

UNIVERSITY SERMONS.

The students of all the departments of the University, especially those of the "Hall," derive a great deal of benefit from the Sunday afternoon services.

The institution of this order of things a few years ago was a good one. Because, while it does not detract from the valuable sermons which can be heard in many places of worship in the city, yet it is organized more particularly for the students. As students, we all are pleased to think of those who come from distant places as bringing a message bearing directly on us and our life duties. Not that others refer less, but these more to students and students' life. But this does not imply that the sermons in Convocation Hall must be very "deep" to be duly appreciated. Not at all. It seems to be the common verdict, that the sermon which best touches the chords of every day life, and inspires young men with the true practical value of the "now," is the one which is most valued. Indeed those who have come, seem to have been actuated with this view, for we have had living truth - gospel truth, offered us in ways that have been very beneficial.

AGNOSTIC STUDENTS.

In the last issue of the JOURNAL we are told that more than fifty per cent of the students of the four leading American Universities are said to be avowed agnostics. Now we venture to say this, that if the students of those universities had life presented to them in its *real issues*, that startling remark need never have been written. Agnosticism is miserable diet to live on, and infinitely worse when offered as comfort to a dying man. As a principle of belief or rather non-belief, it utterly perverts the individual character, and destroys the upward progress of society. But we may be asked, can there not be good agnostics? There may be good living men who claim to be agnostics, but they are so in spite of their negative belief, and not because of it. Man must have a belief, and a positive one at that. The "don't know" style of faith never yet accomplished anything in this world and never will. For the coherency and development of life, social and individual, we want something definite to stand upon, and while a few have all along maintained a dull agnosticism, the many have been, and always will be positive in their belief. The former exist only because of the latter. And were the condition of things reversed, then farewell to all that forms the very key stone of the best civilization, viz: a firm belief in a Supreme Being. Practice proves every theory, for "by their fruits ye shall know them." What political or social advance was ever made on the "don't know" system, what science ever made the world more intelligent under the role of agnosticism, and what religion ever offered a single hope or cast one ray of light across the dark shadow of the hereafter through the ministrations of the priests of agnosticism? Not one. Men do not want to beat the air forever, they want facts, and it is a blessed thing that the facts are given to which their faith can cling. A faith which in the great majority of cases is not weakened but strengthened by the higher education of our universities. We say with confidence that Canadian students take higher and safer ground than their cousins across the way, if the quotation above be true. But we question its veracity very much, because the development of all a man's faculties is the aim of a true university. And we cannot bring ourselves to believe that any well organized and thoroughly equipped institution for the advanced education of youth can possibly aim at anything less than that of all the powers bestowed on man. This being the case agnosticism can have no foothold so long as truth is taught in our universities and seats of learning, for truth is one, universal and complete, embracing every faculty

and emotion of mind and soul. Hence such teaching must necessarily include theology, and this not merely as an adjunct or occasional appendage, but as an integral part as well as the consummation of all departments of human knowledge.

COLLEGE WORLD.

UNIVERSITY. - Professor Morrison, M.A., Ph. D., F.R.A.S., of the National University, Washington, is likely to be one of the examiners in mathematics this year. According to the *Varsity* the appointment, it made, will have the approbation of every graduate and undergraduate. It is plainly to be seen that University College is merely a Provincial institution. If it were a Dominion, Sir John would not be so blind to the interests of the country, but would have enforced the N.P. in this case as in all others. He would have, of course, as a matter of principle, put such a tax upon imported university examiners as to have forced them from the field, compelling University College to produce her own, or, as she does not appear to be able to do so, to apply to those of her sisters who can. Canada for the Canadian, and Canadians for Canada and all her institutions.—The *Varsity* is crying out about the present system of working the Library. They appear to have a real grievance. A man there cannot obtain a book of any kind whatever until late in the afternoon and then he is compelled to return it sharply at 10 o'clock the next morning. Not only this, but they have to put up with the injustice, that although this rule is vigorously enforced in the case of the college boys, yet it is just the other way with the Professor and outsiders who may retain a book *ad libitum*. Indeed such is the state of affairs that a student to gain any benefit from a book finds it to his advantage to obtain it indirectly through this privileged class. Again we can recommend to University that she take a leaf from Queen's in this respect. We are able and willing to spare one for her benefit. At present with University the recently established Public Library in Toronto is of more utility to the students than their own.—The *Varsity* says that she notices that nearly every publication gets out a special number at Christmas, so she is going to have one too. If we did *Varsity* would probably say we were "noticeably obsequious," in the polite manner in which she spoke of an editorial in our first number on the wearing of gowns.—The Literary Society, an organization somewhat similar to our Alma Mater Society, still keeps up the similarity by being in a state of anarchy and disruption, caused by intense party spirit.

VICTORIA.—Twenty-two Freshmen.—The *Acta* reports great improvements having been made during the summer in the College buildings and the campus.—A friend has promised to endow a new chair at an early date. He, wise man, apparently is not so sanguine as the Torontonians of the immediate translation of Victoria to Toronto, and its absorption into the so called "First Uni-