

stood without some vital insight into the whole civilization which is summed up in them. Political science, too, as it is again hardly necessary to point out to students of Queen's, must still begin, and does, with the speeches of Thucydides, the Republic of Plato, the Ethics and Politics of Aristotle. For the whole range of the theological sciences Greek is a necessary organon, in every single field—even in that of Old Testament Interpretation, which requires a knowledge of the Greek Septuagint, hardly less than of the Hebrew original. And there is another science which has hardly yet received a name, or been separately and systematically pursued, but which is daily receiving more and more the attention of thinking men, the evolution of civilization, the study of the origin and growth of those ideas which are the great spiritual inheritance and the standing problem of our race, "the mighty thoughts which make us men." This science must remain in great part a sealed book to those who know no Greek. For there is not one single element, in the whole vast complex of what we call human culture, which can be traced to its root without a knowledge of Greek. Thus Curtius was quite right in speaking of a people, among whom this study was, as he thought, inadequately represented, as an "unscientific people."

Thus on every side we see there is no fear for Greek. But there is considerable fear for Canada. A certain crass, ignorant, short-sighted Utilitarianism, a wide-spread disbelief in the value of all studies which are not immediately convertible into material power and money, a craving for impossible short-cuts, and an amazing respect for our own comfort are rampant in our educational system. This spirit will not stop short with Greek. All liberal studies are threatened by it. What is the good of philosophy, or the higher mathematics (except for a few engineers), or history, or literature, on such a theory? "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die." Universities exist to oppose this materialism, and to guide the whole education of the country in the direction diametrically opposed to it.

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE."

THE production of the trial scene from the "Merchant of Venice," and the earlier presentation of "Die Herrschaft." by the honour students of modern languages, are both worthy of hearty commendation from an educational point of view. The time spent in preparation is well spent. A student who has been forced to weigh carefully, and to commit to memory, considerable passages from the masterpieces of literature, English or foreign, has done what it is well worth doing, not to speak of the missionary work he accomplishes in educating the public taste. It is therefore to be hoped that the moderate production of dramatic scenes or plays will be a permanent feature in Queen's; and it may even be asked why some part at least of a Greek play (with an English rendering for the public), should not be produced.

Convocation hall was almost uncomfortably filled on Saturday the 16th, to witness the performance. The whole affair was guided by the best taste; the beautiful Shakespearean songs, with their delicate old-world fragrance, were delightfully rendered by Miss Grace Clark, Mrs. Farrell and Mr. Watts. The excellence of the dramatic part of the programme was a surprise even to those who were aware how much conscientious labour had gone to the training of the actors. At least three of these—Miss Vaux, Mr. McSporran and Mr. A. G. Mackinnon—displayed a decided faculty for dramatic representation, while the others were distinctly above the level of the "stick," (that is believed to be the technical term). The writer had the pleasure, a good many years ago, of seeing Helen Faucit (Lady Martin), as Portia. Of course it would be absurd to say that Miss Vaux equalled that distinguished actress in the part; but it may be said, that she was free from what seemed a defect in Miss Faucit's rendering of the celebrated lines beginning "The quality of mercy is not strained," which were enunciated by Miss Faucit with a degree of slowness and elaboration that struck one as excessive. No doubt the Canadian amateur might have learned one thing from this great actress, namely, to sustain,