

sufficient evidence that among the editors and publishers of their own country such writing does not meet with the kindly recognition to which its merits entitle it. What the struggling young literary spirit of our country most needs, then, is a medium by which it may find adequate expression. Is there no one with hope enough in the future of our country and with aims far enough above the common level to establish and carry on such a patriotic enterprise?

## Editorial and Contributed.

### UNIVERSITY REVENUES.

THE expediency of the maintenance of universities from the public funds, rests upon the supposition that these institutions minister in some definite way to the public advantage. The fact that the benefits arising from their existence are not acknowledged universally does not justify a government in withholding support from them. Those demagogues who declaim against the expenditure of public money on universities, are either insincere in their utterances, or else their objections spring from ignorance of the processes by which the public are affected by this agency, and from inability to appreciate the often delicate but no less beneficial results of a public university system. In either case they are incapable of forming a correct judgment of the matter, and a wise government will ignore any objections from such a source. Demagogues may say that, whatever benefits students may themselves receive, the great body of those who are taxed to pay for their education are none the better off for the expenditure. But the slightest reflection shows that the results of higher education, as of education at all stages, are of such a nature that they cannot be retained or monopolized by individuals, but will ultimately diffuse themselves over the entire society.

Moreover, the very continuance of the existence of a political society, depending as it does frequently upon the possession of superior intelligence by many of its members, will best be secured by some extensive public system of higher education, to the advantages of which all may have equal access, and by which means alone the greatest intellects of the nation, which often appear among the classes too poor to educate themselves, may be discovered and developed.

Universities have often been the means of national regeneration when all other political and social agencies had apparently exhausted themselves. The unification and extraordinary development of the new German empire has been traced by many directly to the influence of its universities. At the present moment the despotic government of Russia shows its fear of the intelligent, patriotic spirit which is developed in her universities, by drafting hundreds of students into penal regiments for military service in remote quarters of the empire. Whatever we may think of the chances of the ultimate success of the Russian student nationalist movement, all will agree as to the justice of their cause. In our own hemisphere a notable instance of the direct influence of universities upon the public welfare is the achievement of the independence of Brazil. The agitation which finally resulted in the overthrow of Portuguese domination in that country began in a small coterie of university students.

But after the general expediency of granting liberal support to universities has been allowed, the question still remains as to the form in which the support shall be given. Hitherto the custom has been the bestowal of permanent public endowments. It has been urged against this custom, and with some show of reason, that fixed endowments are injurious to the cause of liberal education on account of the conservative and obstructive spirit thereby induced in the management of these institutions. But in the United States and Canada this danger is not so much to be feared as in Europe, owing in part to the publicity which is given to all university matters through the medium of the college press, and to the fearless criticism of the faculty and the university management from the same quarter. The regard for ancient custom and the superstitious reverence for precedent which exercise so pernicious an influence upon the expenditure of university revenues in Europe, have neither place nor power

in America, and the tendency of university activities here will effectively prevent their development.

Moreover, the financial independence of a university does much to preserve intellectual individuality throughout a nation. A system of liberal education, dependent for its support upon the annual vote of a popular government would itself tend to become popular, and the national modes of education would tend to conform throughout to a single type, and to fluctuate in accordance with popular caprice—results undoubtedly prejudicial to the highest intellectual culture. It is further to be feared that there would be little security for the continuance of a university system maintained in this way under the exigencies to which party governments sometimes find themselves reduced, at least so long as the starving of universities continues to be in any degree a popular measure.

It is in the youth of a nation that its universities most urgently need direct financial aid from the government. As the wealth of the society increases there will usually be found among its members those who are patriotic and liberal enough to contribute their surplus to these institutions, although it is to be regretted that our own university has not been fortunate in this particular. It is still wise to provide against all possible deficiencies of revenue in the future by the grant of large endowments of land in new sections, which, though valueless now, would in time become the source of a very comfortable revenue. This plan is widely followed in the western states of the American union, and we know of no better use which could be made of a few thousand acres of the once disputed territory of Ontario than that it should be granted to the Provincial University.

Meanwhile, we are sadly in need of ready money, and it is a pitiable fact that, in the conflict of party and the advancement of innumerable private interests, our great need has been so far in this session entirely lost sight of in the legislature. We could wish most ardently for the presence in the legislature of a graduate earnest enough and determined enough to bring this question before the House, and keep it there until some definite answer would be given; and that this answer would be favorable there seems little room to doubt.

TO M—

DEAR other self, whose love is more to me  
Than to a fevered soul are sudden gleams,  
In desert wastes, of swiftly-running streams;  
In this drear land my spirit faints for thee;  
Far off across the barren miles I see  
Thy radiant face; its tender yearning seems  
A moon-lit river that, within my dreams,  
Flows on and on into eternity.  
My glad soul hastens to the river side,  
And launches forth. O, joy beyond compare!  
To feel the heavenly winds that, blowing wide,  
Fill the white sail with an ethereal air,  
To see within the tremulous, deep tide  
That all the stars of God are mirrored there!

St. Paul, Minn.

A. E. W.

### CLERGYMEN AND SCIENCE.

THE gigantic strides which modern science has made during the last twenty years; the new light which discovery and experiment have thrown upon almost every subject; the apparent disregard displayed by men of science for the ordinarily received doctrines and facts of revelation; and the extraordinary interest awakened in behalf of popular science, have given occasion for a strong counter current on behalf of theology and its dogmatic assertions. Nor is this to be altogether wondered at. The scientist complains of bigotry and blindness, and the theologian of laxity and charlatanism.

Attacks and replies, rejoinders and surrejoinders, charges and vindications, appear from time to time on either side, many of which display real knowledge, keen critical and analytical power and courteous consideration; while a vast proportion, it is to be regretted, are wanting in many of these most necessary and invaluable characteristics.

The difficulty between the scientist and the theologian is thus admirably stated by Professor Drummond, to whose work, "The Natural