

regularity and system in work, and of self-reliance in the conflict with the difficulties sure to arise both in study and practice was well and wisely insisted on. "To do one thing at a time, and that with all your might and will," is a maxim which unquestionably gives the key to the highest success within the reach of any individual. Nor could the speaker have emphasized a more important truth than when he dwelt upon the prime value of character as distinct from and above all culture, and reminded the young men and women present that they would greatly fail in the discharge of the duties of their profession, if they contented themselves with merely forcing the faculties of youth to their highest acuteness, and left them unguarded against sordid greed for gain, and unschooled in the principles of honour and integrity.

The last brief paragraph in the College Confederation report contains some valuable memoranda. The need of ample provision for the higher education of women is specially imperative. Any Confederation of Colleges for University work which should fail to afford equally as good educational facilities for women as for men, would be radically defective as well as lamentably one-sided. No people, as such, can reach its maximum intellectual or moral elevation so long as the avenues to the highest attainments are virtually closed to a moiety of the whole population. Social inequality; the failure to develop the most powerful of all educative forces, that represented by mother, wife, sister, daughter, lady friend, teacher,—in a word, that of woman in all the relations of life; and the less tangible, but perhaps not less real and potent influences transmitted by heredity—these are but some of the losses to the community which adopts a policy so unjust and purblind. The colleges will no doubt all be open to women. This is but fair and right. But so long as the great majority both of parents and of young ladies decline, as they are likely to do until the millenium, to avail themselves of the privileges of co-education, so long this will fail to solve the problem. Thoroughly equipped colleges for ladies alone will meet the demands of the time and of simple justice. To what extent the same professional staff and apparatus may be available is a matter for consideration, but one or more colleges for women should be made a fundamental part of the scheme from the outset.

There is an evil which we have seen under the sun in Canada. We see it, in fact, almost every day if we happen to glance over the advertising columns of the newspapers. It generally appears in about this form—"Wanted a teacher for such a district. Applications stating salary expected, etc., will be received, etc." What would be thought of the father who should advertise thus, "Wanted. medical advice for my child. Applications, stating lowest terms received from physicians, etc.," or of the business firm which should say, "Wanted, a lawyer to take charge of a very important case in the courts. Apply, stating lowest fee, etc." Is the physical health of a child, or the settlement of a question of property of so much greater importance than the training of the mental and moral faculties of the soul, that which nothing short of the best pro-

fessional skill will be accepted for the former, the cheapest is good enough for the latter? Or does the profession of doctor or lawyer possess so much more inherent dignity than that of the teacher, that a process of cheapening which would be considered insulting to the former is justifiable in the case of the latter? This method of inviting competition, and beating down salaries to the lowest figure, is unworthy of any educational board. Many of them are, perhaps, unable to pay a really adequate salary to a competent teacher. But the least they can do, in justice to a profession which should be amongst the first in dignity, is to fix the highest salary the resources of the district will allow, and state the amount frankly and above board. Many, we are happy to see, do so.

We are by no means sure that modern science has demonstrated its pet thesis of "survival of the fittest," as the supreme law of nature in the development of animal and intellectual life. But it is pre-eminently the only safe and sound maxim in all educational work. When a few months ago the new Minister of Education conceived the design of doing away with the slow old methods of competition and comparison in the selection of text books, and determined to rely upon his own perceptions or intuitions to enable him to choose the right men to produce the best for school purposes, his new departure was not only unique in its originality, but startling in its boldness. He must indeed be possessed of singular self-reliance, who can thus rush in where the ripest scholar and most experienced educationist might well fear to tread and say, "I will sweep away at a stroke all these old books, which have kept their places in the schools by the law of survival after the keenest competition, and will replace them with a new series chosen by myself or made to order by such writers as I may choose." To say nothing of possible defects in the productions of amateurs, surely no one astute enough to inaugurate so radical a change, could have failed to foresee the shock to publishing houses, the disturbance of the great school book trade, the discouragement of authors and publishers, the embarrassment of school boards, and the wrath of poor or penurious parents, which were sure to be among the first fruits of the new policy. Of course when the brewing storm bursts upon the walls of the Education Department, it should have no power to ruffle the serenity of a man *justum et tenacem propositi*. If the Minister feels sure that he is right; that a cast iron one-book system is the very best for the educational interest of Ontario; that the men he has chosen, or may choose, in the exercise of his official insight, are the very best men to produce the very best books; that the Public and High School teachers, as well as trustees and school boards, are but parts of a great machine, and are best used as such; in a word, if he is convinced that his scheme is *the* scheme and wisdom will die with it; then he has only to stand up proudly and withstand the storm, or be broken by it. But if he has any lingering doubts on any or all these points, he will perhaps do well to follow the example of many a great and wise man, and ask himself before it is quite too late whether, after all, second thoughts may not be wiser, and the old principle of competition and survival of the fittest the best to be applied, both in the selection of authors and text-books, and in the mechanical production of the latter. To make haste slowly is often to make haste surely.