

two conclusions, either that our trustees are not fully utilizing the moneys at their disposal, or that they and their 'friends in council' are too apathetic to ask for more. We suspect the latter inference to be the more plausible. Queen's College has demonstrated amply the truth of the promise 'ask and ye shall receive.' By all means let the church public be made aware of our rich endowment of scholarships. Tell them of it till they tire of hearing it, till they are too weary to try to forget it. Let our claims upon churchmen's generosity be systematically prosecuted. Better dead than sleeping.

In the name of our Founder abandon genteel inaction. Peace at any price may be dearly bought. Should you make a desert, gentlemen of the Corporation, you alone will call it peace.

### A PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH.

The above title will call for various remarks from different readers. One will ask 'What, are they at last sufficiently awake in Trinity to find out their greatest need?' A second will say, 'Why an English Professor? Every man should be his own professor of English;' while one of the largest class will probably exclaim, 'The old subject again. Why agitate it? It has been proved over and over again impossible, though very desirable.' Our reply to the first must be simply to point at the remark of the third. It is an old question, a long and keenly felt need amongst us, that we have no Professor of our own language, nor even a lecturer to encourage us in our literary pursuits, no person to direct us in selecting, none to guide us in reading, none to assist us in understanding our own great authors.

That every person should be his own Professor of English, is only true to a very small extent. One must, we admit, supply the taste for this study, and the labour of following it, if labour it can be called, but that is all. None can do more without help. A journey through the Alps is a very profitable pleasure, but without a guide, is dangerous. So it is with English, quite as much as it is with the Classics—and more, for there the track is definite and well beaten. Which of two gondolas moves through the Grand Canal with greater profit to its burden—this one which carries a traveller whose only guide is his natural taste, or that which bears a disciple of Ruskin through his beloved Venice?

The former, would say, as he looked at S. Mark's Campanile, and passed on, 'What a great ugly tower!' while the latter must pause to examine how perfectly the Renaissance builders reared it, how exactly it fulfilled its object, and how they enobled in it a soulless architecture.

Surely then in our own vast tangled forest of English writers, it would be well to have a good botanist to shew us the beauties of the vegetation. Why should we alone be without any help in this department, when every other institution from the Public School to the Provincial Uni-

versity, has it to a greater or less extent. That the establishment of an English chair has been proved impossible, we doubt very greatly. For what reason will they tell us is it a hopeless undertaking to found such a department? They will answer first that the necessary funds for the support of any new professor could not be raised. Pray, how do they know that? Has any body ever tried to raise ten cents for the College since the noble old founders left our present structure so well supported? We cannot think it hopeless. Far from it. Judging from the marvellous success of Principal Grant, of Queen's College, amongst the Presbyterians, quite an opposite conclusion would seem probable. But to *push*, would be something new in Trinity, and to do anything new, would be quite against her principles.

Another reason alleged against an English chair in our University is this, they think;—that the subject must be made compulsory, or the Professor would not have enough work to keep him employed, our numbers being too small to be divided up into many specialties. This rests entirely upon the assumption that our numbers are ever to remain what they are; which, if true, would not be of great force, since there has always been a literary element alive in Trinity which could supply, we are sure, as many specialists in the English line as in the other branches. But why not make it to a certain extent compulsory? Of six subjects, Divinity, Classics, Mathematics, *English*, Science, and Modern Languages, why not make all compulsory up to the end of the second year of the pass course, as they are now, and any of the first four optional for the Degree examination? This would make the last year's work much what it is now, with the opportunity of a very important study added. We decidedly object, however, to the assumption that we are not to increase in numbers. Our prospects are very hopeful at present. The old policy of keeping as secluded as possible has been abandoned for a more rational one, so that there is every reason to look for a greater number of undergraduates. If without any advertising, without any effort, our building has kept full, with always a number of non-residents, is it not highly probable that we shall increase when we take to a more lively course? Let us hope so, and let us hope, too, that the corporation will give this their attention, and try to find some means of adding so important a chair to our Professorate.

### ALMA MATER SOCIETY.

Trinity is very fortunately situated in being within the city limits. But the residents of late years have not utilized their opportunities, nor the town graduates theirs. They see very little of each other, and, we think, unfortunately for both. *Esprit de corps* in Trinity is praiseworthy as far as it goes. The students can be as one man on occasion. But a true University spirit cannot be inculcated nor expected from men whose acquaintance is limited to