

have given the system a fair trial could be safely appealed to in support of the same conclusion. Though the innovation was for a time strenuously opposed by some of the authorities of Toronto University, we are not aware that any practical evils or difficulties have been found to attend the system since its adoption. In fact we may say that we have yet to meet the professor who, after experience of both methods, seriously objects to the co-attendance of students of both sexes in the class or lecture room. Many, on the other hand, are ready to testify that they find the advent of a band of earnest and ambitious young women, such as by an easily understood process of natural selection find their way to the college halls, to be healthful and powerfully stimulating to students of the other sex, who naturally do not care to be distanced in the race by their fair competitors.

ALL this may, of course, be granted without committing one's self to the view that co-education is absolutely the best, the ideal, college system. It is one thing to admit that it is wise that college lectures and college training should be effectively given in mixed classes, in preference to either of the alternative evils of an overworked professoriate, or an inferior course for women. It is quite another thing to agree with those who regard co-education as a method to be adopted on its merits, where the conditions admit of a choice between it and separate colleges equally and thoroughly equipped and amply endowed. There would still be, no doubt, some room for discussion, but, the option being given, the great majority of educators would, we have little doubt, prefer on the whole, and for valid reasons, the separate institutions. That an overwhelming majority of the parents of the young women would, at least in Canada, unhesitatingly make the same choice we cannot doubt. Whether such a preference on the part of parents, and, as we may no doubt add, on the part of most of the young women themselves, is an outcome of wisdom or of prejudice, its weight as a stubborn fact cannot be overlooked. Another remark may also be necessary to guard against misapprehension. Co-education is by no means synonymous with co-residence, though the two things are often confused. The former system has sometimes to suffer by reason of its association in the minds of objectors with the latter. Whatever may be the case in the United States, there is no reason to believe that colleges on the Oberlin plan will find favour at any early day in Canada. The experience of such institutions as the Woodstock Baptist College, which, after being conducted on that plan for twenty-five years, has now transferred its women's department to Toronto, to reappear as Moulton Ladies' College, combined with the almost universal practice at other Canadian institutions, shows that the tendency is in the other direction. It is probably in reference to the co-residence feature of Oberlin that Mrs. Stone, in the letter referred to, observes that there is no question of the safety and wisdom of co-education, "any more than there is of the two sexes in the same family." The comparison, though often used by upholders of the co-residence system, is, it strikes us, unfortunate, since it is evident that the unrelated students in such institutions cannot by any possibility stand in brotherly and sisterly relation to each other, nor can it be at all desirable or natural that they should try or be asked to do so.

THE decision of the Board of Governors of McMaster University, sanctioned by the recent Convention of representatives of the Baptist Denomination at St. Catharines, to establish a department for technical instruction in connection with the Woodstock College, is a new departure on the part of the voluntary colleges of the Province. The policy is no doubt wise and far-sighted. It but brings the educational work of the body into line with the most advanced educational ideas of the day. But it is none the less an innovation of considerable significance so far as the educational institutions of Ontario are concerned. In view of the novelty of the experiment it may be found necessary for a time to repeat the explanation that the intention of an industrial department in such a school is neither to teach a trade nor to manufacture products for the market, but simply to train the hands of the pupil and his faculties of perception and observation. The great utility of such training in its practical aspects and relations is now generally admitted, and is, indeed, too obvious to leave much room for question. The claim of such training to a place as an integral and organic part of any course of education, without which such education must be incomplete and seriously defective, is not yet so fully recognized as it is likely to be in the near future. Whether a corresponding department, adapted to the sex, is to be introduced for the benefit of the young women attending Moulton Ladies' College, in this city, we are not informed. Moulton College stands, we believe, in exactly the same relation to McMaster University as Woodstock College, and there is no argument in support of technical training for young men, which will not apply with equal force, *mutatis mutandis*, to students of the other sex.

