

tion of two years standing in a Canadian university. They are probably wise in so doing; for various reasons the Canadian of twenty-one, while superior in natural sagacity and versatility to his English brother of the same age, is in scholarship inferior to the British public school boy of eighteen: callow youths would be little likely to do their country honour, and would in all probability develop into second rate Englishmen, of whom we have a sufficiently plentiful crop in Canada already. But the difficulties entailed by this advanced age-limit must not be overlooked, especially those which must be faced by the candidate when he returns to his own land.

I have felt it my duty to state at some length certain objections to this bequest, as they have hitherto been almost unheard in the chorus of admiration; but even as Augustine, after pronouncing such an encomium on virginity as made the hearer recall Hypathia herself, suddenly changed his tone and delivered such an eulogy on married life as was never heard from Jew or Gentile before, so I now turn to the pleasanter task of painting the advantages to Canada of this great endowment, advantages compared to which its drawbacks sink into insignificance.

What are the chief dangers from which our country is suffering? In politics from a mediocrity which sometimes takes the form of the politician "with his ear to the ground," sometimes of the clever schemer who is "on the make," sometimes of the generous but untrained and impulsive visionary who is at the mercy of any fad which commends itself to his emotions; in business from a spirit of materialism

born of new found prosperity and the sudden realisation of a great inheritance, which takes the form of love, sometimes of comfort and material ease, sometimes of money, at first as a means, but afterwards as an end in itself; a feeling that everything can be estimated in coin of the realm, a worship of the almighty dollar, such as has characterised the United States for the past century, but from which, as they grow older, they are beginning to emerge. What a chance for Canada to produce one or two men whose spirits Oxford can touch to finer issues. whose true Canadian metal she can forge into a brand of shining steel, as strong as the weapon welded upon our native stithies, and far more finely tempered! What better environment to produce a statesman of sane enthusiasm, wide vision, and incorruptible purpose, than the university which for a thousand years has been the Alma Mater of heroic hearts, whose very stones are eloquent of statesmen, of scholars and of martyrs, in whose streets are meeting to-day those who in after years are destined to sway 'the Mother of Parliaments,' those who yearly go out to fight famine and plague in India, or to give peace and prosperity to the Fellaheen, those whose wisdom and scholarship have made Political Economy no longer "the Dismal Science," but the true study for all who would govern "a nation of prophets, of sages, and of worthies." What if a few are lost to Canada? Better a hundred lost if one such be won. Consider what such a man might be worth to the Presbyterian church. In 1853 four students went from the county of Pictou to Glasgow University to study for the