

time and in the same place with men, but they have their separate retiring rooms, and before next session the accommodation provided for them will be amply sufficient. The time-honored practice of lecturing to mixed classes in our Normal Schools implies co-education to the same extent and of the same kind as is now practised in the Provincial University and College. As more women than men go to the Normal School I see no ground for supposing that women will long continue to keep away from University College on account of the presence of men.

I have no wish to do any injustice to McGill College, but the present arrangement of courses in that institution contemplates co-education in the above sense. True, this is only for women taking elective honor courses, but you must remember that the chief objections to co-education are social and moral, and I have yet to learn that the women who take a pass course are not as well able to take care of themselves in mixed company as the women who take honor work. In no proper sense of the expression, "a well-equipped Ladies' College," is there one to be found at McGill.

The curriculum of Toronto University and College is an exceedingly flexible one, and the system of tuition is equally so. The regular undergraduate can exercise important options which enable him to make his course narrower and more thorough as he goes on, and he is allowed to take his classes in the College to suit the course he selects. Moreover, any one who chooses to pay for partial courses in University College can attend the lectures in those courses whether he has passed an entrance examination or not. And lastly, the University has established a system of special examinations under which a student may be examined in groups of subjects and get a certificate according to his standing in one or more of these groups whether he has matriculated or not.

That such an arrangement as I have described is equivalent to a special college your own illustration will show. A student who wishes to take a special course in English can pay for the lectures in that course in the college and be examined in an English group in the University. The only drawback is the want of teachers in the college, and I humbly submit that public money would be better spent in adding to University College staff than in establishing either "special colleges" for students of both sexes, or another University College for women alone. By the time we have one well-equipped institution of learning which is open to both sexes we may see our way clear to establishing another for those women who decline to avail themselves of the present facilities for obtaining a university training. While I want to see women fairly treated I do not want to see them get more than their share of what is too little for all who are dependent on it. Nor, to do the women justice, are there any signs that they want anything more than equal rights with men in the Provincial institution, except to see it made more efficient.

WM. HOUSTON.

Toronto, April 11, 1885.

### Miscellaneous.

#### PEN PICTURE OF BISMARCK.

He is no elegant orator, rather the contrary, but he can lead a debate like no one else. Only a few days ago he spoke seven times in one afternoon, each time with more energy and spirit, proving that his health is indeed restored. Several members had already spoken and the house was still empty, when suddenly members filed in from all the doors, and the benches began to fill. A rumor had been circulated that Bismarck would appear, and shortly afterward a narrow door near the president's chair opened, and a tall figure entered. Suddenly soft bells are heard in all parts of the house. The electric bells in the reading room, the committee room, and in the journalists' rooms are sounded to announce the arrival of the chancellor, who has shown that he will speak presently, for with one of his pencils, more than a foot long, he has noted down something on the loose quarto sheets before him with letters not less than an inch deep, and this is a safe sign that he intends speaking.

The president bows to him, and Prince Bismarck rises to "take the word." He is certainly more than six feet high; over his powerful chest and broad shoulders rises a strangely-rounded, well-shaped head of enormous dimensions, and with no hair upon it, so that it looks like a dome of polished ivory. Thick, white brows hang over his eyes like two icicles. These brows give his face a dark and frowning expression, and the look which glimmers in his eyes is cold and somewhat cruel—at least in parliament. His mustache is also thick and gray and conceals the mouth entirely. The whole face is covered with folds and wrinkles, broad rings surround his eyes, and even his temples are covered with small wrinkles.

When he begins to speak the color of his face changes from pale to red, and gradually assumes a light bronze shade which gives his powerful skull the appearance of polished metal. It is a surprise to hear Bismarck speak for the first time. The soft, almost weak, voice is out of all proportion with his gigantic frame. It sometimes becomes so soft that we fear it will die out altogether, and when he has spoken for a while it grows hoarse. The chancellor sometimes speaks very fast, sometimes very slowly, but never in a loud tone. He has no pathos whatever. Some of his most remarkable words, which in print look as if they had been spoken with full force, as if they must have had the effect of a sudden thunderbolt on the audience, are in reality emitted in an ordinary tone of well-bred conversation.

Personal attacks upon his enemies are spoken by Bismarck with ironical politeness, and in such an obliging tone as if they concealed the kindest sentiments. But if his anger cannot be heard, it can be seen; his face gradually grows red, and the veins on his neck swell in an alarming manner. When angry he usually grasps the collar of his uniform, and seems to catch for breath. His brows are lowered still more, so that his eyes are almost invisible. His voice grows a shade louder, and has a slight metallic ring in it. The sentences drop from his lips in rapid succession. He throws back his head, and gives his face a hard, stony expression.

But it is difficult to discern when his anger is real and when it is artificial. The chancellor has been seen trembling with rage, and more like the elements let loose than anything else. Once when he thought that the word "Fie!" had been said by one of the opposition party, he had one of his attacks, which would have silenced the house had everyone been speaking at once. With trembling nostrils, with his teeth firmly set, with eyes that emitted fire, and clenched hands, he jumped from his place to the side where the word had sounded. If apologies and explanations had not been offered, who knows how this scene might have ended?

But except upon such rare occasions Bismarck the orator is always a well-bred man. He does not bawl nor shout any part of his speeches, but while giving them their full share of pointed sarcasm he always maintains the form of a political conversation between gentlemen. He has a method of his own for waging war with his opponents. He regards his opponent's speech as a ball of wool, the last sentence spoken being the end which he takes in hand first, and with which he begins to unwind the whole speech as he would unwind the ball of wool. But it is easy to see that while his tongue is speaking his spirit is far in advance of it. He hesitates in his speech, then suddenly recalls himself and puts forth a number of clear thoughts, which it is easy to see occurred to him at the moment.

One of the great charms of Prince Bismarck's speeches is that he never follows any given form or method, but that all he says is inspired at the moment. He commands humor and sarcasm to a high degree, and often at a time when they are least expected, so that even his bitterest enemies are not rarely moved to laughter by his words.—*London Daily News*.