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TORONTO people have much reason to be grateful to those organizations who bring distinguished preachers and lecturers to the city. During the college session students have frequent opportunities of hearing the most noted men of the day. On March 20th they will have an opportunity of hearing one of the first orators of New York. Rev. Dr. Charles F. Deems, pastor of the Church of the Strangers. Dr. Deems is regarded as one of the ablest orators in America, and on this, his first visit to Toronto, every student who can "raise the dust" should hear him. He lectures on "Trifles" in Association Hall, under the auspices of the Men's Missionary Society of Old St. Andrews, the proceeds to be devoted to mission work in Asia Minor.

RAISING funds for college endowment or similar objects is usually a slow business. First a smart trot down the avenue; then a little jog along the gravel highway; and then comes the dead pull through the mud-holes or the country cross-roads. It is one thing to make speeches before wealthy and sympathetic city congregations; hand-to-hand dealing with the rank and file throughout the country is another. Those who have had anything to do with the raising of funds for any such enterprise will enjoy the story told of a farmer who went duck hunting, but the gun flashed in the pan, and declined to shoot. "So I started back to the cabin thinking I'd have to wait another day for duck. I got 'bout half way up to the cabin when I heered a little rumblin' in the gun, an' I thought mebbe she'd go off yet; so I crep' back to the stump an' took aim at that flock o' ducks agin, an' waited plumb fifteen minutes, when bang she went, and killed every one of them. Slow fire, that gun, did you say, stranger? Yes, she war slow, but she war drestle shure."

TORONTO has had a liberal share of entertainments this season. Of church socials and concerts there is an abundance every winter. But this season brought a larger number of the better class of lecturers, humorists, readers and reciters. Of the professional readers Mrs. Scott-Siddons and Mr. Geo. Belford are old favorites. Mrs. Siddons, as in past years, illustrated the gullibility of a cultured audience, and the success attainable by a lady reciter with a fair face, splendid figure richly costumed, winsome ways, a good voice, and withal an adept at the art of flirting with an audience, notwithstanding her manifestly inadequate conception of her selections and her utter failure as an interpreter of the author. Mrs. Siddons is pleasant to listen to, but if reading has anything to do with the communication of truth, she is not a true reader. Mr. Belford was, perhaps, the best reader of the season. Miss Agnes Knox, a young Canadian *débutante*, a graduate of Philadelphia School of Oratory, appeared before a good audience in Association Hall on Monday evening, 5th inst. She is on the fair way to success,