wishes and views of all parties.

But this object will not be promoted by throwing down standards, any more than a good stock will be produced on a farm by throwing down its fences; that course would, I dare say, bring in a good many head of cattle: but is that the way to rear a good stock? Nay, there must be good pasture within—good grass, plenty of turnips, plenty of oats,

plenty of carrots; the lambs must be fed by themselves, and the calves in their season, and in their proper place, receive the farmer's care; the sheep must have their own walks, and the cattle must feed in rich pastures. And if you merely break down your fences and open your bars, and drive in the sheep and the calves into the cattle pastures, you know well what will be the results.

It would be a pleasant thing enough for us to open our pastures in this way, and then go boast about the country of our fine farms and large stock. For a while we might deceive the public; but a time would soon come when the hollowness of this would be brought into notice and most severely and unsparingly censured. But no: We have a duty to perform to our country, and a responsibility to remember to the charter and legal powers and privileges bestowed upon us. And the question of the correctness of the line we have taken really resolves itself into this practical enquiry, Is University education really needed amongst us? I answer that I believe it is and that you will admit that it is, and with heart and soul give your support and encouragement to this University, established in this the most fertile, and the most progressive part of L. Canada, if you reflect upon what it is doing for you. Are the young men of the Eastern Townships to go forward to beg admission into professional life, or to claim and take their place in it, and it may be at the head of it? Are you to go to Town to look for members fit to represent you worthily in Parliament, because you have not men of mind and manners fitted to take a prominent place in public life? When our country has gone on as in all human probability it will in a few generations, to independence, are our grandsons then to grumble in bad English, “Wish father had taken the trouble to get me decently educated, and we was able to speak out like them fellers, without being afraid, and to walk across this big room without feeling as if the roof was going to fall down on our heads.”

I wish you would think a little, at home, in this sort of manner. Think that our country, as a whole, is going onwards and still onwards, and that our own immediate district and neighborhood is not unambitious, and make up your minds what effort you will make to set forward its mental progress, what strength you can add to the movement which this Institution is making. Listen to a word from the well known pen of Sam Slick:

“Scarcely had the ground in the neighborhood of Boston been cleared, when the General Court founded a College which they afterwards called Harvard in token of gratitude to a clergyman of that name, who bequeathed a considerable sum of money to it. (The town of Newtown in which it was situated, was denominated Cambridge, the name of the *Alma Mater* of many of the principal people in the colony.) In this respect, they showed a far greater knowledge of