

useful institution. During last winter several eminent men gave addresses of great value before this Club. The questions were dealt with from a non-political point of view and yet with freedom of conviction. It seems to me that similar organizations in our towns and villages would be exceedingly helpful in attracting the interest of people to our national objects and aims, and any young men who have the time as well as the educational equipment, could gather into such centres fellow-citizens of every party, trade, business, or profession to the great profit of all. Public men could be invited to give addresses on political questions, scientists could instruct the people upon our mineral and agricultural resources, and in fact almost every question of our social, religious and educational condition, could from time to time be dealt with, either by way of debate or public addresses. Such associations would take the attention of our young men away from the fairy tales of western life, or the fine-spun stories of one who has spent a few years in a Texas sheep-ranch, or a New England boot-shop. They would in my humble opinion be a source of intellectual and social advantage for large numbers of our people, who are deprived of higher education, in holding up to their view the great blessings and comforts of that land which has fallen to us as a heritage.

I have attempted to point out several ways, in which a Canadian University and its work can influence the growth of a Canadian nationality. All I have said consists mainly in hints and suggestions, for any exhaustive discussion of the question would require more time than I have at present to give, and probably more space than the ATHENÆUM has to spare. It appears to me as a subject of great importance to educated Canadians. They, especially must lead in the future developments of our country and, while it is necessary that all classes should feel their due responsibility, it is upon the more intelligent citizens after all that the burden of reform and progress must fall. The value of a national sentiment in Canada to day in the true sense of the term is greatly to be desired. Not because there is no patriotism at all, but because it should be more united and intense. Sentiment of course may seem a trivial thing. But as Mr. Mowat has recently said, it was sentiment combined with unjust taxation that drove the American Colonies into revolution. It was sentiment that moved our Loyalist fathers to come to Canadian lands, and it was sentiment that fired those German Peasants in the days of Stein to drill their armies and set in motion those forces which ultimately hurled Napoleon from his throne. And when at this day some curious croakers would annex us to the neighbouring Republic, it is the sentiment of a Canadian people that will resist it to the bitter end. Mr. Goldwin Smith has told us that "the beat of England's morning drum will soon go round the

world with the sun no more." Whether that be so, only the great future will reveal. But at all events we may feel assured that "as its last throb dies away will be heard the voice of law, literature and civilization still speaking in the English tongue." No one has a greater desire than myself to see industrial and commercial freedom between the two great English speaking communities on this continent, but I submit that no Canadian who has the slightest regard for manhood and independence will consent to have rammed down his throat the proposition of political absorption of that country and people which he loves so dear. With the most profound respect for English institutions and people, I submit too that as Canadians born and bred our first and greatest duty is to our native land. All history attests that a young and enterprising country like Canada cannot always remain as she is, and however much our views may differ as to the ultimate position she will assume, I am satisfied that the sober sense of Canadians will never blot out a brilliant future in subjection to a foreign yoke or sell their national birth-right for a dish of pottage.

The sentiments of John Bright are as applicable to you to day as they were to the tradesman of London thirty years ago "Dynasties may fail, aristocracies may perish, privilege will vanish into the dim past; but you, your children, and your children's children will remain, and from you the English people will be continued to succeeding generations." Let those memorable words of Lafontaine ring in your ears "Avant tout soyons Canadiens."

C. H. MCINTYRE.

Harvard Law School, Feb. 22nd, 1897.

## EL PENITENTE.

BY J. F. HERBIN.

"Americano, I shall match you some day."

His dark, Spanish eyes and swarthy face looked all the hate of his heart as he turned away and left me. I had gained a wife and an enemy at one stroke.

I often thought of my dark-eyed Mexican love; yet, as I pictured the future, the revengeful face of Antonio Duran always broke in to mar it.

Three years in New Mexico had done much towards weaning me from Eastern customs. The perpetual sunshine of the mountains, and the peculiar conditions of western life had, unconsciously to myself, become a necessary part of my existence. Completely captivated by the beautiful Castilian tongue, and held in thrall by a beautiful Spanish maiden, life seemed to be only begun.