

THE people of the Maritime Provinces are justly proud of their country, claiming its natural advantages are equal to, if not greater, than those of any other land. Yet there is a feeling of dissatisfaction with the progress which it has made during the last twenty-five years. The late census returns show that a very small increase has been made in population, that vast numbers of people have gone across the border to cast in their lots with the nation south of us. This is not as it should be. With a land rich in natural resources, good climate, good form of government, capital not lacking when there is a good opportunity for investment, all the necessities are here for a rich and populous country. The people are industrious, intelligent and temperate; that they are not lacking in ability and enterprise is shown by the position many of them have taken in the land of their adoption. Is it not a fact, however, that there is not that interest taken in the development of the country that should be manifested. Especially does there seem to be a lack of patriotism among college men. More than one-third of the graduates of *Acadia* now living are spending their energies beyond the borders of Canada, and a large percentage of the remainder are in the Upper Provinces and the far west. Other institutions send about the same proportion abroad.

If the occasion should arise, we have no doubt that the young men studying at the different universities would go to the front and die, if need be, for home and native land. There is a need existing, for them to live for their country, and it would be a noble and patriotic thing for them to recognize this in their choice of a place in which to exercise their talents. The people feel the need of educated men in their midst, as has been shown by the efforts they have made to provide the means for higher education.

It is said that opportunities for success are greater elsewhere than at home, that the remuneration for such services as can be rendered by trained minds is by far too small in the provinces. If this be so, it is an evil to be remedied, and not to be overlooked and left to itself, and the help must come from the educated, from those who are supposed to be the leaders of public opinion.

Whatever may be gained in foreign lands, financially or by way of personal distinction, one thing is lost

when native shores are left that cannot be regained,—that essential part of every true man's character—patriotism. One may substitute something that goes by the same name, but it differs from the true article in that essential which makes a boy's own mother differ from an adopted one.

Every student should remember that his country needs him, and he needs his country, and consider well the question before he decides to take up his abode permanently on foreign soil.

SINCE the last issue of the *ATHENÆUM*, the important office of Superintendent of Education in this province has been filled by the appointment of A. H. McKay, Principal of Halifax Academy. Speaking of the new Superintendent, the *Educational Review* says: "A profound thinker, an accomplished scholar, an enthusiastic teacher, Mr. McKay assumes the educational leadership of Nova Scotia at a time of life when his mature judgment and knowledge of educational affairs in his native province give confidence in his ability to discharge with wisdom and moderation the duties of such an important position; while his steadiness of purpose and devotion to his chosen work give promise of increased usefulness in the wider fields to which he has been called." This granted, our free-school system should be safe in his hands.

"HE is a fool who aspires to the laurel wreath while seeking to avoid the heat, dust and toil of the race" is an axiom which applies as well to college life to-day as it did to the athletic contests of Greece. Success typified by the laurel is the goal towards which every undergraduate is striving. In a certain sense, the degree which a man receives, when he has completed his course, is indicative of his success up to that point in his career. In another sense it is not. If the degree means to him that for four years of study he has obtained an equivalent in the shape of power to step into the arena, either of every-day life or of a broader field of research, with that spirit of self-reliance and independence which comes from the formation of habits of industry, punctuality and thoroughness, then his degree represents success. If, during his course, he has been