

teachers as Drs. G. A. Smith, Denney, Welsh, and others.

Perhaps Dr. Welsh will yet give us a biography of Mark Twain. Whether or not, his lecture suggested that he had much material that might be useful for such a work. The great advantage of such a lecture is that it gives the audience in an hour or so more information of a man's works, and more insight into his character than any one person could hope to get by days of close reading and study. Everybody knows something of Mark Twain,—knows the story of "Our Guide in Rome," at least,—but it is safe to say that there was not a man present who, besides learning much more about his writings, did not learn some facts about his life which altogether qualified his previous ideas of the great humorist and greater-souled writer and man.

For instance, his schooling (in the school-attending sense) was completed at twelve years of age. Was there present at the lecture, it may be wondered, anyone who could say he had no better a chance in that respect than Mark Twain, and perhaps not as good, though living a generation later? With men who have come from many experiences in life, it would be remarkable if there were not one or two. At any rate in Mark Twain's case, as in others, Dickens for example, we are reminded that nature and life seem to provide some remarkable compensations; if the lad was denied academic work and distinctions in his teens, he was accumulating experiences which, though they had no university hallmark associated with them, were probably in actual value to be worth far more in fitting him for real service to his kind than the training connected with the attainment of many degrees.

Then there was the information emphasizing the sterling conscience of the man. It must have been news to some of us to learn that Mark Twain had an experience regarding debt somewhat similar to that of Sir Walter Scott, and that he met it in the same heroic spirit.

The reminder was worth emphasizing, too, that easy reading may be hard writing.

The subject of Mark Twain was certainly one in notable contrast to the lectures Dr. Welsh is at present delivering in the Hall. Yet it was in turn treated in a masterly manner. The wide-awake convener of the Devotional Committee (W. Scott), who was chairman at the meeting, remarked that when the lecture was arranged, the World Conference at Edinburgh had been mentioned as a possible subject. We venture to reiterate the hope expressed when the vote of thanks was proposed, that we trust the Devotional Committee or some other authority of the College will prevail upon Dr. Welsh to give, in another lecture open to all students and friends of the College, his impressions of that great meeting. Even a passing reference made by him at one of the classes recently was more than suggestive as to the weight and worth that would be inevitably associated with his word-pictures and reports of that great Conference. We are confident that they would embody in combination photographic clearness and phonographic record with the inspiration which can come only from a spirit attuned in harmony with the Highest and His divine manifestations through the hearts and souls of men.

D. A. C.