

sophistry and error, and to poise in his tutored mind the respective merits of the various systems of philosophy which history records, and of those which now sway and divide the learned, many of which are fundamentally erroneous, or thoroughly materialistic and unchristian. Hence the importance of genuine philosophy; for false philosophy is the curse of our age, the venom which poisons with its unchristian, infidel, malignity so many works on literature, science, education and politics.

It is now easy to see that students who are withdrawn prematurely from College, thereby are rendered for ever incapable of ably upholding and defending their religious convictions, of ably representing their race and locality in our political assemblies, or of occupying to advantage any advanced post of influence and emolument. There may be exceptions to this rule; but they are few, and then genius, a very rare gift, supplies the want of mental culture, though oftentimes, this want of suitable training clips the wings and dims the eagle eye of genius itself.

I think few will deny that we Catholics here, as in the neighboring Republic, do not occupy that position in the social scale to which our numbers and natural abilities entitle us, a position which we should earnestly, perseveringly, and unitedly endeavor to better, and that without delay. Of course, the influence of hundreds of years of penal proscription in the old Land, is still felt, and this, in a great measure, explains our scanty proportion of representants in our federal and local parliaments, in offices of honor, influence and emolument. Our fathers came out here impoverished by the injustice and bigotry of their rulers. They came with humble aspirations; for, having been so long kept down the hill, habit somewhat reconciled them to their inferior position. But it is now high time that we should look up. We are here in a free country with equal rights to enjoy, if we are only wise, clever, and united enough to demand and obtain them. We are not inferior to others in energy or talent. Let us therefore earnestly and perseveringly cultivate those abilities. And to multiply and perpetuate the excellent results that shall arise from this self-culture, let us also generously patronize our schools and colleges; for education is a sure, speedy, and easy way to success in every course of life. Education is the path to rank, and fortune, and fame; and when thoroughly Catholic, education is also the path of truth and virtue, which leads far higher still, to the realms of eternal bliss and glory. Much has already been done, but much still remains to be done to render our Catholic schools thoroughly efficient and successful. This is a matter of the greatest importance for the future of our Catholic population, and to it we should devote our utmost attention, activity and zeal. Nor should those whose position and means enable them to give their children a superior training, a college education, neglect to do so. Such an education is required to fill advanced

posts with honor and to the best advantage. This superior college training is needed by those whom we shall put to the fore to represent us and fight our battles, to forward our religious, political, and social interests, otherwise they will be unfit for the honorable trust confided to them. This is why I advocate a thorough and complete college training for those of our youth whose parents can well afford to give it to them.

If we attend as we ought to self-culture, if we ever prove generous supporters of Catholic education, and if moreover we constantly encourage and help one another, believe me, when our fellow-citizens are looking out for candidates upon whom to confer civic or parliamentary honors, and when there shall be question of nominating to some lucrative office, or to some high position of honor or trust, Catholics will not be cast aside, overlooked and ignored, as they have too often been hitherto; and thus our holy religion will be better respected by outsiders, our religious and social interests better guaranteed and forwarded, and God better glorified before men in the faithful children of his one holy Church.

L. J. C.

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STRIKES—AS AFFECTING EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYED.

In the present state of society, when all the signs portend an imminent calamity, when we view the body politic convulsed with startling schemes and theories, seeking the amelioration of laboring humanity, it devolves upon every good citizen to calmly front the issue, examine in its every bearing and accord the due meet of justice. To-day, throughout the civilized world, Labor stands breast against Capital, and vague delusive speculation usurps the place of practical belief. The conservative mass of society hold aloof and coolly view the situation, under the deception that the evil is transient and will meet, in time, its due redress; but, in the peril of the hour, this spirit of conservatism must be cast off or, unknowingly, the theories now promulgated will work an effect, the consequences of which must be of the direst character. In any emergency, the stern, practical common-sense of the community can be relied on, but a spirit of interest must be aroused and, in the discontented laborer, we must recognize a fellow-strugler for existence, a brother in nature and requirements, and one to whom, at all times, our kindest sympathy and assistance should be extended.

The question of labor presents such an extended and varied field of enquiry, that we are constrained to consider but two of its phases, hoping that the limitation may permit of a more thorough and just appreciation. Within the past few years, more than ever before, the public ear has been startled with reports of uprisings, "strikes" on the part of laborers; and, as the question of governmental interference has been raised, let us