

much the same, *mutatis mutandis*, as that pursued in connection with other professions, such as Law, Medicine, Engineering, etc. Theoretical instruction is to be combined and supplemented with experimental work. Students taking the Course are to resolve themselves, from time to time, into bands of reporters, writing up accounts of all kinds of events occurring within the range of their observation. These reports are to be criticised, arranged, etc., by the Professor, acting in the capacity of Managing Editor before the class. The most obvious objection to such a scheme is that it adds another to the ever-lengthening roll of college courses, and that it is not the work of an institution of learning, as such, to prepare its pupils for the practice of any profession. But the rejoinder is equally ready. Nearly all great universities are now doing this very thing through their Law, Medical, and other faculties. Has not journalism now reached a position of importance and of influence which entitles it equally, with either of those, to recognition and place? Nor, on second thoughts, is it easy to find a satisfactory reason for not giving an affirmative answer. But where will the process of university extension end?

THE recent German decree imposing stringent restrictions upon Frenchmen entering Alsace-Lorraine, is being accepted in Paris with more stoicism than would have been anticipated. The Decree provides that all travellers entering Alsace-Lorraine from France, whether they are merely passing through those provinces, or whether they propose to take up their residence therein, must present passports viséd by the German Ambassador at Paris, and dated not more than one year prior to the time of presentation. Foreigners presenting themselves without the proper passports will be ruthlessly turned back, or if found in the Territory will be conducted back to the frontier. Germans arriving from France and inhabitants of French frontier districts going into Alsace-Lorraine on business, are exempt from the conditions of this decree if they can satisfy the frontier police as to the truth of their claims. It is creditable to the pacific intentions of the present French Government and Assembly, that they have suppressed any resentment they may feel. A wild scheme of retaliation proposed by one excited deputy was supported by only an insignificant minority. At the same time the existence of such a decree can but intensify the dangerous antagonism already existing between the two nations.

TOO MUCH GOVERNED.

THE idea conveyed by these words—"too much governed"—suggests a state of things which must at least be admitted to be possible. There is a difference, for example, between the amount of control which should be exercised over a child, a youth, or a grown man. We should say that a young man of eighteen was a great deal too much governed, if his mother dealt with him, in regard to advice and control, precisely as she did when he was eight. She might find it difficult; but that is not the present question. There are some rude people, we believe, who are accustomed to call this kind of government, or the laws which make such government possible, by the name of "grandmotherly legislation." It is not a pretty expression; but it is more important to consider whether it represents a fact.

According to Kant, "the fundamental aim of jurisprudence is to realize external freedom by removing the hindrances imposed on each other's free action through the interferences of other wills." We suppose that this statement will be generally received by all reflecting men. The ideal condition of man is a state of perfect liberty.

It is because men are not universally disposed to do right that laws must be passed to check their evil dispositions, and especially to do so by punishing them when they exercise their liberty in such a way as to injure others and abridge their rightful liberty. When therefore men talk in a lofty way of the curtailment of liberty by legal enactments, the simple answer is, that these enactments have been passed not for the abridgement of liberty, but for its protection and maintenance. When the Nihilists of Russia make war upon law and social order in the name of liberty, they are simply bringing back chaos which not merely is not liberty, but which soon must cease to be anything. Law, then, is an absolute necessity in the present conditions of the human race.

Necessary, however, as law must be considered, it will be admitted by all who understand the meaning of the terms, that the fewer laws we have, in the sense of positive enactments, so much the better. It is Lessing who remarks that there are three stages of human education, the first, when the child is bid to do what is right; the second, when he is old enough to understand and imitate example; the third, when the man is guided by

principle? To introduce the first into the sphere of the third, is to confess that the education has more or less failed. Of course, this is the actual case in human society. Many men are mere children, a good many are very naughty children, and they must be treated to the word of command and to the birch rod.

Still, we repeat, the less we have of this the better; and it can hardly be denied, by any serious student of history, that in countries which have enjoyed the most perfect forms of liberty, there has very seldom been any excess of law-making or of governing. Under despotisms there has often been a perpetual and universal meddling with all the relations of social and private life. Under the British Constitution, which has for centuries been the principal guardian of civil and religious liberty, this interference has been reduced to a minimum. There is at the present moment a great and visible danger of the modern democracies bringing back the despotism of the old autocracies and oligarchies.

This is no new thought with students of contemporaneous politics, nor is it by any means the first time that expression has been given to a fear of the danger which is here indicated. Our immediate reason for drawing attention to it at the present moment is found in some admirable and pithy utterances of one of our judges in connection with the early closing movement. We are indebted to Judge Ferguson for his outspokenness. "This country is too much governed," said the judge. "A great deal too much," is our reply; "and we are grateful to a man of your high position and your undoubted ability for telling the public plainly what you think on this subject, seeing the words of weaker men might pass unnoticed."

The occasion was the motion for an injunction to restrain the enforcement of the early closing by-law recently passed by the City Council, under the provisions of "The Ontario Shops Regulation Act" criticised by a correspondent in these columns last week. "His lordship," says the report, "was not gratified by the appearance of the counsel and their mission, and at once said: 'I will not hear the motion to-day. This country is too much governed. We have school trustees, city councils, provincial legislatures, the House of Commons, and the Senate, and surely that is enough to run this country without having to call in the aid of the courts.'" The judge was very moderate in his enumeration. He might have gone on to Scott Acts, (proposed) Prohibition Acts; and, if the possible future were contemplated, there would be no end of the enumeration. One association has proposed to put down the smoking of tobacco, another has declared against animal food. Adam did not eat of it, the antediluvians did not eat it. It was allowed for the first time to the postdiluvians, as any one can see by turning to the Book of Genesis, and see how much sooner people died after that time. It is of no use telling people like these that we are postdiluvians and that we would rather not live nine hundred years, as we are quite contented with the hundred and twenty of Jacob, or even with the three-score and ten or the four-score allowed by David. There is no reasoning with the "fixed idea," and is quite within the bounds of probability that, at some future time, a state or a province may be found on this side of the Atlantic in which the inhabitants are, by compulsion, not only total abstainers from alcohol, but also vegetarians.

As an illustration of this eagerness for too much government, we have now the early closing by-law. It is unnecessary to say that the end proposed by this by-law is excellent. The end of all these meddling measures is always excellent. It would be a splendid consummation, if we could put an end to murder, and possibly some association may some day propose a commission to go through the land and examine people's heads, and order the locking up of all persons who have their organ of destructiveness abnormally developed. Would not such a remedy involve more suffering than the existing evil, terrible as that evil is confessed to be?

Now, touching this early closing, it is undoubtedly a good and necessary thing to protect the poor and the dependent from the cruelty which would impose upon them excessive labour to the detriment of their health, the undermining of their constitutions, and the shortening of their lives. This is a matter which has not been neglected by the legislature. In many cases the hours of labour are regulated by statute, and with good advantage. It is possible that some extension of this legislation might be made to the case of young men and women serving in shops and stores. We think we could, if necessary, make suggestions which, if adopted, would have the effect of affording relief to this class, while enabling shopkeepers whose customers are forced to deal late to meet the needs of their purchasers. But the present question is to determine the utility or disadvantages of the proposed by-law.

Now, it appears that action has been taken somewhat precipitately in regard to this matter. The City Council declare that they have no option in the matter, that wherever seventy per cent. are in favour of early