

man, Dicey, and Stubbs, I need hardly tell you, stand in the foremost rank of constitutional writers and indicate the desire on the part of the great English seats of learning within recent years to strengthen this branch of higher education. It has been well observed by Mr. Andrew White, who presided for many years so ably over Cornell University, that a remarkable change has taken place in this direction on the part of Oxford and Cambridge since he first visited them thirty years ago "when the provision for instruction in political and social science, to say nothing of the natural sciences, was wretchedly inadequate."¹

It is to France and Germany confessedly that we s'ould look for the most perfect system of education of this class. No country in the world has more effective methods of administration, or a better instructed civil service, than the Empire of Germany—the very qualities which have made the German soldier a remarkable military machine tend to fit him for official life. The German is educated to habits of obedience and discipline in all walks of life, and has had from his youth excellent opportunities for instruction in all branches of knowledge. He is naturally plodding and industrious. He studies in universities where the opportunities for being deeply grounded in all branches of knowledge are not surpassed by institutions in any other country; for a long time they have given a special course of training suitable for political life or the work of administration. The same thing may be said of France, where the official service has been always admirably administered by servants of the state capable in every essential particular. Whatever may be the faults of the politicians of that great country, it can be truly said that the permanent public service, by the stability, capacity, and knowledge of its members, has proved a veritable bulwark against the impulsiveness and unsteadiness of the politician or demagogue at times of intense political excitement.

The College of France and the Independent School of Political Sciences in Paris have for a long time past presented a course of studies, which enable a diligent student to make himself thoroughly conversant with all those branches of history, and of Political Science which assist him to master the great problems of government and social life that are daily presenting themselves around him, and help to make him a more useful member of the commonwealth.

It is therefore eminently satisfactory to find that Canada is commencing to follow, in this particular, the example set her by the countries just mentioned. Our population and wealth are very insignificant as yet compared with the United States, or with those peoples from whom the two races that inhabit this Dominion derive their origin and institutions; but though it may not be possible for us for a while to offer the large opportunities which the rich institutions of these countries give to the student, still it is for us to make a beginning, and lay the foundation for the study of those branches of knowledge which are admitted to be essentially within the province of all seats of the higher education that wish to be *en rapport* with the times.

No course of studies is better calculated to profit the student than this, when it is fully and faithfully carried out. It is one inseparably connected with the vital interests of the whole community. Every man, woman, and child has an interest in the efficient administration of government, and in the impartial execution of the laws. These

¹ See Johns Hopkins University Studies, 5th Series, xii.