

where. This is an age of such keen competition that our men must be qualified for their special calling. So, for other than a professional life, the Business College is preferable to the High School. OLIVIA.

Negative—Essay II.

When a boy enters the High School he studies history, literature, and very often languages, for four years. How will he who intends farming profit by this when he leaves school? Granted that every one should know the history of the country and empire to which he belongs, he does not need to spend four years at a High School to learn it. The various libraries throughout the country make it possible for almost every farmer to read books on this subject, if he cares for it; if he does not, then few of the facts will be remembered a year after leaving school. In this way the best literature is within the reach of any one who wants it. Many of those who write for a teacher's certificate take Latin. Only those who go to the university ever use it, and certainly not the farmer. Euclid is studied faithfully, and often fearfully, for three years, never to be used by ninety-nine farmers out of a hundred. Bookkeeping is studied in most of the High Schools for two years only. Now, the average farmer needs his bookkeeping every time he buys or sells anything. He also needs to be a clear writer. Many pupils say they wrote better before they went into the High Schools than when they came out, as incessant scribbling will spoil anyone's penmanship.

Now, it seems that most of the subjects in the High-school course are useless to a boy who intends farming. Very few of them are required to work out a cube-root or a circulating decimal, while all of them need to know how to draw up a draft or note, and sum up a bill, and work out a question in interest. A business man will tell you that a High-school graduate cannot keep his books, but must learn over again. Farmers have to deal with business men, not High Schools.

After a course in a Business College, a boy can write more clearly, draw up a note, etc., and do a problem in arithmetic with more speed than he could after four years at a High School. In the time he has been at a Business College he has been able to see how a business is run, and the value of system; how money increases by careful investment, and how well-spent money will double itself in time. All these things will be of use to a farmer in every branch of his work. Surely a course at a Business College will prove of more practical use. And if such a training were given to a would-be farmer, would not the farmers of Canada be vastly improved at the end of fifty years? "A SPECTATOR."

Reply by Leader of Affirmative.

Replying to the arguments advanced by the Negative, I would say: They claim their course saves time and money.

This is, indeed, an age of keen competition, and the farmer should be able to compete with other men intellectually, and if more money and time are required, are they lost?

The boy, left to himself on leaving public school, seizes on light, sensational fiction, rather than history or travel. He will, however, seek information regarding "law," so I claim he should go on with his general rather than business education. The High School teaches bookkeeping enough for any farmer's requirements. He learns well how to draw notes, cheques, etc.

I personally am acquainted with several teachers who keep books for business men during holidays.

No one can master arithmetic in six months as he can in four years. The Negative side forget it is not the

mere knowledge acquired in arithmetic, algebra and Euclid that makes them useful (though we do not under-rate its value), but rather the training in logical reasoning, concentration of attention and mental effort. This fits a man to deal with weighty questions intelligently, making him self-reliant, not a puppet in others' hands, or a reed shaken by winds of public opinion.

Business Colleges turn out as many stenographers and typewriters as bookkeepers. May that not account for their increase? Submitting these few points, we await your decision. Yours respectfully, AGNES HUNT.

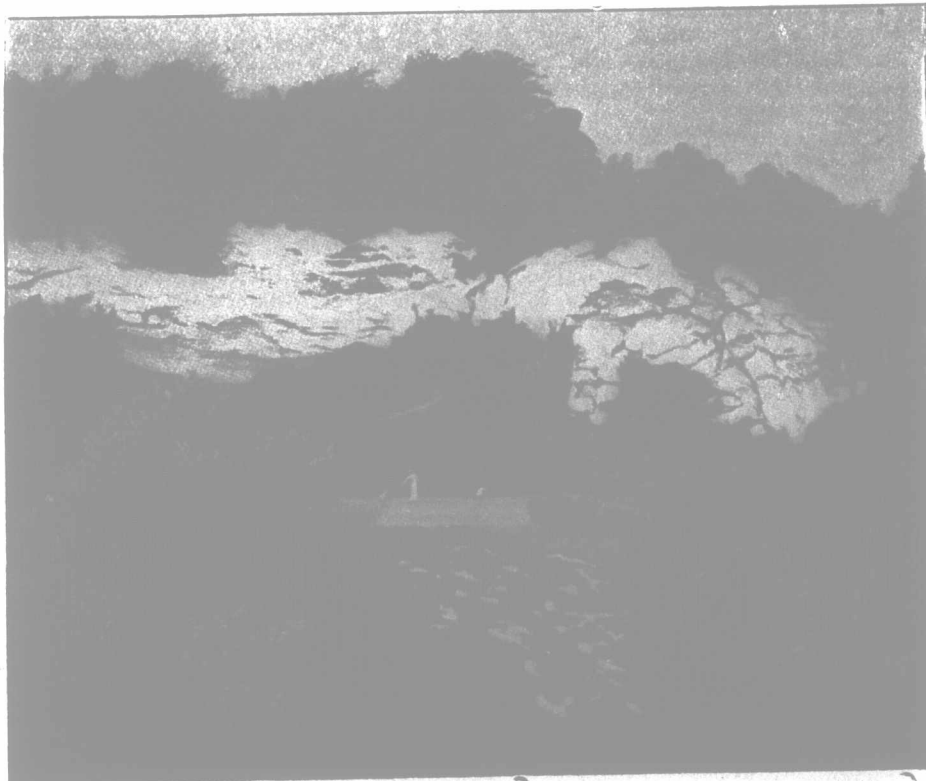
Reply by Leader of Negative.

