



CARPENTRY AND LATHE ROOM IN MANUAL TRAINING HALL.

The Relation of the College to Public Life.

PROF. E. M. KEIRSTEAD, D. D.

The standard of private life will largely determine the public life of a country. The intelligence, industry and morality of a people will be felt in all their social and political organizations. It is also true that the standard of public life will affect the private life of the citizens. "All men find their own in all men's good." When the public conscience is sensitive, when ideals are high, when a country has devoted leaders in the various departments of activity, there will be strong impulses moving the young toward the best life. The great currents of thought will quicken and guide, and so give increased value to private possessions and gifts. Thus it comes to pass that a country is judged to a great extent by the character of its public men and their management of the organized life. To help the public life is therefore to help the private life as well. What is the office of the college in this connection?

1. It helps to form a public spirit of the best kind by its very existence and by the studies pursued. The institution itself in which the student lives is a kind of embodiment of public life. As it springs from the people and is nourished by them, the student must feel the public spirit all the time. Then the subjects studied, constantly tend to deliver him from the power of the local and particular into the sway of universal ideas. History carries to him the past life of men in their relations with one another; language, "the great confessional of the human heart," and the literature of the ages make him share the heart and best thought of humanity. The University as "the fortress of the higher life of the nation" has preserved for him the best of the past and makes the goodness of the present pass before him. All this must make him feel that he is one with his race. The public life is formed within him. He must henceforth look not only on his own things but on the things of others as well.

2. The University gives unity and character to a social life that promotes public spirit. Where hundreds of young people who are to be leaders in the country meet in college associations there is an enlarging and enriching process that can be clearly discerned in its effects. Oxford and Cambridge have been a social bond in England of great significance; and every leading denomination in America has seats of similar character. The literature of a country and the association of its literary workers will always be among the best portions of its public life.

3. The power of the College in educating its students is seen in every department of public service. Some one has said that there are only two things worth talking about, religion and politics. Certainly in legislation the widest erudition and the most careful culture are demanded. The maker of laws has a large responsibility and as, with us, the people make the laws they need to give the men they call to be rulers the best possible equipment. The aim, spirit and power of a college, will be felt, ought to be felt, in the work of the men it sends to Parliament. The same is true of the writers, the journalists, the thinkers of the time who mould public

opinion, which, in the modern democracy, is the determining force of politics.

The college acts directly on the life of the country by the influence it exerts on popular education. Seeley says: "Education in England is, in the main, what Oxford and Cambridge make it." If this be true for England it must hold good for our country, where the system relates the college so directly to the people. In the college many of the High School teachers are educated as well as the Professors of the Normal school, who in turn train the teachers from whom the vast majority of the people receive all the teaching they ever get. Clearly the college can get no element of power that will not soon be apparent in the remotest district, and quite as surely will an advance in University life be followed by a better administration of justice in the courts of law and by increased skill of those who deal with the diseases we inherit.

The readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR do not need to be told that the strength of a college is evident in the ministers of religion. But probably we do not yet appreciate the work of the minister as it affects public life. A Baptist church well conducted is a kind of college in the community; it has the force of the judge and policeman in the moral power of its censure and its praise; it is the highest social force, and it does more than all other agencies to promote man's spiritual interests, and in all these directions the minister's personal attainments and character are distinctly marked. The culture, therefore, which he gains from college is his power in service of the highest permitted to man.

It would be easy to give illustrations of these points from the list of men who have gone from Acadia. But their works may be allowed to speak for them. The past, however, makes clear our course for the future.

When our Lord beheld the multitudes He was moved with compassion for them, because they were as sheep having no shepherd. In proportion as we are moved with the like spirit and wish to reach these multitudes we shall be in harmony with Him when we seek the resources for equipping those through whose teaching these multitudes are to be enlightened and saved.

Acadia in the United States.

BY C. H. M'INTYRE, M.A., LL.D.

No legitimate institution of learning, can be merely local in its influence. Education and culture can no more be confined to a particular country or people, than the free winds of Heaven. The liberal arts are the common property of the human race, and intellectual pursuits over-leap racial and national boundaries. In this fruitful enterprise it is the glorious privilege of a small college to participate and win renown. Its influence may not be so wide or potent, as that of a great university with abounding wealth and generations of cultured tradition, but, rightly conceived, it has a distinct mission that can never be taken away. Especially is this true of a small college like Acadia, where vigorous ideas of life and conduct have always prevailed, and a sure and un-

failing standard of religious purpose has been the pole star of destiny for so many honorable careers. It is with no apology, therefore, that the writer consents to briefly state the influence of Acadia in the United States, and most gladly does he lay this laurel wreath upon his *Alma Mater's* brow.

The position of Acadia in the neighboring republic, is entirely unique among Canadian colleges. So far as the writer is aware, no other school of a similar character has sent to this country so large a proportion of its graduates and former students. Out of more than five hundred graduates nearly one quarter have settled in this country, while the number of former students now resident in the United States cannot be far from three hundred. The reasons of this are plain. In the first place, contiguity of territory and the universal attraction of a great nation for a small one, have been prominent factors. Moreover, it has always seemed to the writer that the cardinal principles of Baptist policy and teaching, have been wonderfully suited to the genius of American institutions. Of course, it must not be implied that Acadia has ever required a declaration of faith from those, who sought admission to her halls. On the contrary, she has welcomed every student without regard to race or creed, so long as that student desired the true pursuit of knowledge. The untrammelled investigation of truth has been her aim, and a finished scholar has been the brightest jewel in her crown. But it is unquestionably a fact, that the great bulk of her graduates and students have adhered to the Baptist faith, and more than half of them have entered the ministry of that denomination. In order to obtain the advantages of a thorough theological course, it was necessary in former years to come to this country. Even now the majority of theological students receive their final education in the United States, and for many years, Acadia has been one of the best feeders of Newton. The natural consequence is, that they settle here in large numbers and become pastors, missionaries or religious leaders. Others come for special preparation in the arts and sciences, or professional schools, and these too gravitate toward their educational surroundings. This has been notably true of New England, which forms a gateway of travel and intercourse with the Maritime Provinces.

Realizing the importance of this situation of affairs, a few graduates in Boston determined to unite their efforts, more closely, and in 1893, formed a branch of the Associated Alumni. Its objects were to assist the financial and educational interests of the college, and generally to unite in common brotherhood the graduates, students and friends living in the United States, and particularly those residing in New England. In 1895, this branch association was incorporated under Massachusetts laws as the "New England Alumni Association of Acadia University." Every year since its organization, it has held a reunion and banquet at which prominent educators and graduates have delivered addresses. It has also made an annual gift of about \$200 for the support of the Alumni Professorship, though its ultimate object is the founding of a chair in the liberal arts, or the bestowal of some other equally substantial favor. No other Canadian college can boast of an alumni association on a foreign soil. In this respect it is absolutely unique. The sympathies of a denominational tie, have increased the *esprit de corps* of the graduates, without doing violence to educational liberty. More than that, this organization has become the means of bringing together annually, a large number of people who were born in the Maritime Provinces, but who never attended Acadia. It has created a sort of sympathetic circle among Provincialists, and for that reason the name of our *Alma Mater* is more widely known in New England to-day, than that of any other provincial college. No stereopticon lecture upon



INTERIOR SECTION OF COLLEGE HALL.