

others to ourselves in the ordinary occurrences of life." Gentleness, its fundamental quality, implies a reserved power, and is to be carefully distinguished from weakness, as well as from a passive tameness of spirit, an unreasonable compliance with the dictates or will of others. No impending frowns can compel it to renounce a just claim,—no insidious flattery can wrest from it a treasured truth. Another prominent characteristic is considerateness, which may be said to comprise delicacy in the use of power—physical, moral and social. Forbearance and wisdom in the exercise of this power mark the gentleman. Rashfulness in the sense of a modest reserve, is by no means inconsistent with the character; and it is indeed surprising that so rare a quality is not more highly and universally appreciated. The thoughts and feelings of the unassuming in disposition are not necessarily less refined than those of the voluble conversationalist or the garrulous bore, even though they may not be expressed with the fascinating gracefulness of the former or the precipitate impetuosity of the latter.

The assumption of the character of a gentleman is frequently but a simulation of the more agreeable habits of society, and is rather the veneer which conceals depraved tastes and vulgar minds, than an evidence of the possession of those truly noble sentiments which prompt pleasing manners and benignant acts. Persons donning this garb say that they can be gentlemen when they please; but true gentlemen never please to be otherwise, and never, by any accident, deviate from this standard. They rise superior to despicable action, and maintain with calm dignity their vantage ground. They do not stab in the dark. Bolts and bars, bonds and securities are, in reference to them, superfluous. They are consistent observers of the "New Commandment;" and, whatever is by them esteemed honorable they practice toward all.

Probably it was because of Thackeray's keensightedness to detect, and his readiness to expose and pillory the *Snob*, that he could so graphically describe the *gentleman*. He says:—"Perhaps a gentleman is a rarer personage than some of us think. Which of us can point out many such in his circle.—Men whose aims are generous, whose truth is constant, whose want of meanness makes them simple, who can look the world honestly in the face with an equal manly sympathy for the great and the small? We all know a hundred whose coats are well-made, and a score who have excellent manners, and one or two happy beings who are in what they call the inner circles, and have shot into the very centre and bull's-eye of fashion; but of gentlemen how many? Let us

take a little scrap of paper and each make out his list."

LITERARY.

Our Collegiate Debating Society requested the members of the Seminary and Academy to meet with us on Friday evening last. The invitation was cordially and unanimously accepted; whereupon, in view of the prospective attendance, it was deemed expedient to hold the Session in the Academy Hall, a far more commodious and appropriate room than that in which our eloquent *Pitts* are usually *pitted*. The audience was large and in prompt attendance. After the despatch of the usual routine of business, a critique upon the proceedings of the previous meeting, was read by D. H. Simpson.

The writer presented some thoroughly practical thoughts respecting the art of oratory, followed by a few keen thrusts at inappropriate attitude, unseemly gesture and indistinct enunciation.

An Essay upon "Nascent English" was then delivered by Jacob Schurman. This elaborate paper evinced a maturity and depth of thought, a vigor and impressiveness of style, and a perspicuity and chastity of expression, which did great credit to the author, and elicited frequent plaudits. We must waive any attempt to summarize the production in the present article. Suffice it to say that, in his treatment of the subject, he entered with steady step that mysterious borderland in which the Saxon and Norman germs combine, and, having explored its ample mines and subjected its apparently antagonistic elements to the test of the philologic crucible, he showed their unmistakable affinity, and then emerged from the shadowy vale, on the hither side, into the resplendent light of our resultant English.

The following subject was next discussed:—"Is the English Language likely to become universal?"

The appellant, B. Rand, took the floor and, with considerable volubility and force, adduced arguments in support of the affirmative position. It was manifest that popular feeling dropped willingly into his "line of march," and that his opponent would have firmly intrenched opinions, if not strong prejudices, to combat throughout his replication. His speech covered a broad field, yet his ideas were put forth in good order, and dressed in well chosen expressions. His opponent, W. G. Parsons, then rose to reply, in a very calm and deliberate manner, and, after a few happily selected introductory remarks, commenced dealing a series of well-directed and effectual blows at the position held by the other party. He evidently possessed a

very clear conception of the subject, and, with his wonted ease of expression, brought all available points to bear upon it. His earnestness combined with his promising elocutionary powers rendered the speech doubly interesting and persuasive.

Addresses upon the subject were afterwards delivered by G. E. Good, D. H. Simpson and B. Lockhart, all of which were well received. Mr. Simpson particularly, in a purely extemporaneous effort drew forth hearty cheers by his eloquent appeals and quaint humor.

These addresses concluded the evening's entertainment. All parties appeared to be fully satisfied with it; and, we doubt not, that such meetings will be efficacious in generating and perpetuating a kindly feeling and community of interests among the members of the several institutions.

CLAIMS OF THE YOUTH.

In this advanced age when so much is said about education it seems almost unnecessary to say anything about the claims of the youth in these Provinces in this respect, yet a few words may not be out of place.

It is an almost universally established fact that the civil authorities of every land are responsible for the education of the youth under their jurisdiction to a certain degree of advancement, but beyond this the state does not venture to assume interference.

Now every careful observer must see that the day is not far distant, but at hand, when the education thus obtained will not suffice. The time has come when the farmer must be a practical chemist, the preacher a man of tongues, and the merchant a mathematician of the higher grade, and, indeed, when every man who would compete successfully with his fellow must know more than what is known as the rudiments of an English education.

With these demands staring us in the face, what must be done to induce the youth to procure an education to meet them as well as provide such for them?

In order to induce them to undertake long years of toil in this department there must first be impressed upon their minds the indispensable need of such—needs both as to their success in life, as well as to the obligations they owe to the world—and that when acquired it will bring the results sought. As to the provision there can and ought to be much said and done. Let us view these matters in their true bearing. Are the youth of these Provinces forcibly impressed with the necessity of such an education? Let us look around us for a reply. Go to the institutions of learning in the Provinces.