

writer of books for boys he had few equals and no superior. Manly and pure, with love of country, love of men, and love of nature shining on every page, his books have done what many a novel more favored by critics has failed to do,—they have helped us to be better, braver, and truer gentlemen, worthier of our country and ancestors. Not as students, but as boys we say—*Requiescat in pace!*

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Before this number of the JOURNAL will reach its readers the first of the series of Sunday Afternoon Addresses will be delivered and we think it fitting that a little editorial admonition should be given. The publication of these addresses is generally looked upon as a kind of University Extension work, but their delivery in college halls gives them a different signification to the student. They bring to him the thoughts and personality of our best scholars and most noted men. In a small city like Kingston this is much needed for we seldom have an opportunity of hearing these men on the religious questions of the day. Our city ministers have not the opportunity or incentive to discuss them. Indeed a college audience is the only one before which they can be profitably considered. The thought of an Athenian assembly (such as is always to be found in the gallery in Convocation Hall) inspires the lecturer and he gives his best and brightest thoughts. If there is in him anything original—besides sin—he gives it, even at the risk of severe criticism. This was aptly expressed when the editor of a Canadian religious paper, with pawky humor, remarked in reference to Prof. Campbell's address, that he "had no doubt it was as orthodox as such productions (meaning lectures to students) usually are."

For this reason we expect something good. The lecturers have been selected from among the ablest ministers and professors of all the churches. We have no doubt they will acquit themselves worthily. Our past experience justifies us in this confidence and we believe those of this year will be in no way inferior. Given the thinking man to speak and "the youth thirsting for truth" to listen, and the simple law of supply and demand should ensure the result. Surely they will be satisfied!

But perhaps when we took a student audience for granted we assumed too much. Sometimes it has not been so. We have heard rich words spoken to empty benches, empty at least so far as students were concerned. This should not be so. These lecturers are all busy men who, at great self-sacrifice but with most gratifying cordiality, have come to speak to us and we *ought* to make an effort to hear them. It will abundantly repay us and encourage the Syndicate and speakers for another year.

Come and hear them. You can take your walk afterwards (and your sleep before). Bring your

friends. Tell those whom you know to be interested in these things about them. Come on time. Don't disturb the speaker and hearers by strolling in at half-past three. Take a front seat. It makes it easier for the speaker and may save a vocal display urging all in stentorian tones to "come up to the front, please." And when the collection plate goes round, do your duty. There is a heavy expense in bringing the speakers here which must be covered by the collections for the sale of pamphlets hardly pays for their publication. These addresses are a great privilege and let us use them wisely.

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It may be a thankless task for a Canadian College Journal to offer an humble comment upon the great experiment which the United States has inaugurated amongst the nations of the earth. Too often, Canadian and foreign criticisms generally, when levelled at American institutions are pervaded with a spirit of jealousy and unfriendliness which at once stamps them as insincere. Such comments, like the Australian boomerang, only return to injure and confound the writer. The small insinuations and petty jibes of narrow thinkers and bigoted zealots, are but the common coin of very diminutive men. Every organ, be it that of a university, a political party, or a religious denomination, should rise above such trifling caricatures of common sense.

It is with a very different spirit that we desire to point out three great elements of danger, which to our mind, characterize life and institutions in the American Republic.

An avowed weakness in the democratic form of government lies in the fact that it places positions of patronage and power in the scope of unworthy self-seekers. This constitutes almost a fatal menace. The only way out of the difficulty is, for a cultured electorate to hold the question of ability and integrity on the part of those who seek support, far and away *above* all other considerations. Now it requires no proof to convince that Party Platforms and Cries are not the certain concomitants of purity, honesty and right. Bad men must and do get into every party; and if the electorate sacrifice their franchise on the altar of "Partyism" they are simply sowing the seeds of ultimate decay. The first element of danger then lies in blind devotion to Party, irrespective of personal worth in particular candidates. Much to their credit the American people have shown that, though hampered by manhood suffrage and a large foreign and illiterate vote, they can vote strictly on lines of principle. It is on this possibility that their political security and permanence depend.

In the next place, in commercial and professional life, the ideal too strongly tends to be the mere massing together of wealth. Such an aim generally diffused is disastrous to true manhood and worth.