

and perishes. No noble nor right style was ever founded, but out of a sincere heart. Find out the beginner of a great manner of writing, and you have also found the declarer of some true facts or sincere passions."

Herein lies the burden of all our criticism. Mrs. M——'s reading enabled her mind to grasp a broad range of subjects; but her quick sympathy and generous power of putting herself in his place, made it possible for her to present each in a way most accessible and interesting to her companion. It is not always the person who talks most and best himself, who is the most entertaining companion. It is often he who, having the power of appreciation which knowledge gives, is yet able to hold himself, as it were, in leash, and by his generous sympathy draw out of you the best that is in you. You leave his presence with a sense of exhilaration, and of exalted purpose to do even as you have spoken.

It seems to us that women have peculiar advantages in this respect. Men need their sympathy, and in this very need lies woman's opportunity. Just so far as woman can cast behind herself little vanities, peevishness and personal trivialities, which partly arise from her limited sphere of action with its narrow horizon, and from the effects of a highly nervous constitution overweighing the ballast of better education, so far will man look to her for help. For this very purpose of quickening sympathy and giving broader aims (and this our friend suggests) reading is in itself invaluable, because the important service which literature renders to mankind is the perpetual registering of the experiences of the race.

How could Science give warning to the mariner of the coming storm, but that her devotees, day after day, and year after year, have been noting down the phenomena of earth, air and sky, and by comparison of the various data, drawn from them something like a law for the winds and a way for the clouds? So, on the ocean of life, it is well if from the registered experience of the race we are able to deduce laws by which we may be ourselves prepared for storms, and become possessed of that ready sympathy which reaches out its hand to others who with us sail the untracked sea.

It is the natural tendency of one who talks much, and who believes that he talks well, to grow dogmatic. But from a woman who dogmatizes—may a kind fate preserve us! Let the sterner sex appropriate and exhaust the gift, though at their peril.

Learn then, my Canadian girl, to talk well, because your mind is richly stored; your thought sincere, your heart kind, but learn also when to be silent, a listener, interested and sympathetic. For this you must learn self-control. "Ein character ist ein vollkommen gebildeter wille," says Novalis. A perfectly trained man, however strong he may be, is refined by his training, and in his strongest exercise of power is full of grace, gentleness, and self-restraint, only untrained and inexperienced hands using violence. Education means the highest development of mind and heart, which springs from the intimacy with all that human genius has achieved in every kind—simplicity and integrity—a soul whose sweetness overflows in the manner and makes the voice winning and the movement graceful. The body kept in subjection to the will is but the servant of the soul. Through the visible, the invisible is "softly bodied forth." No tricks of manner, learned of the dancing master, nor of society, can hope to equal such beauty, which reveals itself in these unconscious graces of expression. And so, our girl needs not only the "reading which maketh the full man, conversation which maketh a ready man," sympathy which kindles the heart, and generosity which guides the lips, but yet another thing also. Some one says that women have two lovely but dangerous gifts, compassion and enthusiasm. Doubtless the author had suffered from the untimely bestowal, by the female element of his household, of his wardrobe upon shivering waifs of humanity. You have yourself known of such instances of benevolence. However that may be, we have not time to discuss the subject, and only exclaim, "God bless her for her sweet compassion." "But enthusiasm, what is dangerous about that." Simply that as the foundation of all that is beautiful in art, in music, in speech, in character, is truth, so enthusiasm is dangerous because it leads to exaggeration, and exaggeration is but a step this side untruth. At some time in the history of womankind, say in the middle-ages, when everybody did queer things, there must have been a fever of exaggeration prevalent among the sex, else why does the idea still prevail among men that an assertion strongly pronounced by feminine lips is to be quietly discounted. Pretty Mistress Brown observed to Brown masculine, that while wearing her old bonnet to town, she met fifty people she knew, and they must have thought her a dowdy. Brown makes a mental note of "ten people—too bad"—as from behind his newspaper, he cheerfully suggests, "Well, my dear, why don't you get a new bonnet. I thought you hadn't been looking quite up to the mark lately." At a dinner party, Brown starts, at hearing his wife across the table, and talking to a young Englishman, say, "Oh, but you know America is such a great country. Mr. Brown was saying only yesterday that the new census gave eighty millions." "Oh!" groaned Brown, "I told her forty," and the Englishman makes his little note of "population about thirty millions." "Have you heard about the fire?" asks Smith. "Yes, wasn't it terrible, Mrs. T—— taken out of the window in her nightclothes—lost everything, and the insurance only a thousand." They say the loss must be seven or eight thousand." M——meditates Smith, "T——'s loss probably a thousand dollars or two."

Now I do not say this sort of thing is your fault, my Canadian girl, and as to the owners of those carping dispositions, we won't say anything at present, only, for this prevailing impression there must have existed at some time or other a cause. Be careful that you add no weight thereto. Be strictly truthful, and temper the glow of your divine enthusiasm by prosaic exactness. The ancient schoolmen have an exact way of computing the abilities of saints, or authors, as Escobar, for instance, was said to have learning as 5, genius as 4, and gravity as 7, while Caroumel's learning was reckoned at 8, genius at 6, and gravity at 13. In some such fashion we seem to have been computing the qualities of our ideal maiden.

