

cramming. In the first event the knowledge gained will not be of much use to any one ; but in the second it will be of little more. Under over-pressure the main anxiety is "to get through." Instead of developing the noble love of knowledge for its own sake, such a subject impels the student to make the "exam" an end in itself, to study for that alone, to touch only the work needful, and to talk of "knocking-off" so many subjects as if they were miles on a race course. Of course such knowledge is forgotten almost as soon as gained, and is a miserable substitute for "liberal education" in its true sense. No words could be stronger, however, than those in which some of the greatest literary

authorities of the day have recently protested against this very evil, and we may well hope they will find echoes in Canada. So far as Queen's University is concerned, the sound judgment and known aversion of its Principal to cramming and all its works, may be trusted towards checking this evil. But to do it thoroughly will require co-operation, not only between professors, but between Universities also. Why should there not be a conference of our best educators to take into serious consideration the best way of securing the truest kind of "liberal education" which shall verify the old time-honoured ideal,

"Didicisse fideliter artes emollit mores."

THE ESKIMOS: THEIR HABITS AND CUSTOMS.*

BY W. A. ASHE, F.R.S.

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I HAVE hinted to you that the Eskimo has brought the apparatus which he has devised himself for his own purposes, to a high degree of perfection. I have also drawn your attention to the fact, that in certain of the articles he has acquired from the outer world—the file, the saw, etc.—he has not been treated with that equity which is the deserving of his talents, or that which we are supposed to exercise between man and man ; and I would add to the list, his gun. I do not think that I can describe the condition of this *offensive* weapon better than by the assurance, that I always felt there was a good deal more danger to myself and the Eskimo, than to the game he might be intent on the slaughter of. They are not a gun that has been specially manufactured for this market ; you

could not manufacture such an article ; nature and time, with the gradual though thorough changes that they bring about, have brought the implement, which had a youth some six centuries ago, into the disrepute I mention.

This gun, I should say, was more effective in both its expected and unexpected directions, than the old-time bow and arrow. There are very few accidents with them, even though their bursting-charge might be expected to be so very slight. This most satisfactory condition of the Eskimo is entirely owing to his extreme carefulness, not of himself, but of his powder. In the first place he will not use a gun of a greater calibre than 22, more often 23. Into this he places a charge of powder, not greater than would be contained by a moderate sized thimble, then a wad of dried