

credit to this Province that provision for the teaching of Anglo-Saxon, and other equally important subjects, has been so long delayed.

Against this proposed scheme it may be urged that it means increase of expenditure. To this it may be fairly replied that such expenditure is warranted. The Province requires the work to be done, the Province would reap the benefit—*ergo*, the Province should ungrudgingly supply the funds.

As for the men to fill such positions as these changes would require, there is no doubt that, with the exercise of proper care, thoroughly competent men may be found. We do not agree with those who hold that we must necessarily go abroad for a Professor of the Romance Languages. The Universities of the Old World do not supply such scholars ready-made. Our own University is quite abreast of British and Continental Universities in the study of the so-called Modern Languages. It must be remembered that in the recent advance in Romance Philology the Universities of the Old World have had little share. It is the work of individuals, solitary workers, and no amount of money could lure to these bookless shores such men as Max Müller, Brachet, and the lamented Littré. We have no doubt that there are some graduates of Toronto University who could fill with ability the Chair of Romance Languages. We trust that the present vacancy will be filled by the appointment of a Professor; that, other things being equal, he will be a Canadian; and that the Legislature will, without delay, provide sufficient funds to ensure the proper performance of the work in comfort and dignity.

THE LATE W. J. RATTRAY, B. A.

THE brief telegraphic despatch announcing the death of Mr. William J. Rattray, B.A. (University College, Toronto), was to us a sharp and sudden blow. In the removal of this eminent journalist and well-nigh lifelong friend, the present writer sustains a keen personal, as the country suffers a serious national, loss. A friendship, close and intimate, covering a period of over twenty years, is rudely severed by his death, and a

link broken that not only sunders hearts, but, snapping, in a measure loosens for us the tie of country. Into the little circles of literary life in Canada the grim Enemy has, in recent years, made many and ruthless invasions. Few such have touched us more keenly than this or brought a deeper sorrow. Only three weeks had passed since we had called to take leave of our old friend, and now he has taken leave—a long leave—of us. Of what the tomb bereaves the world, in the things that make life glad and pleasant, only advancing years may know.

The death of this well-furnished writer leaves vacant one of the first places in Canadian literature. True, his name does not emblazon the roll of our Royal Society: it is by his death and not by the grace of a Canadian Academy, that he is immortal. But no native writer better deserved the recognition of his country. His work, however, like that of most Canadian writers, if we except his "Scot in British North America," has little to show for itself. The greater portion of it is unacknowledged, and was done either upon the newspaper and periodical press, or is lost in the form of a superior hack-work done for publishers. With exceptional mental endowment, fine reasoning powers, and an admirable literary style, his pen, in any other country than Canada, would have earned him fame and fortune.

Mr. Rattray early gave promise of making a name for himself, not only in Canadian literature, but in Canadian history. His college career was unusually brilliant, and few of the alumni of Toronto University have left Alma Mater with brighter prospects or with talents that gave greater promise of future usefulness and honour. He was deeply read on almost every subject, and his mind was a storehouse of accurate facts and well-informed opinion in well-nigh every department of human thought. He was a good classic, a fine English scholar, a keen logician, and unusually well-read in history, science and philosophy. In his college days he was an able debater and an admirable public speaker; he could, moreover, write well on any subject, and his active mind and