

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR COLLEGES.

It is a subject far too little thought of by the boys of our Grammar School whether or not they can obtain any benefits from a University education. Boys say "I don't want to be a doctor; I don't want to be a minister or lawyer; why should I go to college?" Now boys, taking a college course does not in any way necessitate an entrance by you into the crowded professional ranks. Not at all. The education obtained at a good University is not merely summed up in the quota of classics, mathematics, physics, and other branches of the curriculum which the student carries off in his brain. It is far more.

To the man who really lives, his whole life is an education. Acting on this basis it is plain that the foundations of our education should be sound for the sake of the stability of the superstructure. Now no one will deny that it is in our youth that our minds are most open to influence for good or for evil; it is then that tastes are formed and habits fixed. Oh, how careful we should be that our young people are surrounded by good influences! And yet it is necessary that our young men should know the evils of the world. It is necessary that they come in contact with those evil opinions which, set forth in and garnished by the most ingenious arguments, tend, more insidiously than the most subtle poisons work the destruction of the physical frame, to sap the moral stamina and undermine the physical powers of their victim.

Now the question naturally arises, how are we to combat with this evil which meets us on every hand and in every garb? I am only repeating, in a condensed form, the opinions of all great writers on this subject when I say that the ability to think for himself is the best safeguard for any man against these evils. In a short article like the present I can state but a few of the arguments in favor of a University education, but yet I conceive that one of the chief points in favor of colleges is, that they teach a man to think for himself.

Again, it is a rare thing to find a man who has received a good liberal education and is still narrow-minded. The views are broadened, the sympathies extended, and a wider range of thought opened up to the mind, which is brought in almost daily contact with such intellects as *should* characterize the professors of our Universities.

Providing on this basis we should, in choosing the university which we would attend, consider the reputation of the professors of the different institutions for higher education. Do articles from their pens appear in our leading periodicals or newspapers? Are we wont to hear them from the public platforms? Have they won high honors in the world's great institutions of learning? These are among the questions we naturally ask concerning the lectures in our colleges.

Perhaps it would not be out of the way for me to, at this point, call attention to the colleges open to the ordinary New Brunswicker. Our Maritime Provinces are well supplied with colleges. There are in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick no less than five institutions conferring degrees in arts. We have in New Brunswick first our own Provincial University, which has five lecturers and had last year forty-four students, all in arts, and but one of them a partial student. Mount Allison College, Sackville, with its five lecturers, had last session a total of fifty-six students, of whom thirty-nine, excluding those in the Theological and Philosophy departments, being arts students. Of this thirty-nine but eighteen were undergraduates. In Nova Scotia we have Dalhousie College and University, which has nineteen lecturers, and last year had one hundred and forty students, of whom over one hundred were arts students. The remainder of the one hundred and forty were made up of Science students and those of the medical classes. Of the arts students fifty-nine were undergraduates. I have been unable to ascertain how many students attended Acadia College last year, but I know it has seven lecturers. There is also King's College at Windsor.

There is every reason to suppose that, in the arts faculties, these colleges compare favorably with the institutions of a similar nature in the other provinces of our Dominion. This

is easily seen when we consider the winners of the Gilchrist scholarships during the past decade. Eighty per cent of them were students in the Maritime Provinces. This fact in itself would not necessarily be any proof of scholarship, were it not for the high positions which the Gilchrist men have always taken.

If I remember rightly the University of New Brunswick sent a Gilchrist man to England who occupied the eighth highest position among the hundreds who, from all parts of the Anglo-Saxon world, assayed to matriculate into the University of London. Again a graduate of Mount Allison College, who took the Gilchrist, won the proud distinction of standing first of the list of the University of London's matriculants of the year 1882; and he was closely followed by an *under-graduate* of Dalhousie University who occupied second or third place among the matriculants. Acadia has sent from her halls a Gilchrist winner who stood first in both his B. A. and M. A. examinations. We have not as yet heard the results of this year's examination for the Gilchrist; but I dare prophesy from what I know of the competitors that this year some student from the Maritime Provinces will win laurels for himself and bring honor to his Alma Mater.

With these facts before us is there any provincial prepared to condemn the education imparted in our colleges? and who would prefer to take his arts course in one of the numerous American colleges of merely local fame? If there is I pity his simplicity (or want of brains) and am restrained from arguing with him by the words of Solomon "answer not a fool."

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL DEBATING SOCIETY.

To the Editors of the WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE:

The affairs of this Society, though flourishing in a financial point of view, are not so however as regards the interest taken by the members. The majority appear to attend its meetings for the purpose of hearing what the minority have to say. The result is that there are very few debates, and even when a good debate is proposed it has to be dropped for want of members who will take an active interest in it. A debating society in connection with a Grammar School is an excellent thing, when properly conducted. But when those attending do not take an active share in its affairs, allowing them to take their own course, it is apt to become an evil. In the present instance this fact has been demonstrated several times. Upon one occasion a pail of water was upset, and the contents going through the floor came trickling down upon the bald head of a musician beneath, who was justly indignant. Now if the members had been engaged listening to a debate this would not have occurred. Each member should endeavor to make the meetings as interesting as possible by taking part in the debates, by giving entertainment, or in any other way. If each one would do this there would be a much larger attendance every Friday evening. Many who belong and do not attend, when asked the reason say that the Society is not worth attending. When first started the Society had full meetings, the members all spoke, and everybody went away feeling that they had spent their evening profitably, but now, I am sorry to say, it is not so. I hope that after the holidays things will be in a better state and the meetings be rendered more enjoyable than they have been heretofore.

Thanking you for your space,
I remain yours, etc.,

A MEMBER.

To the Editors of the WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE.

DEAR SIRS—I am very sorry to see that Prince William street, one of our most public thoroughfares, is in such shockingly poor condition. Why it is simply misery to drive along there. I think that after the Corporation are through with King street they might attend to Prince William street. Thanking you for your space,

I remain yours sincerely,

A SUFFERER.