

## COLLEGE NEWS.

enlightened opponent of the chosen people, of the children of the light. The party of change, the would-be remodelers of the old traditional European order, the invokers of reason against custom, the representatives of the modern spirit in every sphere where it is applicable, regarded themselves, with the robust self-confidence natural to reformers, as a chosen people, as children of the light. They regarded their adversaries as humdrum people, slaves to routine, enemies to light; stupid and oppressive, but at the same time very strong. This explains the love which Heine, that Paladin of the modern spirit, has for France over Germany: "The French," he says, "are the chosen people of the new religion, its first gospels and dogmas have been drawn up in their language; Paris is the New Jerusalem, and the Rhine is the Jordan which divides the consecrated land of freedom from the land of the Philistines." He means that the French, as a people have shown more accessibility to ideas than any other people; that prescription and routine have had less hold upon them than upon any other people; that they have shown most readiness to move and to alter at the bidding (real or supposed) of reason. This explains, too, the detestation which Heine had for the English: "I might settle in England," he says, in his exile, "if it were not that I should find there two things, coal-smoke and Englishmen; I cannot abide either." What he hated in the English was the "ächtbritische Beschränktheit," as he calls it,—the *genuine British narrowness*. In truth, the English, profoundly as they have modified the old Middle-Age order, great as is the liberty which they have secured for themselves, have in all their changes proceeded, to use a familiar expression, by the rule of thumb; what was intolerably inconvenient to them they have suppressed, and as they have suppressed it, not because it was irrational, but because it was practically inconvenient, they have seldom in suppressing it appealed to reason, but always, if possible, to some precedent, or form, or letter, which served as a convenient instrument for their purpose, and which saved them from the necessity of recurring to general principles.

There is a balm in Philistia as well as in Gilead. A chosen circle of children of the modern spirit, perfectly emancipated from prejudice and commonplace, regarding the ideal side of things in all its efforts for change, passionately despising half-measures and condescension to human folly and obstinacy,—with a bewildered, timid, torpid multitude behind,—conducts a country to the ministry of Herr von Bismarck. A nation regarding the practical side of things in its efforts for change, attacking not what is irrational, but what is pressingly inconvenient, and attacking this as one body, "moving altogether if it move at all," and treating children of light like the very harshest of step-mothers, comes to the prosperity and liberty of modern England. For all that, however, Philistia (let me say it again) is not the true promised land, as we English commonly imagine it to be; and our excessive neglect of the idea, and consequent inaptitude for it, threatens us, at a moment when the idea is beginning to exercise a real power in human society, with serious future inconvenience, and, in the mean while, cuts us off from the sympathy of other nations, which feel its power more than we do.

## RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

AT the recent meeting of the Council of Queen's University, the following resolutions of condolence were unanimously passed:

"The Hon. Alexander Morris, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of this University, having deceased since their last meeting, the Council desire to place on record their sense of the loss which they have sustained in the death of one possessed of so many claims to their highest respect and grateful remembrance.

Gifted with more than ordinary talents, and animated by pure and noble aims, he, from a very early period of his life, took an active and lively interest in those public affairs which, from time to time, occupied the attention of the Legislature and country. His election to Parliament in 1861, therefore, found him well prepared for successfully taking part in its deliberations. In 1869 he was made a member of the Dominion Cabinet, and the brightest prospects of political distinction lay before him. The weak state of his health, however, which was never very robust, but which the invigorating climate of the North-West was thought best fitted to restore, led him in 1872 to accept the office of Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench for Manitoba. After having established in that Province the system of English law, and provided for its due administration, he was in the same year appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and the North-West Territories and Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Returning to Ontario in 1878, after his five years' term of service had expired, he was shortly afterwards elected one of the members for Toronto in the Provincial Parliament, and took a leading part in its debates.

Although from the uncertain state of his health Mr. Morris was prevented from taking that prominent place in the Dominion and Provincial Legislatures, which he was peculiarly qualified to fill, to very few indeed has it been allotted to exercise a more important and beneficial influence on the best interests of his native land. As far back as 1855, while yet a young man, in his prize essay on "Canada and its resources," and a lecture which followed, on "The Hudson's Bay and Pacific territories," he not only shewed, that had he devoted himself to literary pursuits he would have obtained for himself a high place as a Canadian author, but taught his fellow-countrymen the greatness and value of their heritage, and was one of the first to advocate the Confederation of the Provinces from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the construction of the Intercolonial and Pacific railways. Strongly impressed with these views, he was largely instrumental at a critical period in bringing about that reconciliation of contending parties which resulted in the establishment of confederation in 1867, and gave his zealous and effective support to the prosecution of those railway connections which he had foreshadowed. Later on, while he was Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba and the North-West territories, the same ability and conciliatory disposition enabled him to make with the Indians of the North-West the various treaties, satisfactory to both parties, and faithfully