

toria College, Cobourg, 1841; Trinity College, (formerly King's), Toronto, 1842; Toronto University, 1860; Ottawa, 1866; Regiopolis, 1866. All these institutions possess and exercise University powers in granting degrees both to graduates and "*honoris cause*;" though some of them have never had organized classes in more than two faculties—Divinity and Arts; Nova Scotia has, I believe, no native Medical school; New Brunswick, I believe, is in a similar position; and some of our Ontario and Quebec Universities have been always deficient in one or other of the four faculties. In the ancient sense, therefore, of an University being the seat of universal knowledge, we have no such institution; but it cannot be supposed for a moment that the existence, at twelve different points of our territory, of classes even in the single faculty of Arts, is not, in itself, a cause of thankfulness. We might have had a higher standard, with fewer institutions, could we have agreed upon the same curriculum of studies for all our youth; but, taking them as they are, those institutions which have had a reasonable time to do it, *have* work to show for their time. We have not had, except in the case of McGill alone, large bequests from private persons, as they have had in the United States and in England, and as it is to be hoped we may have, as we increase in wealth and public spirit. Most of our Industrial and Classical Colleges (of which we have some ten or twelve in this Province of Quebec alone) owe their origin to some such private acts of beneficence: but the number of scholarships founded by wealthy individuals, who have made large fortunes in this country, might, I fear, be reckoned on the fingers of one hand. It were perhaps to be wished that this whole subject of superior education had remained in some sort subject to Federal care and superintendence, under a Federal Minister of Education, capable and devoted to the task. But the honourable rivalries of local administrations may be trusted as preventatives against stagnation and exclusiveness. If many Swiss Cantons and third-rate German States are able to sustain famous Universities, unbacked by high political patronage, we may hope that, in this matter, Ontario, and Quebec, and Acadia, may be found capable of doing likewise.

Of the learned professions which represent in the world to a large extent these native colleges and universities, there are probably in the Dominion about 3,000 clergymen, 2,500 medical men, and perhaps (this is a guess) from 500 to 600 lawyers: say, apart from collegiate professors and political personages, 6,000 essentially "educated men." The special requirements of this large body of men, in languages, laws, history, dialectics, chemistry, and *belles lettres*, ought surely not be confined solely within the rigid limits of professional occupation; but ought, at least occasionally, flow out in secular channels for the benefit of lay societies, and the general elevation of the public taste?

Of the medical literature of the Dominion, I am wholly incapable of forming an opinion; and with the literature of law, if we have of late years produced any, I am unacquainted. But even to one standing apart from both these highly privileged professions, in other countries so distinguished for their general as well as special attainments, it must be apparent that there is a much more vivid intellectual life among the Faculty, than among members of the Bar.

Of public libraries, I grieve to say that we have not so far as I know, a single one, in the whole Dominion. There is a Society Library, containing some good books, at Quebec; there are, of course, college libraries, more or less incomplete; there are law libraries at Osgoode Hall, and elsewhere; there is our own excellent Parliamentary Library (some 60,000 chosen volumes) at Ottawa; but no public library in any of our chief towns. To Montreal I certainly must always consider this a shameful reproach; but I have spoken so often of it elsewhere, that I shall not dwell upon it again, at present.

In enumerating specially educated classes I should not have omitted that very considerable body of architects, engineers, and surveyors, who take rank naturally with the learned professions. And in this sequence, I may be allowed, perhaps, to refer to the subject of a School of Design in our own city. When abroad in the early portion of this year, I had some conversation on this subject with Mr. Henry Cole, Secretary of the South Kensington Institution, to whose assistance local schools of design in the United Kingdom are so much indebted, and although I found that the directors at Kensington had no authority to go outside the British Islands, still I have reason to believe, that if we once had such a school here, we would get every facility that Provincial towns at home have in obtaining their models and supplies through the metropolitan institution.

From all these sources—our numerous reading class—our colleges—our learned professions—we ought to be able to give a good account of the mental outfit of the new Dominion. Well, then, for one of those expected to say what he thinks in these matters, I must give it as my opinion that we have as yet but few possessions in this sort that we can call strictly our own. We have not produced in our Colonial era any thinker of the reputation of Jonathan Edwards or Benjamin Franklin; nor any native poet of the rank of Garcilaso de la Vega—the Spanish American. The only sustained poems we have of which the scenes are laid within the Dominion are both by Americans, Longfellow's "*Evangeline*," and Mr. Street's "*Frontenac*"—the latter much less read than it deserves. One original humorist we have had, hardly of the highest order, however, in the late Judge Haliburton; one historian of an undoubtedly high order, in the late Mr. Garneau; one geo-