That it would be possible to suggest all that must go to make

"Earth's noblest thing, a woman perfected,"

we do not imagine, but it is scarcely too much to say with Milton, "He who would not be frustrate of his hope to do well hereafter in laudable things, ought

himself to be a true poem." We believe that the true education must finally, and after all, be the building up and enlarging of all the moral qualities of the nature. Truly hath it been said, "A loving, reverent heart, is the beginning of all knowledge, this it is that opens the whole mind and quickens every faculty of the intellect to do its fit work, that of knowing, and thereby of vividly uttering forth." Verily, saith the old commentator, also, "knowledge bloweth up, but charity buildeth up."

"Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control, these three alone lead life to sovereign power." We have portrayed no maintainable character. There are many such, "pure womanly," whose faces shine with the light of noble thoughts, whose lips drop wisdom, while the touch of their fingers, though occupied with the meanest household tasks, leaves healing and refreshment.

May every Canadian girl of the future be worthy of the poet's song.

"A creature not too bright or good
For human nature's daily food;
A being breathing thoughtful breath,
A traveller betwixt life and death;
The reason firm, the temperate will,
Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill;
A perfect woman, nobly planned,
To warn, to comfort and command;
And yet a spirit still, and bright
With something of an angel light."

ANNIE E. LYMAN.

THE STATE OF MONTREAL.

The remarks of the *Star*, a non-partisan journal, on the latest shooting affray, loss of life and woundings in the streets of Montreal were certainly prompted by good feeling and good sense, so far as they would go. The same may properly be said of the *Witness*' comments, but we shall find it more difficult to admit that they at all rise to the gravity of the situation. We are encouraged in seeing that the Corn Exchange has taken up the momentous discussion. Its members are however but at the beginning of it, and as, in the words of the *Gazette*, the city "appears to be standing upon the very brink of a precipice of intolerance and bloodshed," with submission to a general consensus of enlightened opinion in the Empire, we shall be permitted to say, that the city and the Province and the Dominion generally have to begin to look practically at this question of the best means of dealing with this open sore of party strife, urged thereto, as they must be, by viewing the fearful consequences it will entail in the time to come if neglected.

We are somewhat in the habit, in Canada, of making severe comments upon our neighbours of the United States about the way in which they allow the country to be ruled by mobs, but surely, now, we had better begin at once to apply the lesson to ourselves, so far, at least, as the commercial capital of the Dominion is concerned.

Montreal has for many years been so torn by various factions that we could not expect to look within the city for large and statesmanlike views of the means of dealing with a frightful danger, but we may go beyond this, and say, in generalizing the question, that if municipalities could anywhere be trusted to govern themselves at all points and in every contingency, there would be no need of a Provincial or Federal or Monarchical Government above them.

Once admit that the initiative responsibility for maintaining the Queen's Peace is vested in the authorities at Ottawa—that is to say, in the last resort, in the Governor-General, as himself responsible to the Crown, and our confusion of ideas will begin to resolve itself into something like clearness and stability of view.

If the spirit of party and the trammels it is so apt to impose upon the most honest minister is to be of force sufficient to hinder the maintenance of the public peace, we say, without any reservation, that it becomes the bounden duty of the Governor-General to take the question into his hands, and to fulfil a most grave responsibility in regard to the present and future condition of the commonwealth as an important part of Her Majesty's Dominions. A people will at all times be grateful to the Supreme Power when it can carry them peacefully through a dangerous crisis.

Appeals to the right feeling of the local factions are well enough in their way, and they have also been tried often enough before the present dreadful conjuncture in the civic affairs. There could be nothing to hinder such appeals being persisted in, but we apprehend Civil Government is based upon something beyond mere appeal; that it is designed for, and is in the habit of furnishing protection to its loyal subjects without reference to origin or creed, and this is why we look for the quieting of these disturbances to the central authority of the land. There will then be no state of siege, as has so gloomily been apprehended by some citizens.

It is not classed as the duty of public journalists in any but the most excited times to insist upon any particular course as to matters of detail in Government. The responsibility for adopting the right procedure is known to rest on other shoulders. Still, a certain latitude of opinion is allowed to the press, whose philosophy is history teaching by example, and we do well to recall that the city of Montreal has lost the protection of its permanent forces—which, with a very short interval, had continued upon its ground ever since the establishment of British power in Canada—through the action of the Government now ruling at Ottawa, and there can be no impropriety in our expressing our conviction that so important a city needs at least one battalion of permanent forces for its internal or external defence—not necessarily for constant display—and certainly not, as it would not be, to manifest party bearings of any description, but as a guarantee of the public order, and a means of confirming a Dominion Police in their duty, and assuring them of their being always reinforced and supported at times of extreme pressure in fulfilling their onerous charge in the maintenance of the general peace, and in that way restoring the confidence without which the trade of a great emporium will certainly dwindle, and a large population be brought to seek other locations for the peaceful rearing of their families and pursuit of their avocations.

THETA.

* A character is a perfectly formed will.