

his earnest convictions in whatever cause he championed. His work was by no means confined to the university. The social, financial and industrial problems of Canada were studied with a breadth of outlook and a mastery of detail that gave promise of greater fulfilment with maturer years. His contributions to British and American periodicals and his books on economic subjects won for him the reputation of a keen and thoughtful observer and an indefatigable worker. His heroic spirit fighting almost to the last hour with that dread disease, consumption, is well shown in the paragraph quoted from the *Edinburg Despatch*:

"During the months of his enforced seclusion from the duties of his chair, Dr. Davidson was by no means idle. Articles on subjects relating to the branch of science in which he was a specialized student appeared steadily in British and American journals and periodicals; he did a large amount of work upon the Nelson-Harmsworth Encyclopædia; and he week by week contributed valuable political and economic articles to the columns of the *Week's Survey*, since it changed hands in December last. Only on Tuesday last he insisted upon sitting up in bed to complete an article for the *Week's Survey*, saying that he had never failed anybody yet. But this time the task was beyond his power, and he had to lay down his pen for the last time. Death ensued on Friday."

A Long and Well-Spent Life.

Hon. David Wark, LL.D., Senator, died at Fredericton, N. B., on the 20th of August, in the one hundred and second year of his age. His life was simple, serene, honest, substantial, and without ostentation; his end was peaceful and painless. Born near Londonderry, Ireland, February 19th, 1804, he came to New Brunswick in 1825. He taught school for ten years, chiefly at Richibucto, where he afterwards engaged in mercantile business. In 1842 he was elected to represent the people of Kent in the Provincial Assembly, and up to the time of his death was identified closely with the industrial and political interests of the province. His legislative career extended over sixty years, and he was the oldest active legislator in the world. He took part in the lengthy session of parliament at Ottawa in 1904. He was then in his 101st year, with his mind clear and his judgment good. His career was a useful and happy one. Service and duty were his watchwords, and faithfully did he discharge every obligation.

Mutual Improvement Associations.

Every town, village and hamlet should have its Mutual Improvement Association, which may be active both in summer and winter. During the latter season the association may meet from house to house for social and literary improvement. A library is necessary. If there is none in the village, a travelling library may be secured at a mere trifle of an outlay. During a recent visit to the McGill University library the writer was shown choice assortments of books which are loaned, on application, to country schools, reading clubs, and communities possessing no free public library. These books have been carefully selected and grouped according to the wants of those using them: (1) for general reading; (2) for young people; (3) for students of special subjects. Each travelling library, consisting of twenty-five books, is loaned for a term of three months, on conditions which are sent on application to the librarian of McGill University.

Framed pictures suitable for hanging in a school-room may be sent with the travelling libraries, but not more than two at a time, and these may be changed as often as the library is changed.

This is an opportunity—and there are others—of which schools and communities may avail themselves for mutual improvement. As the REVIEW has frequently urged in the past, teachers should take the lead in this improvement in communities in which they are living.

During the winter also plans may be formed, to be carried out in the summer season, to make the town or district more attractive. An appeal may be issued by the Improvement Association, which should have as many members as possible, and embrace representatives from all classes in the community, urging all to carry out some such programme as the following:

1. Burn all rubbish possible, and bury that which cannot be burned.
2. Do not throw paper or other litter on the streets. (When streets are once free from unsightly rubbish, people will be anxious to keep them so).
3. Persuade people who must smoke not to do so on the streets, or in public places in the presence of ladies.
4. Do not spit on the sidewalk or on the floor of any public place or conveyance. (The public spitting nuisance is fast becoming obsolete in every civilized and well ordered community).
5. Persuade owners of property to destroy and keep down the weeds just starting, especially those