

reaches the western boundary of the continent and floats out over the bosom of the sunny Pacific.

Modern invention, discovery, and research are shedding their benign rays on this advancing country. Steam and electricity are uniting it with distant lands. While we rejoice at seeing its prosperity we should not be mere idle spectators. Each of us should do our duty and assist in the grand work of placing Canada's name first in the list of nations. The nature of the claim which is to-day being urged upon us it will not be out of place to consider in brief.

1. First then the claim is made for *Education*. The giant advances of the present age make this demand imperative. Learning or ignorance means to the man to-day happiness or misery, to the nation prosperity or downfall. Our lawyers, judges and politicians must be educated, or their work in most instances will be useless. The common-schools, high-schools, academies, and colleges of our land are facilitating the acquirement of knowledge, and he who neglects to avail himself of these privileges injures himself beyond measure and abuses his rights as a citizen. The appeal comes from the ranks of every profession and vocation for men of learning. They are the ones whose voices are listened to, whose suggestions are carried out. In the progress from barbarism to civilization those countries enjoying the most extended educational facilities, with state affairs controlled by men of power, and knowledge is power, have first attained to that just eminence for which they toiled. How is it with Canada? Many of her brightest lights to-day are unpolished diamonds, men of intellect, but destitute of that degree of mental developement which only careful training in youth can alone bring about. Genius is powerful, but to be most potent for good, it must be supplemented, furthered, assisted by culture. Men possessed of this culture are wanted in our Parliament to enact those measures which are wisest, which are best for the country at large. In view of this the study of political subjects, the discussion of political questions should form an important element in our colleges and preparatory schools, that our representatives may be more familiar from early youth with politics, and that all our citizens may be to a large extent acquainted therewith. However this may be, opportunities for the acquirement of high mental culture are exceedingly numerous. Canada is looking with hopeful eyes upon the rising generation. Of us she expects great things. Let us then advance to the scene of action fully equipped for the duties which the future has in store for us, armed with that faithful and powerful weapon, Education.

2. The age calls for *Stability of Character*. Men are needed who combine in themselves prudence, energy, and zeal, who refuse to be swayed by sectional feelings and party prejudices, who will stand by their convictions of duty, nor sacrifice conscience to convenience. Men of such a stamp, if they do but enter the contest, speedily reach the positions of which they are worthy. May their numbers be increased as the years are gathered in, may all our learned professions be filled with them, may our country with such men as the acknowledged leaders in education and politics be feared and honoured universally. May we be such men.

3. The age demands *Patriotism*. The call is for men who have their country's interests near their hearts; who, disdaining selfish motives, are ever striving to secure the peoples' good. Before Canada can prosper as she ought, our politicians must bury all thoughts of self and live for higher, nobler ends than the pursuit of wealth or fame. He who spends a lifetime in amassing riches merely for his own benefit not only harms himself but his fellow-beings also, whereas he who obtains through personal exertion the enactment of some wise law confers a priceless boon on his own and future generations.

Just here arises a question of prime importance, one which has tested the loyalty of many a statesman, and drawn the bold line of distinction between the true and false of heart. Though properly coming under the last branch of our subject it may be mentioned here to illustrate the importance of cultivating a patriotic spirit. It is in regard to supporting a favorite measure after conscience has declared against the advisability thereof. The statesman sees that its enactment will do harm rather than good, and two alternatives present themselves. Either his reputation must be endangered, or the interests of his native land must suffer. The misguided politician, though convinced by the language of his opponents that his own views are erroneous, has too often yielded to selfish promptings, and refused to acknowledge his error. The patriotic spirit is required not only in our Parliamentary Halls, but throughout our whole Dominion, to elevate and ennoble every walk of life. Above all our youth must be imbued with it, that they may rule with wisdom and equity the Canada of the future.

In view of the considerations herein presented, we as young men, expecting ere long to make our voices heard at the bar, from the pulpit, in the Halls of Legislature, should do all in our power to obtain that solid ground-work which education affords, should strengthen our moral character by every possible means, and should foster and encourage that love of Canada, that zeal for Canada's interests, which Deity has wisely placed in every true Canadian's bosom.

ACADIE.

EXCHANGES.

THE *Argosy* lies on our table. This paper is indebted to the printer for what little merit it possesses; beyond its mechanical appearance it is a burlesque on college journalism. Like the ordinary dude it attempts to make outside show supply the place of real merit. When a paper has nothing to recommend it but its "get up" it ceases to have any valid claim for continued existence. The exchange man of the *Argosy* in a weak attempt to reply to our criticism in the January ATHENÆUM wanders with dreary diffuseness through two columns of space like an evil spirit "seeking rest and finding none." Before assuming the role of the critic he should have enquired of some one who knew if Spartan brevity was not of more consequence than Athenian verbosity. He begins by reflecting on the appearance of the ATHENÆUM.