

the last summer in Germany stated on his return, the very air of that country breathes Science. The homely old proverb about the carcass and the ravens is only too true, and, as Matthew Arnold says, we must not only have a favorable opportunity, but the *Zeit-Geist*.

DR. WILSON is now giving a series of readings from the works of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, accompanying each with short explanatory remarks. We have been given to understand that the President has also volunteered to give an address on Browning, before the students. We trust that this is but the inauguration of a course of addresses or lectures on literary and other topics. The adoption of such a scheme as we have advocated from time to time in these columns would mark the beginning of a new era in the intellectual life of University College. That it would meet with approval and support cannot be doubted. That there are many of our Professors capable of entertaining and instructing an audience, and that there is a large and appreciative constituency to which they would appeal, are equally incontrovertible facts. In past years special lectures have been delivered to mechanics and artisans by members of the Natural Science Professoriate. Last year Professor Hutton lectured more than once before the Chautauqua Circle of this city. A course of lectures should be given during the College year by our Professors and others; they should be open to every one; and if practicable, should be free. What we desire most is that University College may become the centre of intellectual activity for the community. This is its legitimate province, and this certainly should be its aim.

The inauguration of Monday Popular Concerts in this city calls for more than a passing notice. In a city like Toronto, which supports so many musical societies, and in which is centred so much of the culture and refinement of this Province, a grand field is offered for an enterprise of this kind. That the movement has succeeded so well is due to the high character of the works performed and the rare excellence and true musicianly skill which has marked their performance. It also gives the music-loving citizens of Toronto an opportunity of hearing the best foreign *artistes* and *virtuosos* at very moderate prices. The inauguration of this series of concerts was a courageous step, which we trust will be liberally supported and heartily encouraged. The movement has been most successful in England, and there is no reason why it should not be so here. There is no more elevating and refining influence than that of good music. The more that really good music is popularized, and the more the people are educated up to a due appreciation of its value as an educational auxiliary, the more wide-spread will be the general diffusion of culture. The third concert of the series takes place on Monday evening next. Miss Emma Thursby will be the solo vocalist. The concerted pieces will be: Quartette in D minor, (*Mozart*); Andante, op. 2, (*Tschaiikowsky*); Scherzo, (*Cherubini*); and a Trio in D minor, (*Reissiger*). We hope that large numbers of students will take advantage of these opportunities of hearing really good music. Its influence upon them cannot but be most beneficial. They should regard it as part of their education.

THE scholarship question has got into the newspapers. It is, to say the least, a remarkable coincidence that the *Globe* and the *Mail*, usually so divergent in their opinions, should come out the same day with editorial articles on this topic, following the same line of argument, making the same illustrations and indeed, using identically the same language in one or two cases. We agree with the *Mail* that our provincial college is much in need of private benefactions and that Canadians have not been so liberal in this regard as Americans. But we must remind our contemporary, that, of late years, and in the more progressive colleges, these benefactions have not been dissipated in scholarships, as the *Mail* seems to imply, but rather have been applied to the endowment of

chairs or the supply of books and apparatus or the founding of halls. The *Globe* endeavors to awaken public sympathy in Dr. Wilson's scheme, by the following most extraordinary plea.

"It has to be borne in remembrance that to many of our young men, the sons of farmers, of artisans, or others in humble life, the giving up of the years from 16 or 17 to 20 or 21, to unproductive study is itself a demand involving very large sacrifice."

What does it mean? Is it that the young man suffers a loss during these four years which private individuals or the state should make up for him? How utterly and unspeakably absurd it is to speak in this connection of "giving up" and "unproductive study" and "large sacrifice." Is not the young man to be inestimably benefited by the education itself? When the state provides this benefit for him free, must it also coax him to come and take it, and then coddle him into good humor when he does come? We have heard of paternal government, but surely this would be grand-paternal.

MR. PURSLOW, of Port Hope, had an able letter in the *Mail* the other day in reference to the recent appropriation of money for matriculation scholarships. He enquires how the Senate can hold out one hand to the Legislature for money on the ground of poverty, while it is "throwing away" with the other hand funds that it already has. The appropriation he characterises as "an act of downright folly," and in equally vigorous and unassailable language he continues:—

"Who has asked for these additional scholarships? The High School Masters' section of the Ontario Teachers' Association has not; for as far as an opinion of that body has been expressed it is adverse to the principle; and surely these masters know, better than the Senate does, the needs of High School pupils, whom the scholarships are designed to affect. What is wanted is not more scholarships, but more teaching. Is it not a fact that the staff of University College is wretchedly inadequate in point of numbers to the work which ought to be done by it? Is it not a fact that alumni of the University, because they can't get within her walls the teaching they need, go to Johns-Hopkins and other foreign universities for post-graduate courses? And yet in spite of these facts, the Senate, unasked and against the wishes of the High School representative, decided to increase the amount given away in scholarships of doubtful utility, and voted down so common-sense an amendment as that moved by Mr. Houston and seconded by Mr. Embree. These gentlemen (the former at one time a High School master, and now an esteemed member of the High School section; the latter at present a High School master, and the representative of that body in the Senate) urged the following amendment:—That no appropriation be made for such scholarships until the additions declared by the Senate to be necessary for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of University College be made to its present staff.

"It is hard to believe your report, sir, that an amendment so in keeping with common sense and business principles 'was lost and the statute carried.' Certain it is, that if the Senate does not retrace its steps in this matter, it ought not to complain if the M.P.P.'s make a note of this statute."

## Leading Articles.

### MEDALS.

MR. KING'S motion for the restoration of medals is now before the Senate. It is to be hoped that this body will not retreat from its present advanced position on this question.

The time was, many years since, when these gewgaws were awarded with a liberal hand in Toronto University. They were often given without the slightest provocation, and a first-class honour man could not possibly escape one. The enemies of Toronto University used to say that there were more medals and scholarships than students in the institution. In those days the Universi-