

AUTUMN

expected: the sons of farmers forsake the plough,—forsake it for the professions; not always to the benefit of the professions; not always to the benefit of themselves. Two other charges are sometimes brought against the system: one, that, in the pointed phrase of Mr. Goldwin Smith, "everybody tries to climb over everybody else's head"; the other that, since the State undertakes the whole tuition of the child, from the Kindergarten to the University degree, the parent is too apt to shift on to the State responsibilities a portion of which he should surely justly share.¹ Of these two shortcomings the influences are insidious and far-reaching. Professional competition does not heighten standards; parental irresponsibility does not strengthen character. But doubtless these things will right themselves in time. It is perhaps praiseworthy, not blameworthy, that a new country should set for itself standards temporarily in advance of itself.

¹ See an article on "Shall the State Educate?" by Mr. Goldwin Smith, in "The Monthly Review" for January, 1903.