

from the first mitigations of tribalistic blood-revenge to the hard-won recognition of the principle of arbitration.

And what calls for light and guidance come from the depths of modern society! When so many editors and magistrates and legislators are partisans or cynics or charlatans, what must be the mental condition of their applauding or approving constituents! Listen to the discourse of the average politician and you will find his opinions usually crude and shallow, and often mischievous. But this does not suggest at once the real danger to the State. The observation is a commonplace, and no commonplace is of the least use in the way of enlightenment or reform. The man of liberal mind is bound to seek an explanation of the crudeness and shallowness that are rife in discussions of the weightiest matters. To this end he must explore the fountain head of the evil, the leaders of public opinion in all the professions, and scrutinize their sentiments and their kind and degree of culture. Wherever he penetrates beneath the surface he will discover that our gravest shortcomings as a people are due either to the prevalence of false ideals of patriotism or to the absence of any patriotic ideal whatever.

Let us picture to ourselves one of our high-minded graduates as he finds himself face to face with actual public evils. Wherever he goes among his fellow-citizens he hears great questions of principle or policy discussed, not upon their merits, but from the standpoint of personal or party advantage. He has to listen to clamorous endorsements of party acts or measures, and fierce denunciations of those advocated by political opponents. He sees men whom he had hoped to respect and imitate voting and, perhaps, working for the election of candidates whom they despise—again for personal or party ends. He will learn how ill it fares with measures of social or educational reform, as their fate is determined by ignorance or prejudice or mere mental and moral inertia. He will see provincial or even municipal elections demoralized in word and deed by the identification of national and local politics. He will marvel as he sees how great moral questions that must be dealt with by legislation are rarely viewed by party leaders from the moral standpoint alone. In a word, he is disconcerted and baffled by the practical divorce of morals and politics, by the absence of moral standards in civic life.

Now, what is the liberally-educated man to do? Sometimes he must be tempted to imitate the vow of the young cynic in Maude: "I will bury myself in myself, and the Devil may pipe to his own."

There is, however, a more excellent way for the true University man than that of contempt and aversion. He will, of course, in any case do his own duty, by setting an example of all the civic virtues. But this is not to fulfil the responsibility of his liberal culture or to rise to its privileges. What he has learned of value to the state he is bound, at his peril, to teach to his ignorant and untaught fellow-countrymen. He must not say to himself that they had better be left to themselves in self-contented ignorance, that moonshine is as good as sunshine to those that live in a cave. It is his duty to get them out of their cave into the brightness of his own hard-lyon freedom. If he has had his visions he must declare them. If he has gained the insight and foresight of the seer, he must show the courage and endurance of the prophet. If not, he fails in patriotism just as much as those whom he ignores and despises.

It is often complained that university men have not the rightful scope and chance in public life. Yet they do not need to go into public life at all to exert their best influence upon the state. Carlyle, and Ruskin, and Channing, and Lowell, and Goldwin Smith, never held or sought office; but they stand high among the political prophets of the English-speaking race. Burke and James Bryce, and John Morley, are known as politicians, but their strength is that of the political moralist. The power of the pen, not that of the living voice, is the peculiar prerogative of college-bred men. And in spite of

popular ignorance and indifference the outlook for enlightenment is brighter than ever before in the history of our race and nation. The people are not wholly blind. Many are half-blind or color-blind, for their senses have not been sufficiently exercised to discern good and evil. They have not been trained to the habit of looking upward; and their eyes have long been dazzled by vain shows. What they need most is not more but better knowledge, and a true national perspective—just what students of history can give them. They need to know what is most educating and uplifting in the great world of intellectual thought and endeavor outside of the narrow limits of inexperienced and provincial Canada. The first condition of improvement is the disturbance of self-complacency, "a large and liberal discontent"; and this can never come to our people if their minds are clouded by inherited international prejudices or preoccupied with reflections upon their own attainments or their own fancied virtues. They will have something more wholesome and stimulating to think of when our University men, broad-minded and observing, keep telling them what is being done in the great world of thought and invention, what are the best methods as well as the best results of research, and where these are most successfully pursued.

And in the larger range of national education, the men of higher culture have an almost exclusive field of beneficent labor. They have learned from history and current observation as few others have, and can set forth as few others can, the delusions and illusions of militarism and jingoism. They can expose as few others can the sophistries of the apostles of force, and the seductiveness of all appeals to the lower tribalistic instincts and unchristian passions of our citizens. They can, without standing in any pulpit or mounting any rostrum, become the most effective preachers of the righteousness which exalteth a nation. May He who has called them to this work bless them in the doing of it!

J. F. MCCURDY.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

A very interesting and instructive meeting of the Natural Science Association was held last Thursday afternoon. Mr. H. L. Kerr, '03, was first called upon to deliver a paper on "The Great Ice Age." The chief evidences of glacial action were shown to exist in the boulder clay, which is found in many parts of the world. Many convincing facts were advanced to prove that, probably at one and the same time, the whole of Canada, about one-third of the United States, and a good part of Europe were covered with ice which averaged about a mile in thickness. The various theories put forward to account for this vast accumulation of ice were then ably elucidated. Mr. S. B. Chadsey followed Mr. Kerr with a paper on "The Electrical Works at Niagara." The discussion of these works was much appreciated, particularly by the chemical students. The discussion was limited to the manufacture of carborundum and graphite. It was pointed out that carborundum or carbons, silicide was first discovered in 1891, and that within the last few years the manufacture of it has grown into a great industry. The process of manufacture was shown to consist in the heating of quartz sand, coke, and common salt in an electric furnace to 3,500 deg. Both papers were accompanied by excellent lantern illustrations.

THE HARMONIC CLUB CONCERT.

The fourth annual concert of the Harmonic Club will be given in the Guild Hall on Saturday evening, February 21, at 8.15 o'clock. The concert has been placed on a Saturday so as not to conflict with the regular meeting of the Lit. and to enable the students of all faculties to attend. The programme will be even more varied and attractive than that given on the tour. Mr. Charles E. Clarke, of 1903, will be the soloist of the evening, and both Miss Irving, who scored so many successes on the tour, and Mr. F. E. Brophy, B. A., will appear with the Club. Rehearsals for the concert will be held on Thursday of his week, and on Monday of next week.