

apathy of the public, and the disappointment you sometimes experience in seeing one whom you regard as inferior in training and experience promoted over your heads—and the lonely, tearful hours of weariness and discouragement embittered by blows you feel you do not deserve. There are enough difficulties to dishearten nine-tenths of you if you allow them to do so. But I trust you have wisdom and moral strength to come out of the dark shades of discontent into the bright warm sunshine of courage and good-will. I know your difficulties, and knowing them I greet you the more cordially as you assemble in this interesting annual gathering.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS—CONVENTION OF PROTESTANT TEACHERS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.—(*Concluded.*)

DR. PETERSON, OCTOBER 1900.

Recognizing the difference that exists in the gifts and capacities and special aptitudes of our students, we have introduced the elective system into the universities; our high schools, especially on this continent, have long shown a distinct tendency to depart from the old ideal of a general education without professional anticipations; and now the further demand is made that professional preparation shall be begun even in the elementary school, where consideration should—it is urged—at once be given to the final purposes of the individual in practical life. It is not pretended that the little people themselves know what they want to turn to in later years; but their parents ought to know, and their country has need of men, and women too, who are NOT to be teachers, or preachers, or doctors, or lawyers, but who are to form the new class of workmen called up by the changed conditions which have arisen in the organization of industrial society. Must we then take it as proved that because of the need for specialization that is created by that division of labour which is now so marked a feature of modern life, professional education must be begun at the earliest possible stage, even at the expense of general training? and that the penalty of disregarding the demand thus made will be the inevitable defeat of the individual in the struggle for