

THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

APRIL, 1902.

ARNOLD OF RUGBY

Rev. Herbert Symonds, D.D., Head Master of Trinity College
School, Port Hope.

In addressing a gathering, such as the present, upon the life of one of the greatest of schoolmasters, it will be appropriate to devote most of our time to the consideration of his work at the famous School of Rugby.

But, in the case of Arnold, it is worth our while to know the man as well as the teacher. He was possessed of so striking a personality, he was so profoundly interested in the thought and life of his times, that to speak of him as a teacher alone would be to leave upon the man a false impression. Indeed, it would not be possible to understand his work as a schoolmaster, without at least some general conception of his characteristics as an Englishman, a clergyman and a thinker. For Arnold is not a great educator in the ordinary sense of the word, as it is used to-day. He does not rank with Sturm, or Comenius, with Locke, the Port Royalists, Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Froebel, or Herbert Spencer. He did not develop a philosophy of education, nor invent a new method. He was not a radical in his ideas, nor did he anticipate the ideas which are in vogue in our Schools of Pedagogy. From this point of view, I suppose

Arnold's sole contribution to the educational ideas of his time was his conception of the value of history, and of the way in which it should be taught. But Arnold was a great schoolmaster, because he was a great man. He was a source of inspiration, because he was himself inspired with a mighty spirit of religious and moral zeal. In him the spirit was not, as it so often is, divorced from the intellectual, but it was conjoined with an intense and vivid realization of the value of learning rightly acquired and rightly interpreted. Here then in a nutshell is Arnold's greatness as a teacher. He sought to inspire into his school a love of learning as the instrument of character and of faith.

The Arnolds belonged to the eastern counties or England, those countries which has produced so many noble examples of that Puritan piety, strength and sobriety of character, which has been the real foundation of England's greatness, and whose decay, if it be decaying, no genuine patriot can view without dismay.

Arnold of Rugby was in this respect a typical East Anglican, profoundly religious, without *reli-*