

By his expertness in swimming, one of our pupils, Frederick Boyer, recently, under circumstances of extreme difficulty and danger, rescued a blind companion from drowning in Port Colborne harbour. He well earned by his courage, and received, the medal of the Royal Humane Society of England. The presentation was publicly made at the close of last session, by the Provincial Secretary, the Hon. A. S. Hardy, who, with great kindness, came from Toronto specially to honor the occasion.

Conclusion.

Though blind persons are often constitutionally timid, yet there are not wanting conspicuous instances where the brave heart within has guided blind men to high endeavour. In our day, the Coryphæus of blind athletes—intellectual as well as physical—is the present Postmaster-General of England. But it is often erroneously said that Professor Fawcett's is the first instance where, without sight, any one has become a leading publicist or man of affairs. In the history of Europe other instances are not wanting, even though we should confine ourselves to the present century. In Belgium, fifty years ago, Rodenbach was one of the lions to be visited. Lady Morgan and Mrs. Trollope have left us graceful silhouettes of the blind deputy as he appeared in the legislature and in society. He largely directed the revolutionary movement of 1830, carrying by his personal weight the exclusion of the Orange-Nassau family from the Belgian throne. A quarter of a century earlier, when Holland became a province of France, and Napoleon's brother became its pro-consul, Louis Bonaparte found indispensable to his government the talents and integrity of blind Schimmelpenninck, who had been the Grand Pensionary of the Dutch Republic. Only fourteen years ago, the blind King of Hanover sturdily defended the autonomy of his people against the Man of blood and iron; and, like blind John of Bohemia, who faced the English at Crecy, George V. faced the Prussians at Langensalza. Ay, and defeated them with heavy loss! though afterwards the fortune of war went against him, as it did against his mightier ally. In England, blindness has hitherto proved a most formidable barrier to advancement, presumably because blind men were not recognized in Doomsday Book! Mr. Gladstone doubtless used some heroic discipline with his parliamentary forces before justice was done to Professor Fawcett. Yet cases are not wanting in England where public men have had to rely on the eyes of others. Lord Sherbrooke (Hon. Robt. Lowe) has lately made public reference to his dependence upon readers. Mr. Gladstone's own sight was, in his early days of authorship, threatened by a painful affection, and it was while he was seeking alleviation in France that he published at Amiens his famous book on *The State in its Relation to the Church*. In recognizing the merits of Professor Fawcett, the Premier was upholding the cause of sightless merit throughout the world. This high official recognition will have far-reaching results, and will mark 1880 as a memorable year in the history of the blind.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. HOWARD HUNTER, M.A.,

Principal.