THE storm of excitement that has been stirred up over the innocent but unfortunate letter of the British Minister at Washington fairly caps the climax of the absurdities of the political campaign in the United States. It must be admitted at once that the letter itself was singularly ill-advised, and the wonder grows how a diplomatist who has had so much experience, and so good an opportunity for studying the peculiarities of American politics, could have been betrayed into such a blunder. That the snare was deliberately spread in the interests of the Republican candidate and party is by no means creditable to the party methods. That it should have been successful, though spread almost in the sight of the victim, is a marvel to the onlooker, who, of course, has the immemorial privilege of being wise after the event. But that a cause, seemingly so insignificant, should have so much power to influence the result, as is admitted both by the exultation of the Republican leaders who are turning it to so good account, and by the annoyance and trepidation of the Democratic leaders against whom it is being turned, is a fact which should be humiliating to both nations. It must be humiliating to all loyal subjects of Great Britain to be thus reminded that there have gone forth from her own shores an army of voters whose ruling passion is intense hostility to their father-land. It must be humiliating to all respectable Americans to be reminded that the issue of a Presidential election may be decided by an unseemly pandering to the blind hatred cherished by an un-Americanized and ignorant section of its citizens, against a friendly nation of cognate speech and origin.

THERE can be little doubt that the "private" letter incident will result in the resignation or recall of Lord Sackville. The former is more probable, as he must be pretty thoroughly disgusted with American politics, however enamoured he may be of many American customs and institutions. Whether Cleveland or Harrison is elected, Lord Sackville's future relations with the Washington Ministry could hardly be cordial. To a Republican President and cabinet he would stand as one who, though bound by all the precedents and traditions of his office to be neutral, had cast his influence in favour of the opposite party. To President Cleveland he would stand as one who had attempted to strengthen his (the President's) popularity at the expense of his personal and political honesty. It is very evident that speedy action of some kind is imperative. There seems no reason to doubt that the matter is being pressed upon the attention of Lord Salisbury with an energy and persistence born of the nearness of the presidential election, and, however one might be disposed to deprecate the state of political feeling under which so trifling an affair could be magnified into an occasion for the recall of an Ambassador, it cannot be denied that there is much force in the view of Lord Sackville's blunder which is, it is said, being specially urged on Lord Salisbury's attention. The only ground on which the Minister's action in writing the obnoxious letter could be defended is that of the duty of a British Minister to give advice to a British subject. But as the letter which drew forth the unfortunate reply purported to be from one who had become naturalized in the United States, Lord Sackville, in replying, put himself in the position of writing to an American citizen seeking to influence his vote in the coming election. In view of past quarrels over the question of citizenship, and the fact that England is now committed to the full recognition of the validity of the naturalization process, Lord Sackville's letter trenched on delicate ground, and amounted, technically, to a distinct breach of neutrality.

THE blunder of the British Minister at Washington may have a serious meaning for Canada should President Cleveland feel constrained, by way of demonstrating the sincerity of his celebrated anti-Canadian message to Congress, to use the powers of retaliation with which he was clothed a year ago. Such a result is, it may be hoped, highly improbable, but it is by no means impossible. In view of such a contingency, the Canadian Government is no doubt wise to see to it that the rolling stock and other equipments of its railroad connections with the Atlantic are equal to any demands that may be made upon them. The spur should also be effectual in urging them to lose no time in completing the arrangements, which are said to be now awaiting their action, for the establishment of a first-class steamship service between Great Britain and our Atlantic ports. It seems almost incredible that President Cleveland can be so ill-informed as to entertain the views ascribed to him by the press, that, as a consequence of the abolition of the bonding privilege, Canadians would be compelled to choose between the alternatives of paying a double duty on British imports and transferring their custom to the United States. But if prominent American politicians are really under such a delusion, it may act as a strong incentive to them to try the effect of the proposed commercial pressure. Forewarned, Canada should be forearmed. However strongly