

close intercourse with their teachers, or under their immediate guidance, generation after generation of boys, fresh from school, have grown up into men during the three years of their academic life. Here, for the first time, each man has been encouraged to dare to be himself, to follow his own tastes, to depend on his own judgment, to try the wings of his mind, and lo! like young eagles thrown out of their nest, they could fly. Here the old knowledge accumulated at school was tested, and new knowledge acquired straight from the fountain-head. Here knowledge ceased to be a mere burden, and became a power invigorating the whole mind, like snow which during winter lies cold and heavy on the meadows, but when it is touched by the sun of spring melts away, and fructifies the ground for a rich harvest.

'That was the original purpose of the Universities, and the more they continue to fulfil that purpose, the more will they secure to us that real freedom from tradition, from custom, from mere opinion and superstition, which can be gained by independent study only; the more will they foster that "human development in its richest diversity," which Mill, like Humboldt, considered as the highest object of all society.

'Such academic teaching need not be confined to the old Universities. Nor is it necessary, in order to secure the real benefits of academic teaching, to have all the paraphernalia of a University, its colleges and fellowships, its caps and gowns. What is really wanted are men who have done good work in their life, and who are willing to teach others how to work for themselves, how to think for themselves, how to judge for themselves. This is the true academic stage in every man's life, when he learns to work, not to please others, be they school-masters or examiners, but to please himself; when he works from sheer love of work, and for the highest of all purposes, the conquest of truth. Those only who have passed through that stage know the real blessings of work. To the world at large they may seem mere drudges—but the world does not know the triumphant joy with which the true mountaineer, high above clouds and mountain walls that once seemed unsurpassable, drinks in the fresh air of the high Alps—and away from the fumes, the dust, and the noises of the city, revels alone, in freedom of thought, in freedom of feeling, and in the freedom of the highest faith.'

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Communications lately received on the question of University revenues, recalls to our mind the fact that nearly a year ago, a committee of convocation was chosen to examine into, and report on our revenues. That committee contained some of the most distinguished and most enthusiastic of our graduates, and its report was expected to contain much desirable information, and many valuable suggestions. But no report has ever been presented; the committee has never held a meeting. We do not know why this should be so; the importance of the matter ought to be sufficient stimulus. The easiest way to get something done would probably be by a meeting of convocation, and a demand by that body for its Committee's long-expected Report.

We are much pleased to be able to publish a letter from Professor G. P. Young, in which he expresses himself as thoroughly in sympathy with our own views on Undergraduate Freedom. Probably no man in Canada is more conversant with educational theories and systems, and their practical carrying-out, than Professor Young. To him, more than to any other, is due the high state of perfection which our Public School and High School systems have reached; his work in this connection having been, like all his work, at the same time quiet and thorough. With college lectures and the examinations of college and university, he has had long familiarity; and an unambiguous expression of his opinion, on so vital a subject as examinations, is well deserving of attention. We commend his letter to the University Senate, with a hope, that a majority of that body may soon come into harmony with Professor Young, and Pro-

fessor Loudon, on the question of the reduction of over-examination in Toronto University.

The energetic promoters of the Forum intend issuing a weekly 'Hansard' of their proceedings. We have seen the first number, which contains in very creditable shape, an account of what transpired at their last meeting. The report is somewhat long, and was received too late to be published in its entirety.

Professor Ramsay Wright has accepted the nomination to the Presidency of the Literary and Scientific Society. There seems to be no prospect of a contest for the office, and Mr. Wright's election may be considered assured. We congratulate the Society on securing so able and energetic a President for the coming year.

A letter from Don Quixote, published elsewhere, deals with the inadvisability of increasing the college fees, and proposes plans for augmenting the income of the University by private subscription, and crown land endowment. It is exceedingly improbable that an individual appeal would have any real success, and it must be remembered that what people would do for a sectarian college, they would not be likely to do for a non-sectarian government institution.

The second proposal—that of setting apart a tithe of new lands for educational purposes—is worthy of the consideration of our legislators, and if it were possible in this land of ours to consider such important questions without making them party issues, we might hope that this, or some similar measure, would be carried in Parliament in the near future. The disadvantage, however, attached to such a scheme is, that it would be many years before such lands—probably of little value at the best—would become sufficiently settled and opened up to yield any considerable revenue, and it is only with a disinterested regard for posterity that we could appreciate such a gift. In the latter part of his letter *Don Quixote* is doubtless dealing with melancholy facts, but we fail to see the relevancy of his remark with regard to 'customs borrowed from England,' and the 'waste of endowments.'

THE LATE PROFESSOR F. M. BALFOUR.

Some months have already passed since the scientific world sustained a great loss by the death of Professor Francis Maitland Balfour, and, in the interval, numerous brief biographies have been written not only in England, but throughout the continent and America; nevertheless one cannot dwell too much upon, or mention too frequently the work of any one who has created or aided in creating an era in any department of thought. During the past century many new departures in scientific thought have been inaugurated, more especially in that department with which Professor Balfour was more intimately connected, namely, Zoology, or, more correctly speaking, Zoological Morphology. Since the time when systematic work was all that was thought of and when workers based their classifications entirely upon the external characters of forms; since the time when Zoologists debated the question whether a crocodile should be considered an insect or not, basing their arguments solely on the possession by the Saurian of a hard integument similar to that of insects, and finally coming to the conclusion that it could not be incorporated in the same group with beetles, wasps, etc., only because it would be altogether 'too terrible an insect,'—since that time more attention has been paid to internal characters, as means of discovering the relationships of forms, the external characters being for the most part only subsidiary or of specific value, so much so indeed that even latterly the time-honored basis of classification of the mollusca is being thrust aside, and anatomical and histological characters taking its place.

Another digression from the ordinary and well-travelled groove of biological thought was made by such men as Oken and Goethe, who were the first to point out the relationship existing between the various parts of organizations, the former dealing with the skeleton of vertebrate animals, the latter with the floral leaves and reproductive organs of plants. Contemporary with these, Lamarck, and, even prior to him, Maillet, branching off on a narrow and indistinct foot-path, strove to build through the dense jungle of opposition, the broad road of evolution, with, however, only partial success, and it remained for the late Mr.