

## MILITARY EDUCATION.

Sir William Dawson in a few felicitous sentences, at the close of the Arts and Science Convocations referred to the present disturbance in our Northwest and with the enlightenment begot of ripe scholarship coupled with deep thinking, and the patriotism which strives to apply it for the advancement and good of his country alluded to the mighty influence which the dissemination of knowledge, and especially which the possession of a sound liberal education by those who are placed in positions of national trust, exercises in doing away with the causes of rebellion.

That this view is sound and worthy of consideration, is self-evident whether we ask for education to be given either the governed or governors.

The personal liberty secured under Western constitutions is a blessing fraught with very grave responsibilities; and the very existence of these constitutions is dependent upon the fidelity with which the leaders of men attend to the mental and moral needs of the common people.

No more explosive force exists in the wide universe than a knowledge of wrong, hand in hand with an ignorance as to how to right that wrong.

The force of Sir William's remarks gathers strength and emphasis from a consideration of what successful and just statesmanship requires: what, broad sympathies and what varied acquirements! We know not how often communities are thrown into commotion and disorder because of the lack of that liberal and charitable view of events, which is *par excellence* the gift, dependent on a sojourn in the kingdom of letters.

But our object in this article is not so much to argue upon the value of applying the great engine of education and even-handed justice, in the solution of the problem of government, as to point to the lamentable and culpable neglect which the people of this country display in respect to their military education.

From all appearances, the day is yet far distant, when peoples and nations will be in a position to rely upon the spelling-book and the school-master rather than upon the sword and the general, for the settlement of their difficulties. If this be true then we hold it simple madness for any nation, no matter how isolated her condition, or how few her international concerns to neglect, as Canada has done, the military education of her young men.

The present crisis has demonstrated abundantly, of what excellent stuff, our young men are composed. And when we remember that the Minister of Militia,

is contemptuously dubbed in the House of Commons, the "Minister of Militia and *Expense*;" that any outlay upon the training of these very men who are now sacrificing their lives in their country's cause, is fiercely attacked by one set of our representatives and as weakly defended by another; that whatever proficiency our volunteers have, is due mainly to the self-sacrificing liberality, both in time and money of the volunteer officers throughout the country; we certainly have good reason to deplore the want of intelligent interest in national affairs which this state of things argues.

THE GAZETTE KNOWS no party politics. This subject comes properly within our sphere; and we are bound to say that no political party is immediately to blame for it, but that the sentiment, or rather the lack of sentiment, of the voters of the country has not supported parliament and thereby enabled it to perform its duty in this respect.

We have said, that no political party is to blame in this matter; this statement requires qualification, doubtless a broader culture, in our public men, would result in a more exalted idea of the responsibilities of public office, and would ensure a race of members of parliament who would sometimes consider it as much their duty to *lead* as they now do to *follow* the public opinion.

And what of McGill men! must our college studies cause us to forget our citizenship? While we train our minds to speed the progress and prosperity of our country and race, do we never think, that the soil from which our young strength has sprung may some day need our arm to strike a foe,—against whom reason is powerless?

There was a time when McGill boasted her college company; an ideal Canadian corps! from every province of the broad Dominion, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, might there be found men, side by side, under the Union Jack ready to fight for flag and fatherland!

The manly exercise of the military drill is in itself worth knowing; it has a most beneficial effect upon the body and bearing of a man, independent of our obligation to acquire it, and we trust steps will be taken next session to place the MCGILL COMPANY again upon the list of the country's citizen soldiery.

"What do I put you in mind of?" "A French clock," she said softly. And pretty soon he arose and went on his way. The next morning he called on an eminent horologist and asked him what was the distinguishing trait of a French clock. The horologist said, "Why, it never goes." And the young man was sorely cast down, and he grieved, and told no man of his hurt.