

its thoroughly organized school system, adopts a plan confessedly inferior, because it is cheap.

In strict fulfilment of my duty as President of this College, I have laid before the Minister of Education, and through him before the Government, my reasons for objecting to the arrangements proposed. I have done it in the interests of University College. But I have done it still more in what I believe to be the true interests of women. We shall, indeed, under the present system have lady students; and I most cordially wish them success in their honourable struggle for intellectual training; but I do not believe that co-education will meet the demands of the future. Nay, I feel assured that the President of Michigan University, speaking with all his ample experience of co-education, is right when he frankly says that after all has been done to throw open our halls to them, the majority of young women seeking higher education will do so at colleges specially designed for women. If this be so, then the system now introduced will fail in that incentive to the women of Ontario, as a class, which is needed to beget among us the refining influences enjoyed by a community where highly educated women predominate, and give that intellectual stimulus which I venture to think is still greatly needed among ourselves. The influence of gifted mothers on their sons has long been recognized. The daily companionship of cultured wives and sisters cannot be less influential in lifting such a community as ours above the dead level of mere greed of gain; a community in which it is still far more by conventional phraseology than from any true aptness of the term, that we can separate law and medicine from trade and commerce, as professions specially devoted to letters or science. I have protested in former years

against the mischievous idea that the purpose of an arts course is merely for professional training. No nation can flourish by such a mere trading in knowledge; or hope to reap the rich rewards which it supplies, except as on eleemosynary dole from more favoured lands. The study of the humanities is a significant academic term, not wholly obsolete in our universities, and pointing to higher aims than the mere equipment for professional emoluments. But if the narrowing of higher education to such training for professional life is a mere trafficking with knowledge on the part of men: too many of whom must, however reluctantly, be contented so to equip themselves for the battle of life; how much more undesirable is it that we should have only professionally educated women? In the grand work of education their services have long been welcomed, and there ought assuredly to be no distinction between the educational facilities and acquirements of teachers of either sex. To those ladies, as yet few in number, who seek a fit vocation in the practice of medicine, I wish nothing but success—success in practice, no less than in training, wherever their services are in demand. In so far as any of the so-called learned professions are available for women, let them have every facility for needful preparation. The amenities of the bar, and the courtesies of a cross-examining counsel, have not yet reached such absolute perfection that we laymen need look with apprehension on the possibility of a learned Portia intruding on their debates. But education in its highest sense means something distinct from this. It means education based on the love of knowledge for its own sake; and widely diffused, so that it shall leaven the whole community, and make of us an educated people. For this purpose we stand peculiarly in need of