



The Duke of Connaught.

Canada's new Governor-General, who opens Parliament in Ottawa to-day.



The Duchess of Connaught.

The Roundabout Club

The Rural Club.

The founding of a Literary Society and Debating Club in a rural district is far from being an unimportant event. It is not a mere excuse for providing entertainment for the winter evenings, although that might of itself be a not altogether unworthy object; it is the founding of an opportunity for inspiration and development which may lead to results as far-reaching as undreamed of. In deed, it would be interesting to know just now many of our foremost thinkers and orators found the impulses which launched them on their way in the little, local rural club.

In the first place, the Literary and Debating Club affords a chance for self-expression, and the wish for self-expression is normal and healthy. As a rule, a young man or woman cannot gratify it in general social life, the mere fear of appearing pedantic or bombastic in a world which appears to taboo everything but the merest chit-chat would prevent that. At the same time, it is well enough

known that that same social world will sit delightedly for an hour at a stretch, listening to all sorts of original ideas and evidences of learning, and so the bashful youth may read his little paper or speak his little speech with confidence.

Again, the getting up of a paper or speech is of inestimable value in developing the mental powers of the student himself. To write the simplest essay demands a marshalling of ideas, a certain amount of study as to how clearness, force, and perhaps even beauty of diction, may be obtained. Thought itself is sharpened, for the thought out of one phase of a subject invariably suggests others. Then, debate there is, perhaps, no exercise in the world equal to it for development of the power of thinking, the ready response, and courage.

So, the little rural club; where every student obtains permission to express his ideas, to use the power of his own mind. Don't allow it to be at first, the mere amusement of every one, but let it be a place where every one can feel the strength and confidence of all coming to the same time and place, in the constant work, the nourishment, who knows? of

a future Member of Parliament in your meetings, preparing him for the day when, in the halls of legislation, his eloquence may tell nobly in the cause of justice and right. It is a shame to our rural communities that so few farmers are qualified, by mere lack of practice in public speaking, from taking their place in the seats of Commons or Cabinet. Yet the fault is their own; no one else is to blame. Farmers make up the great majority of the population of Canada. How, then, can their interests be promoted and safeguarded as they should be, unless they have men on the spot, in the chambers in which the laws for the nation are made?

See to it that the Rural Club does its duty in this respect of training. Let it not be given over to frivolity. Let its import be ever serious, however often the little froth of mere amusement may bubble up at the rim. Never forget that it may be a strong factor in elevating the entire standard of thought and culture for the community (and no community, whether in city or country, can safely afford to stand still), nor that its influence may reach, in ever-widening circle, far beyond the limit which your wildest dreams may hope for.

Some Essays from Last Year's Literary Society.

The following essays, held over, for space considerations, from last year's Literary Society contributions, are again apropos. We trust that the writers of them will once more be active members during our session for 1911-12.

The Ideal Rural Club.

Editor "Roundabout Club":

The first requisite for a Rural Club is enthusiasm. There is no use trying to keep a Club going as it should go, unless you are enthusiastic.

It is rather difficult to leave a nice warm fire on a cold, stormy evening and drive two or three miles to a hall or room where gloom reigns and an indifferent fire burns in an old box stove. Now, right here, I would say don't have a room like that. Get your wives and daughters to fix up the hall, and form a committee to see that everything is kept clean and cosy-looking. Have a number of committees—one for entertaining, and one for getting new members.

Every once in a while have a concert or literary evening. Let the