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## LITERARY NOTES

### UNIVERSITY LECTURES.

THE establishment of a course of Saturday afternoon lectures is an excellent proceeding on the part of Canadian universities. The University of Toronto has arranged an unusually good programme this season, of which the first feature was a lecture by Professor MacNaughton of Queen's University, Kingston, on "Browning and History." Professor MacNaughton is a speaker who combines Celtic warmth of spirit with a scholarly finish of expression. In his Toronto address, he gave an exposition of Browning's relation to historic development which was entirely free from the laboured psychology that occasionally obscures the Browning lecture. The poem "Cleon," which has hardly come into its own, was mentioned as an instance of the great poet's illumination of another age. That wonderful historic imagination which gave Browning to understand the Early Christian philosophy, the mediaeval Spanish monasticism, the aesthetic flowering of the Italian Renaissance and the spiritual groping of an Arabian physician of the first century, was finely illustrated by the lecturer, who naturally showed a slight leaning to the Greek.

Professor William James, at a meeting of the Association of American Alumnae at Radcliffe College, recently spoke on "The Social Value of the College-Bred," and among other advisory remarks, warned his hearers against the *nil admirari* spirit, declaring: "Real culture lives by sympathies and admirations, not by dislikes and disdains—under all misleading wrappings it pounces unerringly upon the human core. If a college, through the inferior human influences that have grown regnant there, fails to catch the robust tone, its failure is colossal, for its social function stops." In such an essentially manly and invigorating address as that delivered by the Queen's professor, we find the human core which belongs to the fruit of this genuine culture.

\* \* \*



COLERIDGE'S OLD HOME.

An influential movement is now being made, the purpose of which is to acquire Coleridge's House at Nether Stowey for the British people.

\* \* \*

### "ICHABOD"—THE TIMES MOTTO.

THE great change in English journalistic circles, the transference of the London *Times* to the control of Mr. Arthur Pearson, has occasioned general editorial comment in the United States, of which none is more illuminating than an article, "Journalism in America and England," in the San Francisco *Argonaut*. In Great Britain, the smallness of the country insures that a newspaper printed at London at three o'clock in the morning shall be carried and distributed to its readers near the northern limits of Scotland by noon of the same day. In England there is but one social and political centre. The English parcels-post system enables the remotest provincial to order from a London store on one day and receive the goods on the following day at a very small cost for carriage. This naturally is a stimulant to the London advertiser. The final consideration is the intense traditional conservatism of the British people which leads them to cling to one paper year after year, unfolding it every morning with a sense of comfortable recognition of familiar type and columns.

American conditions, as described by the Californian journalist, may be said to apply to Canada also. The vast stretch of a continent makes the supremacy of one journal practically impossible. We also have no one centre, "in which the interests of all the country are consciously represented." The mail order business is also a limited affair and the Canadian is midway between the Englishman who "takes in" one particular journal and the United States citizen who is fonder of a change than of a rest. Another broad distinction may apply to the Dominion. "American journalism addresses the multitude and caters especially to what we may call the popular elements of society because it is precisely these elements that patronise the bargain counter, the hand-me-down clothing shop and the patent medicine bottle."

"English journalism, on the other hand, has, until very recently, been addressed exclusively to the educated and property class. Your English editor is a conservative by instinct, because his readers are among the conservative classes of society. It is only within a relatively short time that the masses of English people have read the newspapers at all."

"The sale of the *Times* to a publisher of the 'popular type' is indicative of a change which has been coming on this ten years past in England. The tendency, political and social, is towards democracy, and with it there has come to the business of journalism a broadening of its field and a lowering of its standards. This is why the journalism of John Walter and John Delane has given way before the journalism of Arthur Pearson and Alfred Harmsworth."

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