Nos. (1) and (2):

The farmer has not time for years of High-school training, whilst the so-called few subjects of the Business College are especially adapted to his requirements.

Nos. (3), (4) and (12):

With the changed curriculum, there is no Departmental Examination on bookkeeping, penmanship and drawing, so the training here is very limited, whilst in the Business Col-



Sir Ed. J. Poynter, Bart., P.C.A.

A Surrey Chalk Pit.

lege special stress is laid upon book-keeping and free-hand business writing, without the extra flourishes.

Nos. (5) and (14):

Arithmetic, algebra and Euclid are also taught in the Business College, with special attention to the farmer's needs in regard to measurements and weights.

[Note.—The Principal of a prominent Business College informs us that he knows of no Business College in which Euclid and Algebra are taught. We note this with no intention of throwing weight on the Affirmative side, but as a mere statement of a fact. There may possibly be exceptions, but as a general rule, Algebra and Euclid are not on the Business-college curriculum.—Ed.]

No. (6): The business student is not required to study stenography and typewriting.

No. (7): Botany does not help him to eradicate the weeds, which is the essential in successful farming.

No. (8): He is not taught the chemistry of the soil or any sciences especially helpful to agriculture.

Nos. (9) and (10): His public-school education has already given him an insight into these subjects, and laid the foundation for further researches. To remain up-to-date and well-read, he must continue to read for himself, and not rely upon past education.

No. (11): Composition and grammar are also taught in the Business College.

No. (13): The languages are not of sufficient practical benefit to the farmer to compensate for the time spent upon them.

No. (15): Personally, as a farmer's daughter, with a High-school education, I nevertheless say that the practical and concise business education is preferable for the farmer, with its special training in keeping accounts, practical arithmetic and commercial law.

OLIVIA.

A Surrey Chalk Pit.

One so well known as Sir Ed. J. Poynter, President of the Royal Academy, Principal of the Art Training School of South Kensington, and Director of the National Gallery, needs no personal introduction. His subject is a somewhat weird one in print; but, with the light and shade, the dazzling white of the rocks of crumbling chalk, crowned and interlaced by trees of many shades of green, which artistic coloring alone can give, there is a charm about an old Surrey chalk pit well worthy of an artist's brush. Its still life is relieved by the figures below. The little lad having successfully scrambled down through the brushwood, is off in hunt of

News of the Day.

Canadian.

Canada has been anxiously watching Dr. Haanel's experiments at the Sault in smelting iron ore by electricity, and the announcement of his success has caused great satisfaction. Every year opens up new mining areas in Canada, and the cheapening of the smelting process by the new system will greatly facilitate the promotion of the iron industry in every branch.

The cobalt industry at Cobalt has received a new impetus from the fact that agents of Thomas A. Edison are on the spot, and are taking all the cobalt that can be obtained at 35 cents a pound. Mr. Edison is using the mineral for a new kind of storage battery which he is perfecting.

Mr. P. M. Murdoch, a mining expert from South Africa, has found near Cobalt, an agate of a species only met with in diamondiferous soil or drift. His discovery gains more weight from the fact that indications of a diamond-bearing area in Northern Ontario have been noticed repeatedly by scientists during the past year or two.

The first railway in Canada to be operated by motors run by gasoline generating steam, is to be built from Port Credit to Guelph, Ont.

The first Legislature for the new Western Provinces was opened at Edmonton, Alta., on March 15th.

British and Foreign.

M. Sarrien, the new Premier of France, has reconstructed the Cabinet.

The Chamber of Deputies has voted \$100,000, and the Miners' Association \$40,000, for the relief of the families of the men, 1,212 in number, who lost their lives in the recent mining disaster at the Courrieres Mine, Lens, France.

Three villages in the Samoan Islands have been destroyed by eruptions from the volcano Savaii.

It is stated that China intends to have a constitutional government, modelled on that of England.

M. Sarrien, who has succeeded M. Rouvier as Premier of France, is a moderate Republican. He was born in 1840, at Bourbon-Lancy, of which town he was afterwards mayor. In the war of 1870-71 he served as a Captain of Militia. He was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1876, became Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in 1885, Minister of the Interior in 1887, Vice-Pres. of the Chamber of Deputies 1896-98, Minister of Justice in 1898. He was a candidate for the Presidency of France in the recent contest, in which he was defeated by M. Fallieres.

The prospect of a general election in the near future, has by no means poured oil on the troubled waters of Russia. In Moscow a large proportion of the workmen have refused to take part in the election at all, and proclamations are being scattered about declaring that the revolutionaries will blow up the electoral offices as soon as the election begins. In the meantime, the Minister of Justice at St. Petersburg is hurriedly drafting laws to prevent election abuses, and it would appear that the election itself must only bring the present discord to a crisis.

adventures in the tempting-looking caves left by the excavators of earlier times. Mother and Carlo keeping guard lest "the bogies get him!" H. A. B.

March.

A half-wild creature cast from Winter's lap;

A vagrant reveler in Nature's courts; With wind-disheveled hair she wildly sports

With twig and bough, surcharged with rising sap.

In scant and freely flowing raiment drest, Her slim brown arms upflung to greet the rain.

She screams her challenge to the silent plain

And makes of every day a crazy jest!

She rushes fiercely down the hillside steep.

And dandles through forsaken forest aisles

Where last year's leaves lie deep in spongy piles.

And gaunt-limbed trees their endless vigils keep.

And so for days her reckless reign extends;

Teased and tormented Nature groans outright;

Until, at last, the madcap thing takes flight.

And gentle April comes to make amends.

—Edwin Carlile Litsey, in Everybody's Magazine for March.