

## Contemporary Thought.

HE reminded them that the main business of college life was study, and that all other interests were to be subordinated to this one. This he said without any desire in any way to seem to underestimate the practical work of the Christian minister, but close attention to study during the college course was the best preparation for thoroughly efficient, practical work afterwards.—*Dr. Caven, to the students of Knox College.*

IN Canada we have examples of all stages of national existence, but even in the older parts of the country it is doubtful if the science of political economy has received or is receiving that attention which its importance deserves. It has not, so far as we know, been given any prominence in the lists of subjects for study at any Canadian university, and although there may be many seeking to acquire a knowledge of it in after life, they find their progress slow.—*Can. Journal of Commerce.*

BY our affiliation with the university we secure representation on its senate, thus offering every opportunity to make our wishes known in that body and to some extent influence its decisions on all questions of university management. And is it not most desirable that the Provincial University should feel the influence of the Christian churches which in the aggregate make up so large a portion of the State? The Christian colleges which now encompass the university are its safeguard and defence.—*Dr. Castle, at McMaster Hall.*

THERE are in Ontario over 1,000 students in the higher seats of learning who for the most part are deprived of voting simply because they are there. Were they investing their money in real estate they would in less than two years have a property qualification and hence entitled to vote. How many more are in the high schools and collegiate institutes spending the required amount? How many in law offices or some other professional study? Why should not these have a vote after investing in something which is of more permanent and of real value to the country?—*South Simcoe News.*

"EDWARD EVERETT HALE'S advice to brain-workers to work only three hours a day, and to limit them to the forenoon or early afternoon, is calculated," says the *Philadelphia Times*, "to excite a smile on the face of the average professional or business man, as very few of either class can afford to regulate his work by such a custom. But if there is any foundation at all for Mr. Hale's theory, it applies with double force to the case of growing children at school. It is by no means certain that three hours of brain-work a day are not quite enough for children under fifteen years of age."

THE *Mail*, a few days ago, gave an admirable summary of Max Mueller's views as to the value of written examinations, citing amongst other cases, that of a candidate who, at an examination, gave readily the dates and titles of the principal works of Cobbett, Gibbon, Burke, Adam Smith, and David Hume, and yet was compelled, in answer to a further question, to answer that he had never read any of their writings. Max Mueller, speaking from long experience, regards examinations as a means of ascertaining how pupils have been taught, and protests against allowing them to become the end for which they are taught. In its

approval of this view of their functions the *Mail* will be endorsed by intelligent educationists everywhere, but its application of the citations from Max Mueller was not called for by the present state of education in Ontario.—*Canada Citizen.*

BUT affiliation secures for a certain part of our work—work done in this hall under our own professors, and prescribed by our own statutes—a recognition as an equivalent for certain studies in the course of the University of Toronto. No university student is required to take any portion of our work as a part of his university course; but if he is so disposed, he may pursue certain subjects in this college in lieu of certain other subjects in his university course. To this extent the university recognizes and accepts our work; and, equipped as we are, the university thought it no condescension to do so, for the student who takes these options and passes his examinations on them will have earned his university degree with quite as much labor and secured quite as much discipline as if he had obtained it in one of the five other courses of the university.—*Dr. Castle, at McMaster Hall.*

AS long as men escape from the turmoil of the work-a-day world, and strive to live the intellectual and contemplative life at all, there will always be some who will reverence what is noble and beautiful in the far-away past. As Socrates says, "The treasures of the wise of old, which they have left recorded in their scrolls, my friends and I unroll and con together, culling whatever good we find, and counting it a great gain, if thereby we grow dear one to another." Perhaps it will not matter so much, after all, if the throng of callow striplings sent up every year to the university shall no longer have made Xenophon's romance of the March to the Sea a *corpus vile* for painful grammatical dissection. It will be just as true as before that an earnest student of language, or of literature, must always find in Attic Greek the very crown and glory, the very heart and soul, of his desire.—*W. C. Lawlor, in the Atlantic.*

NONE but publishers have any adequate idea of the number of persons who cannot, or at least fail to write their names with sufficient distinctness to be deciphered. A letter can be made out, be it written ever so badly, because aid is given by the connection; but conjecture can do no good in making out a name which is disfigured by innumerable and senseless flourishes, which bear no similitude to any letter in the English or any other language; then as to the minor letters, the *e's*, *r's*, *n's*, *m's*, *u's*, *v's* and *w's*, they appear nothing more than a long line of zigzag, or a Virginia worm fence turned on its side. An incalculable amount of trouble, uncertainty, loss of time, to say nothing of cost of postages, envelopes, and paper, would be prevented if every person would write his own name at leisure, without any flourishes, with the utmost distinctness, every letter fully, clearly, and plainly formed; or if an answer is desired, to enclose a post-paid envelope with at least the name of the state, town, and county plainly written; then, should it reach the post-office, the postmaster might possibly guess at the writer. One additional advantage of this method would be that the person who is desired to answer the hieroglyphic sheet would not be meanly taxed with return postage and envelope. A small consideration, it is true; but it involves a principle of honesty and

morality which every high-minded man feels bound to respect.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

IT is true that he was a man of genius, and that his ways were not the world's ways, but even genius cannot afford to ignore all the gathered wisdom of the past, especially in art. It is possible that no man ever worked so hard as Dore, or put forth so much; but it is obvious that if he had done very much less he might have held up all his work to his highest standard, whereas, it is very uneven, and much of it is impaired by bad drawing and by fantasy, which is beneath true art. A list of the books illustrated by him during the period between 1850 and 1870 would fill a column of the *Tribune*. In that time he earned \$1,400,000, and probably before his death his earnings had risen to \$2,000,000. But for his modesty and want of business capacity he could doubtless have made half as much again, but he always put a modest estimate on his own work, and the extent of his income was due to the magnitude of the output, and not to the height of his charges. As a worker he was indefatigable. For several years he seems to have denied himself more than three or four hours sleep in the twenty-four.—*New York Tribune.*

HE stated further that steps had been taken for affiliation with the University of Toronto. This would be advantageous in several ways. The four theological subjects which had been placed on the university curriculum would enable those students of Knox College who were so disposed to complete the full course of literary and theological training in six years. At the same time his advice to all students, who had it in their power, would be to take the full University course first, and after that the full course in the College. The college authorities would exert no influence, however beyond the most legitimate moral influence, to prevent any student who was so inclined availing himself of the opportunity to shorten his course. Another advantage of affiliation would be that the College would have a representative on the University Senate. Without entering on the vexed question of the relation between religion and secular education, he would just say that in his opinion the indirect influence thus gained by affiliation would be very great.—*Dr. Caven, at the re-opening of Knox College.*

ENOUGH, and more than enough, perhaps, has been uttered concerning the prejudicial effects on the body of habitually using alcoholic beverages. It is rare now to find any one, well acquainted with human physiology, and capable of observing and appreciating the ordinary wants and usages of life around him, who does not believe that, with few exceptions, men and women are healthier and stronger, physically, intellectually, and morally, without such drinks than with them. And confessedly there is little or nothing new to be said respecting a conclusion which has been so thoroughly investigated, discussed, and tested by experience, as this. It is useless, and indeed impolitic, in the well-intentioned effort to arouse public attention to the subject, to make exaggerated statements in relation thereto. But the important truth has still to be preached, repeated, and freshly illustrated, when possible, in every quarter of society, because a very natural bias to self-indulgence is always present to obscure men's views of those things which gratify it.—*Sir Henry Thompson, in Popular Science Monthly.*