

courage. Say just what you mean to do on every occasion, and take it for granted you mean to do right. If a friend asks a favour you should grant it, if it be reasonable; if not, tell him plainly why you cannot; you will wrong him and wrong yourself by equivocation of any kind. Never do a wrong thing to make a friend or keep one; the man who requires you to do so is dearly purchased at a sacrifice. Deal kindly, but firmly, with all your classmates, you will find it the policy which wears best. Above all do not appear to others what you are not. If you have fault to find with any one, tell him, not others, of what you complain; there is no more dangerous experiment than that of undertaking to be one thing before a man's face and another behind his back. We should live, act and say nothing to the injury of any one. It is not only best as a matter of principle, but it is the path to peace and honor.

"In regard to duty, let me, in conclusion to this hasty letter, inform you that nearly a hundred years ago there was a day of remarkable gloom and darkness—still known as the dark day—a day when the light of the sun was slowly extinguished, as if by an eclipse. The legislature of Connecticut was in session, and as its members saw the unexpected and unaccountable darkness coming on, they shared in the general awe and terror. It was supposed by many that the last day—the day of judgment had come.—Some one, in the consternation of the hour, moved an adjournment. Then there arose an old Puritan legislator, Davenport, of Stamford, and said, that if the last day had come, he desired to be found at his place doing his duty, and, therefore, moved that candles be brought in so that the house could proceed with its duty. There was quietness in that man's mind, the quietness of heavenly wisdom and inflexible willingness to obey present duty. Duty, then, is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things like the old Puritan. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less. Never let me or your mother wear one grey hair for any lack of duty on your part.

Your affectionate father,
R. E. LEE.

To G. W. CURTIS LEE.

X. Educational Intelligence.

CANADA.

— HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—The usual Christmas examinations of the Public Schools of the city were held during the last few days, and last night the distribution of prizes took place in the Mechanics' Hall. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, decidedly the roughest night of the season, the hall was filled to overflowing. There could not have been less than 2,000 persons present, including the children. The chair was occupied by James Cummings, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The proceedings were opened by the chairman, who stated that the schools were at this time in a very prosperous condition, having an attendance of over 2,000 children, and employing 40 teachers. It was said that there should be more teachers, but that could not be until there was more school room provided. This might probably be done during the ensuing year. Until last year the system of giving prizes had not been adopted. At that time his Worship the Mayor had given \$25 towards prizes, which Mr. McCallum had managed to get made up to \$100. This amount enabled them to give \$200 worth of books as prizes. This year they were again indebted to Mr. McElroy for a like amount, the balance being made up by the Board. The prizes were then distributed in each class by the gentleman who had examined them. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Inglis, Rev. Mr. Withrow, Rev. Mr. Haensel, and Mr. Robertson, of Toronto—every gentleman expressing the greatest confidence in the management of the school, and the fitness of the teachers and trustees for the positions they filled. Votes of thanks were passed to the teachers, trustees, and Mr. McElroy; and the children, having sung the National Anthem, the meeting separated.—*Spectator*, 24th Dec.

— CANADIAN LITERARY INSTITUTE, WOODSTOCK.—On the 20th ult., the public meeting of the Adelphian Society and Ladies' Literary Association was held in the lecture-room of the above named institution. Much taste was exhibited by the students in the decorations by which the hall was adorned. Appropriate mottoes and emblems graced the walls, besides which, all the windows in the front of the building were brilliantly illuminated. The next term commences on Tuesday, 10th January next.—*Com. to Times*.

— The Upper Canada College boys and ex-pupils have decided to or-

ganize themselves into a volunteer rifle company in connection with the Queen's Own Battalion.

— NIGHT SCHOOLS.—The Roman Catholic population of this city may take credit to themselves for their well appointed educational establishments, and more especially for being the first this fall to set up night-schools for young men. In other cities night-schools are carried on under the auspices of Mechanics' Institutes, and the scheme is made extremely efficient by the addition of classes for young women. Indeed a Mechanics' Institute that does not embrace some means for educating young men other than the circulation of books and the keeping up a reading room is a mere sham. The lending library will be found patronized only by the novel reader or literary dabbler, while books of instruction in the practical arts and sciences are untouched, because the young people who resort to these places for mental food have not the elementary education necessary to enable them to read scientific books with profit to themselves. A library is merely a help to a system of instructions. An advertisement appeared in our columns lately, on behalf of those students who wish to devote a part of their time to teaching. Now, the abilities of some of these young men might be turned to account in teaching night schools. It is to be hoped the hint will not be lost, and that our Protestant population will see the necessity for these schools as well as Roman Catholics.—*Kingston News*.

— MCGILL UNIVERSITY.—The annual Founder's Festival of this College was given on 25th Nov., in the Molson Hall, by the undergraduates. The place was crowded with a brilliant company, and the building was illuminated; also the avenue leading thereto was lighted with ornamental paper lanterns, hung upon the trees, the whole presenting a most beautiful effect. Professor Dawson opened the proceedings in a few appropriate remarks, in the absence of the Chancellor, who was unavoidably detained away by business. The festival was given, not by the authorities, properly so called, of the University, but by its undergraduates, and in honor of its founder, Peter McGill, who, nearly a century ago, arrived a poor, unfriended Scotchman, at Quebec. The occasion was worthy alike of the hosts and of their guests; to the latter of whom he, in the name of the undergraduates, accorded a most cordial welcome.—B. Chamberlin, Esq., came forward, he said, that night, as the representative of the University Society, who, along with the undergraduates, and the company then present, had met to do honor to their foster-mother, the McGill University. On the members of the University Society looking backward, it seemed only the other day when they were youths, when they had all the vigor and ambition of manhood, without its cares and responsibilities. They were now scattered over the land, and some had gone to that land from whence there is no return. But it did those, who were spared, good to come back to that place, and to tread once more the old halls where so much of the intelligence of the country was being fostered and trained. He hoped that his younger foster-brethren would allow him to give them some hints and advice. It would be well for them, at times, to turn for a moment from their books, and reflect upon the career which they would for the future choose to pursue. They owed it to themselves and to their friends to strike out some new path of life. Let them remember that they had a country to serve, and one that now stood in the very crisis of her fate. The Universities of England had always sent out men able and willing to guide and advance their country's fortunes, and this of McGill should not fail to do so. Let its graduates dream dreams of the future time. We had, indeed, need of men of liberal culture, who were able to root out prejudice, and to grasp and guide the interests of this northern half of the northern continent. We were now trying to build up an empire destined to last as long as this continent, and it would entail disgrace upon the University if it did not attempt to send out its Pitts and its Gladstones, to do for this what those men had done for the mother country. But, whilst assembling to do honor to the departed founder, let them not fail to gratefully remember their living benefactor, William Molson, then present; and as he, the speaker, had been permitted for a moment to assume the office of a Mentor, he would wind up like an old man, like Polonius: he would counsel them to remember and be true to their University. Let them, in the words of Polonius, be true to their own selves, they could not then be false to any man.—E. S. Lyman, B.A., then spoke as the representative of the faculty of law. He said, after the silent labors of the year, the University again opened her drawing-room to her friends, asking them to celebrate, along with the students, the munificence of the founder. A spirit of union was essential, for, if their hearts were not united, the whole would be cold and ineffectual. Along with the wisdom of McGill, they had to build up a University for Canada