

in youth, better than success, which indeed too easily and too early gained, not seldom serves, like winning the first throw of the dice, to blind and stupefy. Get all the knowledge you can; and the more you get, the more you breathe upon its nearer heights the invigorating air and enjoy the widening views, the more you will know and feel how small is the elevation you have reached in comparison with the immeasurable altitudes that yet remain unscaled. Be thorough in all you do, and remember that, though ignorance often may be innocent, pretension is always despicable. "Quit you like men, be strong!" and the exercise of your strength to-day will give you more strength to-morrow. Work onwards and work upwards; and may the blessing of the Most High soothe your cares, clear your vision, and crown your labours with reward."

#### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

An able and esteemed minister of the Presbyterian Church sends us the following: "I would take exception to an article in the last number of the JOURNAL (page 35) on the execution of Riel, where capital punishment is characterized as 'a relic of a by-gone and barbaric age; as a question of morals iniquitous and as a metaphysical problem unphilosophic.' As I read my Bible the Lord himself gave the laws to the race (Gen. 9-5-6), and I have not yet found the place in that same Bible where the law has been repealed. Such is my opinion of the question and such is the authority I believe by which life is judicially taken away, and the right is neither iniquitous in morals nor unphilosophic in metaphysics. It may be proper to discuss such a question in a college journal, but I would humbly submit that it would carry more weight and be more likely to change the opinion of old men like myself if the language employed were a little more guarded in the face at least of a Scriptural declaration which many like myself feel has all the sacredness of a Divine Revelation." [We are in hearty sympathy with the above. The article referred to was inserted by gentlemen not now in office.]—ED.

#### EDUCATED WOMEN'S TRUE DUTIES.

A LADY, perceiving by the JOURNAL that our college is now interested in the higher education of women, sends us the following thoughtful paragraph: "Woman occupies at the present time a considerable share of public attention. The subject as to whether females should attend college has been widely discussed. For the higher education of women who does not wish? A systematic course of medical training, in order to meet emergencies and accidents with presence of mind, is very advantageous. Many lives might be saved if those on the spot knew how to bind up a wound, treat a burn, or restore animation in cases of drowning. Fewer lives would be sacrificed to the ignorance of the sick nurse if a good solid education was made compulsory because a smattering of Latin which enables

one to read a prescription is not all that is required. But education also renders women fitter companions for fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers. There is a vast field for women in which to work without infringing upon the active duties of men. Home is their proper sphere, and domestic affection their highest attribute. If women wish to be useful they may be so in many ways apart from lawyers' or doctors' offices. If they have literary taste, for instance, they may write that for which having read mankind shall be the better. Many women have done valuable work in this department. Again, there are poor people around us, many of whom are longing for a helping hand, or a loving word. Who is better fitted for supplying these wants than a kind, gentle, thoughtful young lady? Let woman cast aside her weakness of purpose and that slavish clinging to fashion which too often characterizes her, and in all she does let her aim at the highest, even though she fail, and there will be no need of her vieing with man."

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Queen's College Journal.

Sir,—As we understand it, the Alma Mater is a society intended to advance the intellectual interests of the students, and its platform is open alike to the students of arts, medicine and divinity. According to the constitution each department has equal right to its privileges. Yet these *privileges* are subject to abuse, not by any particular branch of the students of Queen's University, as some would insinuate. After a careful survey of the situation, we think the arts student from whom some of the complaints have been made against the other departments, are not altogether free from censure themselves. Those who would insinuate that the students of the affiliated Royal Medical College of Queen's University ought to be deprived of the privileges of the Alma Mater of their own university, overlook the many disadvantages such a peremptory course would involve. Such a course would not only sever the kindly interplay of feeling which always existed between the several affiliated colleges of the university, but would also be ruinous to the society, unjust toward the medical department and illegal according to the constitution.

It would be injurious to the society in as far as it would diminish a great deal of the interest in our Alma Mater. It must be plain to every observant mind that if the A. M. suffrage were diminished its field of public influence would be restricted. No one can deny that a state having an electoral vote of 80,000 must be more extensively known and its influence more distinctly felt on a continent than one with only 10,000 electoral votes. In the same position does the Alma Mater Society stand in relation to the outside literary world. The greater number of affiliated colleges this society of Queen's can look to for support, even in the election of its officers,