

—We commend to the friends of Education throughout Canada the example of Mr. Alderman Hallam, of Toronto, in offering two medals for the best answering in Canadian History and Geography. Pericles, in the one speech preserved to history, has said that every good citizen should form an intelligent opinion on every great question which concerned his country. The best preparation for this is surely the fostering of a patriotic spirit in our schools, and the way to insure this is not to indoctrinate our youth with Canadian spread-eagleism, but to give a clear idea of the past history and present condition of the land of their inheritance. A few lessons in the elements of political economy and the philosophy of law might be added, if not in a text-book, at least as chapters in our Public School readers.

—The moral hygiene of our schools needs a protest against two evils which affect the health and mental vigour of so many, not only among the scholars but the teachers, of both sexes: we allude to precocious tobacco-smoking, and late hours kept by girls at dancing parties, before the constitution is sufficiently matured to stand the effort at turning day into night. Smoking may be an open question with adults; when used by younger persons it acts as a dangerous narcotic poison, arresting growth, and causing paralysis and other terrible nervous diseases. Not less injurious is the indulgence in dissipation, which is so often the cause of the "sickness" which hinders young ladies from attending to their studies or their duties.

—The Duke of Argyll, in the *March Contemporary*, argues that the condition of certain savage tribes, far from being the lowest step in that evolution of human nature which constitutes progress, are really an evolution in a wrong direction, and lead to conditions lower than those of the brutes. In certain evil tendencies, the brute nature has certain limitations, those of instinct, which retain the beast of prey within their control. But man's will is free, *i. e.*, free from those limitations. Ferocity in savage races may develop itself into a destroying force, such as that which destroyed the maize-growing civilization of prehistoric America, and within the last four centuries the agricultural civilization which Cartier found in Indian Hochelaga.

—A Conference, held at Manchester, England, has called attention to the increasing practice of smoking among boys. It was urged, in the comments made by the *Educational Times* on the subject, that there is no force in the objection that it is useless for teachers who smoked to put down smoking with boys. The difference of age makes all the difference. A crusade against the use of tobacco by teachers would be Quixotic. And common sense will show that nature itself allows the indulgence of pleasures to the mature organism which are highly unfavorable to the health of the immature. Under the head of Practical Ethics for Schools, there is need of clear teaching as to the evils from use of tobacco by boys, arrest of growth, nervous disease and paralysis. With men smoking is a social

habit; with boys it is illicit, a vice, and one likely to be combined with drinking.

—One of the great advantages of Mathematics as a means of education is the fact that in the study of that subject it is absolutely necessary for the pupil to do the work in most part by his own effort. A feeling of the importance of History and of Literature is growing amongst educationists. But in order to make them as invigorating as mathematical studies, it is surely necessary that they should be so taught as to make the student think and work for himself. Mere manuals of literature cannot begin to do this, neither can worn-out methods of teaching History, which, as Carlyle lamented in his own school days, merely fill the mind "with dates and dead vocables."

—The *Globe* of March 1st does well in praising the father of an insubordinate boy at St. Mary's, who, on investigating a complaint urged against a teacher, found it without foundation, and punished his son for the deceit. Parents should consider, when they hear a complaint of a teacher from their child, how very difficult it is, even when no deceit is intended, for a child to take a just or accurate view of the relation between himself and the administrator of school discipline, how much that difficulty is increased by the comments and sympathies of other children, and how fatally it is sure to be perverted into falsehood if the parent shows a disposition to side against the teacher.

—The following letter, addressed to the *London Times*, is a significant comment on the policy which refused educational facilities to the "Nonconformists" to the State Church of England:—

On the subject of "Nonconformists and the Senior Wranglership," Mr. J. Carvell Williams writes to the *Times* as follows:—"After the passing of the University Tests Abolition Act, a well-known member of the University of Oxford said to me: 'The best thing you can now do is to get Nonconformists to send up their most promising young men to the Universities; and, if I may judge from the results, Nonconformists appear to have been of the same opinion. For this year, as last year, the Senior Wrangler at Cambridge is a Nonconformist. The second in the Mathematical Tripos list is also, I am told, of Nonconformist origin, and the third is the son of a Nonconformist minister. Another Nonconformist stands tenth on the list. This, sir, is the fourteenth time in twenty-one years that the Senior Wrangler has been a Nonconformist—a surprising fact, considering that a large majority of the undergraduates at Cambridge are members of the Church of England. It shows what Nonconformists lost by the ecclesiastical restrictions of past times, and, inferentially, what the nation probably lost also.'"

—Some of our English Educational exchanges are much exercised at the possible consequences of the high positions young lady students are taking at the Cambridge examinations. What will happen should the unspeakably awful event come to pass that a woman "shall beat the Senior Wrangler or Senior Classic, shall any such dignity survive"? Well! even for this, as for other developments of progress, Nature and the condition of things will no doubt provide, the fittest, as usual, surviving.