

be accomplished solely by his personality. If the child can once be interested, it is quite possible for the true teacher to sow seeds which will ripen into the motive of Christ Himself, who came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to seek and save the lost. From another point of view we see the iniquity of emphasizing examinations. Would Christ's disciples ever have become saints if their motive had never risen above bread or fame?

Motives then like ideals are ever changing with reference to the individual. Under normal treatment they should become more and more perfect as in Christ Jesus.

The itinerant practices of Christ and His disciples made ample provision for physical development.

How wide is the gulf between the artistic, Christ-like teacher and the mechanical teacher! How different the results and the rewards! Can we be too anxious about motives and ideals? Surely the true teacher has opportunities which the angels in heaven might well covet!

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### *Poet Browning.*

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PROFESSOR ALEXANDER'S FIRST FOUR LECTURES  
AT THE NORMAL COLLEGE.

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A large number assembled at the Normal College on Saturday afternoon Feb. 1st, to hear the first of a series of eight lectures on Browning and his poetry. The professor was introduced to the audience in a few well chosen words by Mr. Macpherson, of the Collegiate staff.

Prof. Alexander, in rising, said that some people agreed with Carlyle, who stated that in a short time books would entirely supersede and supplant

professors. It was natural that an author like Carlyle should hold such views. Books had their place, but the living voice, the living teacher could never be dispensed with, especially in the realm of literature. An intimate introduction to any great artist could never be attained by mere books, biographies or notes. The object of the speaker was to bring each member of his audience into intimate contact with Browning. The characteristics of Browning may be found in books, but intimate intercourse with the artist could not be thus obtained.

Poetry was primarily song, the expression of feeling, pure and simple. The shouts of the savage would be an example. Then poetry was sung and recited, and later printed, for the convenience of the people.

The speaker referred to several peculiarities which were characteristic of Browning. (1) It was necessary for the reader to have the printed page before him and to read Browning's poetry aloud. This indicates that Browning trusts much to the printed page. In other poetry the ear, as a rule, will grasp the meaning with sufficient clearness. (2) Browning is up-to-date, or extremely modern. This is not necessarily either a good or a bad feature of the poet. Browning was original and an inventor. He followed novel paths, new methods, new subjects and invented much. Just because he followed his own methods and cuts himself so clear of the past, he is hard to understand and to appreciate. The passion for art and literature is developed in the cultured by study of the past. An original writer like Browning is likely to lack appreciation from those (the cultured) who should love him most. The cultured are often too conservative to be the best judges of an original poet.

It is necessary to remember that Browning is, as a rule, hard to follow. The fact that Browning is so original makes it difficult for him to find an