

means of encouraging talent and industry, and, at the same time, of suitably rewarding merit. We commend this Endowment idea to the opulent business men of the country, whose wealth might do much, if they were so minded, to advance the nation in education and culture, and substantially to promote its nascent literature.

THE LONDON CATASTROPHE AND THE ART OF SWIMMING.

THE recent calamitous occurrence at London, Ont., admonishes the public, and particularly our educational authorities, of the unwisdom of allowing our youth to grow up ignorant, we will not say of that accomplishment, but of that imperative necessity for every child in the country—a knowledge of the art of swimming. It is true, that in the London catastrophe, the sudden collapse of the steamer, entombing its scores of victims without the possibility of making an effort to save their lives, gave little chance to its living freight, however proficient any may have been in the art of swimming, either to reach the shore or to remain afloat until succour came. But had this been otherwise, what number of the passengers would have gained safety by knowing how to swim, or how to maintain that coolness of head in time of peril, which a knowledge of the art usually gives to those who find themselves in such circumstances? The answer, we fear, would not be assuring. Let the lesson, now, however, be taken to heart, and let parents and guardians of youth see to it that no child is permitted to grow up without being, if not an expert swimmer, one at least that will not be fatuously helpless when precipitated into the water, still less become the murderer of any one whom he may clutch in his terror and prevent from escaping from the danger from which he is unable to extricate himself. Attached to many of the schools of the Province there is a gymnasium, with appointed hours of exercise, a portion of which might be set aside, the more advantageously where water is accessible, for teaching swimming as a useful accomplishment and desir-

able form of recreation. Facilities for this purpose might be provided by local men of wealth, and a boon conferred upon the young of inestimable benefit, both in regard to health and physical development, and in preparedness for such an emergency as appallingly came to everyone of the ill-fated passengers of the *Victoria*, but from which few were able, or had the opportunity, to escape.

THE REVISED NEW TESTAMENT.

As an evidence of the perennial interest in the sacred books of Christendom, notwithstanding the attitude of many minds in the present day which have either gone over altogether to scepticism, or which affects that "know-nothingism" in religious matters calling itself Agnosticism, the eagerness with which the Revision of the New Testament has been hailed by the people may be taken as conclusive proof. The mingled adverse and favourable criticism of the clergy and the Press, on both sides of the Atlantic, indicates, however, that the work of the Revisers is not going to pass unnoticed or unchallenged. The critics of the Revision belong to two classes—those who desire, and look favourably upon, a more correct rendering of the Scriptures than that of King James; and those who cling to what long usage has endeared to the hearts and minds of the people, and want no change in the present version. The latter class the work just completed will sadly disturb in their superstitious reverence for the verbal accuracy of every part of the Sacred Book. On the whole, however, so far as competent authorities have yet spoken, it may be said that the Revision is likely to be very generally and favourably received, though it may be long ere it officially displaces the version hitherto in use. Some of the alterations, particularly that instanced in the Lord's Prayer, have aroused a good deal of indignation, and incited the charge that the work has been "sacrilegiously tampered with, without the excuse of either divinity or scholarship." Another shout has gone up against the un-