

his own successes and failures in the battle of life are his teachers. But the knowledge that may be gained from books can be made available to the mass of the people only by means of public libraries. It is a well-established law that genius and talent, whether scientific or literary or executive, gravitate to the great centres of population. But even at those centres the number is limited who can derive inspiration from personal contact with the wise and learned. It is only through the medium of the printing press that great minds can touch the outermost circle of humanity; and by that marvellous agency the lore of the ages, freighted down the stream of time, may be distributed to every man's door. But in order that this may be accomplished there must be collective effort. The late revolution in publishing—aptly termed the literary complement of political democracy—though it vastly cheapened the price of books, has not dispensed with the necessity of public libraries. The standard works, in which are enshrined the best thoughts of the best minds, will always be expensive and beyond the purchasing power of the poor man. But even if that were not so, the very existence of a free library in their vicinity will awaken in the minds of men a thirst for knowledge to which but for that they would have remained strangers.

It is the proud boast of these times that "knowledge runs to and fro throughout the land;" that this is indeed the distinctive feature of our civilization. For while in classic Greece and Rome the few drank of the Pierian spring, and the many were imbruted and enslaved, in our land a general enlightenment pervades all classes and conditions of men. But if this boast is to be justified in its entirety, it can only be accomplished by the wide diffusion of books, by the establishment of a free library in every city and town and hamlet.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

ON Wednesday morning the voting papers were opened by Principal Grant and A. P. Knight, M.A., Registrar of the Council. The following was the result of the scrutiny, the names being arranged according to the number of votes polled for each:—

Rev. M. W. Maclean, M.A.,	Belleville.
John A. Mudie, B.A.,	Kingston.
James McCammon, M.D.,	do.
Rev. D. Fraser, M.A.,	Mount Forest.
Thos. R. Dupuis, M.D.,	Kingston
D. B. McTavish, M.A.,	Ottawa.
F. H. Chrysler, B.A.,	do.

The following stood next:—Rev. H. Cameron, Kippen; Rev. W. A. Lang, M.A., Lunenburg; Rev. G. M. Milligan, B.A., Toronto; W. H. Henderson, M.D., Kingston; John Ball Dow, B.A., Whitby; Geo. R. Webster, B.A., Brockville; D. M. McIntyre, B.A., Kingston; Rev. John Ferguson, M.A., B.D., Chesley; Jas. A. McDowall, B.A., Sarnia. Scattering votes were given for 31 persons. The number of graduates who exercised the privileges of voting was not so nearly what it should be. The Council is the only means by which graduates can have any voice in the management of the University, and the small number of voters certainly shows a lack of interest; but we suppose people thought things were now going on so satisfactorily in Queen's that it was not worth their while to trouble about them. It will be seen by the result of the election that an effort was made to get some of the younger graduates on the Council; but we have no doubt their time will come. Either J. B. Dow, B.A., '75, Barrister of Whitby, G. R. Webster, B.A., '75, Barrister of Brockville, D. M. McIntyre and Dr. Henderson or Rev. John Ferguson, B.D., '79 would have been a good choice. These are all very recent graduates. The new blood in Duncan B. McTavish, M.A., '73, of Scott McTavish and McCracken, Ottawa, one of the rising lawyers of the Capital, and Francis H. Chrysler, B.A., Barrister, Ottawa, who is a high honour man. No better choice could have been made than the seven gentlemen elected. They retire in 1886.

CONTRIBUTED.

. We wish it to be distinctly understood that the JOURNAL does not commit itself in any way to the sentiments which may be expressed in this department.

THE NEAR NORTH WEST.

VERY much has been written and spoken about the capabilities and incapacities of our great North West. Comparatively little—and that little only to belittle—has been made known concerning the value and resources of the country to the north of the large fresh water lakes of Huron and Superior.

That so little concerning the real nature of such a large tract of country should be known is much to be regretted.

At any rate, it becomes of importance to the students of a University like Queen's, whose chief aim is to train Canada's sons to advance Canada's welfare, should