

dian should be appointed. It will hardly be said, at this time of day, that our efforts to diffuse higher education have left us without a competent native mathematician. Adequate professional knowledge is, of course, the first requisite, but knowledge of our people, especially of our youth, and a ready adaptability to their ways and needs are scarcely less essential. The candidate who unites these *desiderata* should have the best chance of success. If one may be discovered who can claim long intercourse with the students, and continued residence amongst them as graduate or tutor, so much the better. We have no desire to press unduly the claims of any applicant, but we think the man who combines all these qualifications may be readily found.

The Report of the Toronto Ladies' Educational Association reminds us that the lecture session will soon be opened both here and at Montreal. In both cities the experiment of cultivating a taste for higher education amongst our young women has been amply justified by its results. We have no recent information regarding the sister association of Montreal, but the report before us shows that in Toronto there is a growing appreciation of the efforts put forth by the Association. The financial results unfortunately have not kept pace with the interest manifested in the lectures. This is not as it should be. The Association depends for its support mainly on the fees of members properly so called, and when it is borne in mind that a sessional ticket admits two ladies to four courses of eighteen lectures each, the annual contribution required cannot be called high. The other sources of revenue arise from the exchange of members' for students' tickets, and the charge for admission to single lectures. Now it is obvious that there ought to be a much larger number of well-to-do ladies who take a sufficient interest in the movement to become members. If unable or indisposed to attend the lectures themselves, they may, by the payment of a small additional fee, afford to one or two of their less fortunate sisters the opportunity of profiting by them. We heartily commend the Associations, both of Montreal and Toronto, to earnest and intelligent ladies, especially the young, amongst us. The principal value of these courses lies not so much in the instruction immedi-

ately imparted—though that is by no means inconsiderable—as in the education of a taste for the higher walks of learning. The training and discipline of the intellect in accurate habits of thought and profitable methods of study are the first steps in the way of progress, and as these lectures afford them in an exceptionally beneficial way, they ought to receive the warmest encouragement from all who desire to see the female sex occupy its rightful place in the sphere of intelligent thought.

Whether the process of disintegration will go on amongst American parties, until November, 1876, may be doubted. Still there are at present all the signs of a general break-up in the old camps. Many elements of discord are at work just now amongst the politicians. Of these, the financial question occupies a prominent place. The inflationists are mostly western men, and the amazing growth of the population in the States, from Ohio to Colorado, has given them immense weight in national contests. The Democrats, who have hitherto as a party advocated a speedy return to specie payment, perhaps only because Republicans introduced greenbacks, are beginning to trim their sails to the popular breeze. In Ohio, their State Convention boldly repudiated "hard money," and the result is that they will lose the support of some of their more intelligent leaders and supporters. On the other hand, Governor Tilden, Bayard, and other prospective candidates of the party, are strongly opposed to inflation. President Grant himself, Washburne, Wilson, and others are here in accord with them. On the other hand, Butler and some of the Republicans are almost rabid in crying for "more paper." The next disruptive element is the question of Southern policy. This, although it may not figure so prominently as the currency question, will probably be the "rock ahead," on which, if at all, the Republican barque will go to pieces. That Grant desires a third term is now beyond question, and that so long as he remains at the helm the policy of repression will be continued, is also a settled matter. Against him are ranged the Vice-President, some of his own Cabinet, and generally all who are sick of martial law and opposed to the third term on any "platform," or under any circumstances. The Democrats are agreed on a conciliatory treatment of the