

The Owl.

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No. I.

EDUCATION.

ADDRESS OF REV. PRESIDENT AUGIER ON CONVOCATION DAY,
TUESDAY, JUNE 19TH, 1888.



SHAKESPEARE says:—
"What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason; how infinite in faculties; in form and in moving how express and admirable; in action how like an angel; in comprehension how like a God; the beauty of the world; the paragon of animals." Could the sublime poet have better sung of the greatness of man? What more glowing eulogium could be pronounced on this wonderful piece of work, Man? Whence this grandeur, this beauty, which indeed constitute man God's masterpiece, fit "lord of this visible creation?" It is man's soul, "perfect image and likeness of his Maker," that gives man the right to exult over his own greatness. The soul is the "all and all" of man. It is the soul within that lifts our head heavenwards. It is the soul in man that sways this world, the soul that compels the mighty forces of nature to break before him; the soul that plunges into the depths and scales the heights. The soul of man in its turn sets a limit to the mighty billow's power of destruction, controls the mystic forces of the great imponderables, plays, as it were, with the lightning and thunder. This is our greatness, our dignity, our glory, this soul of ours. This soul is our conscience, our reason, our all. Extinguish this "noble spark of heavenly flame,"

enkindled within our breast by the breath of the Most High, and what is left? What but brute force and matter? Who can say the limits of that tyranny of brute force? Who can measure its avidity, its insatiable desire of oppression? What materialist, poet or novelist of this materialistic age, has yet said the degradation of matter? Take away the human soul, and with it must also depart

MORAL GREATNESS.

Say farewell to justice, to liberty, and to love. Destroy the soul, and by the same stroke you destroy the family ties, you disintegrate society, you annihilate civilization—yes, all that is sweetest in poetry, all that is dearest in science; all vanish when the soul is denied. No more science, nor order, nor freedom, nor love, nor grace, nor civilization, nor religion—all these sacred treasures of this our human existence are meaningless and powerless if the soul be denied. They have their being in the human soul. This wonderful gift of soul is imparted to us in an unformed state. It comes to us from the depths of nothingness, rich in germs of might and beauty. It receives the wondrous thoughts, the gentle sentiments, the light and the love that are to be unfolded as the years pass over us; to be used, when the time comes for communication and action, for the delivery of that heaven's message to earth each one of us has had committed to him.