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THE PROSPECTS OF GREEK.

IN one of the late afternoon addresses, it was predicted by one who is a shrewd reader of the signs of the times, that in a very few years the study of Greek was destined to shrink to very small proportions in the province of Ontario. If that is so, so much the worse for Ontario! But there is room for a less despairing outlook. Although Prof. Dupuis' opinion is widely prevalent, there are good reasons for doubting its correctness—even as regards Ontario. Present appearances may indicate rather the darkest hour before the dawn than the twilight which heralds midnight.

Greek is one of those studies which impose themselves, by their inherent value as well as by their historic influence, ever anew on the attention of educated men. Changing fashions in educational theory and practice may for awhile seem to thrust such studies aside. Competing subjects arise in the ever-increasing complexity of men's intellectual and commercial interests, clamouring for recognition often with good right, and seeking to displace them without right. But after a time the world finds it cannot dispense with them, and so returns to them with fresh zest, finding that "the old wine is better."

It is true that our present educational arrangements relegate Greek decidedly to the shade. The system of options which stringently controls our high schools and collegiate institutes, emanating as it does from that centre of light, the Senate of Toronto University, tends in the most direct and inevitable way to handicap and even to extinguish it. With what result? The President of Toronto University itself lately characterized, in no doubtful terms, this system, one main feature of which is to eliminate Greek. In his opinion it has not worked well. No wonder. The fact is, until our high-school teachers of English, French and German have some tincture of Greek letters, they are not likely to be strikingly successful in teaching their own subjects.

The reason is not hard to find. The Greeks were the first in the field of letters; they remain in many ways the world's great masters of literary expression; and every single great literature which has arisen, since the sceptre