

## A QUEEN'S PROFESSOR IN TORONTO.

From "Toronto Saturday Night."

Last week Toronto was visited by a mind that jostled somewhat against local minds and pleased or offended them, but, in either event, commanded their attention and made an impression. This visiting intellect came from Kingston in the person of Prof. Shortt of Queen's University, who, on the invitation of the President of the Canadian Club, Mr. John A. Cooper, visited Toronto to read a paper on Friday evening last in St. George's Hall, and remained to give an address at the dinner on Saturday evening at Webb's, of the Queen's University Association. Prof. Shortt is a Canadian, about six feet in height, well built, with a high rounded forehead, bald-head and an earnest face. He attempts no rhetoric and makes little use of notes. He speaks straightforwardly and clearly and is very simple, convincing and logical. He is the kind of a man who accepts no text-books, but goes after original documents, and to whom truth is not truth until he has tested it. He belongs to a class that is not yet extinct, although in every occupation and walk of life the rewards of thoroughness are dwindling and smartness wins the laurels that should go to solid worth.

This young man said some things that his hearers dare not forget. On Friday night he said that over one hundred and fifty years ago, during the French *regime*, Canada was always referred to as "a country of great undeveloped resources, and it is referred to in the same way to this day." That is a home-trust. It is certainly about time, that this country should be conspicuous for something better than its lack of development. "The greatest undeveloped resource of Canada, is the Canadian," said Prof. Shortt. Is the Canadian not raw material? Is it not time that he is (or has been) a sort of crude product, like the very nickel matte or saw-logs, of which we have so much ready, on the one hand to be shipped to the neighboring Republic for development, or to be sent across seas to carry a pike in the wars of the northern world? Canadians have been exported in great numbers for one of these uses, and have occupied their minds very largely with expectations of the other.

Colonies were originally regarded as absolute possessions, to be enjoyed solely by the powers that owned them. All other nations being excluded from their trade. Prof. Shortt pointed this out on Saturday evening and added, "Piracy and war were the only ways in which nations could then get at the treasures of each other." Here we have much in a nutshell. War no longer serves, but defeats, the purpose of the nations in aiming each, at the enjoyment of what the other possesses.

He pointed out that warships can no longer keep the sea for years, but must hug the coaling stations. Great Britain's free ports became coaling stations for the world, and she showed supreme wisdom in selling coal freely to foreigners, even to possible enemies, for thereby they scarcely discovered their dependence on her. Spain and the United States could not get within arms length of each other for lack of coal. The nations of to-day are bound together by ties of trade. Financial interests form a network of the strongest kind, and he would rather have such relations as a preventive of war,

than a thousand treaties of peace and amity, or arbitration, which after all were only paper. Modern nations cannot go to war without an immense borrowing of money, and the men they would go to for the money were not the country editors and the politicians, who were raising the racket for war.

Prof. Shortt said that he would venture on prophecy and say, that the Russians are the coming nation of the future, in ever so many senses. They have great undeveloped strength. Britain is already investing in the mills of old Russia, and is really bound to gain from the expansion of Russian trade. It was not Britain's interest to dam Russia up, but to induce her to put feelers out and give hostages to the rest of the world. Britain would like to see Russia with her hands full, and her hands would be full when she had the Chinaman to deal with.

The visit of Prof. Shortt is important. It suggests the idea that possibly there are in our universities other men whose minds are alive, with opinions on the affairs of the work-a-day world, but who seldom address public gatherings. In fact there is room for a horrible fear that the wrong men get interested while the right men pass unknown along the streets and speak, unreported, to students who give them too little heed, while the great blundering, passionate, misinformed masses are beyond earshot. We have men in the Toronto University and in affiliated and other institutions, who possess right judgment and a large classified mass of knowledge, yet in how far do they influence the intellectual life of Toronto? These are not the men who have the public ear. They do not seek to be heard. They are not induced to speak. Even if we do not agree with the deductions that a learned student may draw from his accumulated facts, we can not fail to acknowledge that the public would be benefitted by contact with him.

*The British Medical Journal*, the organ of the British Medical Association, begins a careful and appreciative review of Dr. Garrett's recently published volume as follows: "Dr. Garrett teaches his subject well, and if general medicine be taught as satisfactorily in Canada the public in the Dominion are fortunate." The *Journal* congratulates Dr. Garrett on having broken ground so successfully. ("Text-book of Medical and Surgical Gynæcology for the use of Students and Practitioners," by Dr. Garrett.)

## PERSONALS.

We are pleased to hear that "Bob" Hunter is coming around all right after a severe attack of pneumonia. He has gone home to recuperate before entering upon his charge at Baltimore and Cold Springs. We hope that he will be well enough to endure the ordeal of induction, which is set for the 19th of this month.

It is a matter of regret to every one in the University that W. R. Tandy has been seriously ill for some weeks past. This is especially to be regretted on his own account, as he will be unable to write on his examinations this spring. We trust that the beginning of another session will find him again in our midst prepared for a good year's work.