

their nationality and their religion. Once a week they hurry to the low mass, and upon stated occasions impose upon themselves the penance of assisting at the more lengthy exercises of devotion. They never associate with their co-religionists, unless they have some ulterior and sinister object in view; they never give but ostentatiously; they never join a Catholic society but to control it. They are assessment-roll Catholics, and even there with a small c. This is a true portrait, drawn from originals in real life. Such parents need no longer claim that their children cannot obtain in their own parish schools and in Catholic colleges the secular training necessary to enable them to compete successfully with their fellowmen in the race of life. Facts are against such a contention. Moreover, in Catholic schools the mind is not the only object of attention, the heart is trained to virtue and true principles are instilled into the young soul. Experience goes to show that even from a worldly standpoint, the best results are obtained when the development of the mind goes hand in hand with that of the heart.

THE READING-ROOM.

Among the College societies to be re-organized at the beginning of the year, no doubt the reading-room will be among the first. Indeed, no other College institution deserves better the patronage of the students. Already, even in these opening days, darkness begins to set in early, and when night has fallen the reading-room is the most cheerful portion of the house. In the management of this society improvements have been introduced every year, and now before a new staff of officers has been appointed, it may not be out of order to suggest some changes that would add still further to the usefulness of the reading-room. The great question which

the committee finds laid before it is the selection of papers. The law of precedent is herein followed to a great, perhaps too great extent. It may happen that a journal which has been influential and popular, but a short time ago has now degenerated to an exceedingly commonplace sheet, no longer worthy of a place on our list. And again the erroneous idea that the money of subscribers should be distributed in the same manner as government patronage, into the local channels through which it had previously come should be guarded against. The object of a College reading-room is not to gather together a number of small journals, each one interesting two or three readers and no more. On the contrary, what is to be desired is that the members of the reading-room should by means of it have an opportunity of seeing those newspapers and periodicals whose utterances are marked by the greatest weight and ability. A couple of the leading dailies of Canada and the United States are all that is necessary for news; those who wish to see the papers of their own district could receive them from home. In this manner there would be a large surplus to expend on the numerous fine Catholic and non-religious weeklies that abound in the country. One or two good illustrated journals would gratify eyes that are weary with reading, and we are inclined to think that the grave philosopher whose head can scarcely uphold itself so great is the weight of knowledge it contains, would often turn gladly to such lighter labor as he could perform in reading *Peck's Sun* or *The Weekly Detroit Free Press*. But there should also be a number of magazines suitably protected from the danger of mutilation by careless handling. Already the *Catholic World* and *Outing* have visited the reading room, but they have both been discontinued, although they were very well adapted to the tastes of the members. If enough suitable