

many minds make up the poetry of existence.

One of the saddest sights to be seen on this continent at the present day is the unnatural precocity of our children, the result of which is but too lamentably apparent to need comment here. And yet this is a feature of our life which is pointed at by so many with marked pride and satisfaction. It is well, indeed, that the destinies of the future be not altogether under our control; or instead of the progress and advance the present century has really seen made, we should now be wallowing in darkness and degradation, compared with which that of the Middle Ages would be as nothing. If we would put an end to such evils as these and bring about a healthier state of things; if we would save our children and those to follow them from future misery and trouble; if we would, indeed, help them to live honourable and profitable lives—lives which shall be a blessing and joy to themselves and others—let us have done with and turn our backs upon the popular training of the day. Let us bring them up naturally, and keep them as free as we can from the *forcing* influences around them, allowing Nature to do her own work in her own time and way. Let their training be as wide and liberal as is possible to give them; and, above all, let us eschew as their deadliest evil the prevalent theory of education so aptly termed “the bread-and-butter theory.” Nothing more pernicious or far-reaching in its baneful results could have been devised than this, and appealing, as it does, so directly to the lower needs of the great mass of the people, it is exerting so strong an influence against all higher training that even those whom we have been wont to regard as broad-minded and liberal educationists are slowly, but too surely, bending before its sway. Nor is this surprising when men of such

position as the writer of the “Letters to Young Men at College,” which appeared in THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY a short time ago, calmly and deliberately advises young men to give their time and attention *exclusively* to the comparatively narrow course of subjects that bears upon their chosen vocation in life, thereby, as our experience of life proves to us every day, making them selfish and narrow-minded, cramped in their views, filled with an overweening, obtrusive idea of their own importance and value in the world, as well as doing all it can to put them out of all sympathy with the hopes, interests and pursuits of their fellow-men. That the student's first thought and attention should be given to the study which is to be the chief work of his life is right and desirable, and *cetera va sans dire*; but to say that he shall cut down the opportunities of wider reading which a college life gives him, and which are seldom within his reach again, exclusively to this end, to my mind savours of anything but sound or good advice. And, if it be urged that there is not time enough to do both, all I can answer then is that time should be made; there is no real need for so much of the haste and superficiality around us, and should his course in consequence be prolonged for a season, this so-called *loss* of time will be repaid a thousand-fold by the greater fitness and experience with which he will come to his work, as well as by the greater knowledge and grasp of mind generally he has acquired in the meantime. What though others have started in the race before him? He brings the experience and wisdom of his higher culture and training to bear upon the issue, and when they have exhausted their little stock of superficialities and meet the fate their pretensions merit, he will be in the zenith of his success and prosperity. Training and sterling acquirements must