

attending Catholic colleges who never remain settled long enough in one place to accumulate any of the moss of knowledge. They begin student life with a well defined purpose—to graduate at the earliest possible moment. For them the shortest way is the best; they have no desire to blister their feet on the royal road to learning. Hence after a serious study of various prospectuses they choose a college—*Alma Mater*—the one least likely to intoxicate with deep draughts from the Pierian Spring. If by any mischance a mistake were made in the choice, immediately another college is sought out where the course is lighter and where, perchance, a year may be gained. And so this annual or biennial migration goes merrily on, working incalculable harm to all concerned. Where will it end? Who is responsible for it? It must be evident to everyone that those itinerant students injure themselves, often grievously wrong the institutions they leave, and always bring reproach on the cause of Catholic education.

Three removes are as bad as a fire in material things; the like is true in matters intellectual, and about the only thing those students ever know is topography, acquired by extensive travelling rather than by study. There is another quality in which they are not deficient—self assertion. They push themselves into the highest positions without any regard to the necessary qualifications; they are considered as representatives of the education imparted by Catholic Colleges, and therefore the shame of their failure reflects but slightly on themselves. There are two remedies for this evil. Firstly, let the directors of Catholic institutions insist on the production of certificates of qualification in the matters previously studied; students seldom leave where they are succeeding in their classes. And secondly let those who feel inclined to change frequently their intellectual

pasture-land reflect on what Poor Richard says:—

“I never saw an oft-removed tree,

Nor yet an oft-removed family,

That throve so well as those that settled be.”

A ROYAL ROAD TO LEARNING.

We have recently been honored by a brief communication from an enterprising friend of education, who wishes to know the cost of inserting two short cards, of about four lines each, in *THE OWL*. One of these “ads.” makes known the fact that the institution of which the advertiser is president, (and from some recent developments we infer that he also comprised the greater portion of the faculty) is ready to confer all academical degrees on deserving candidates; the other hints that the furnishing of a certain number of names of persons anxious to obtain degrees would go some ways towards making a candidate deserving. It is probable that quite a number, if not all college papers received like applications, but to the credit of college journalism it must be stated that one alone, of our numerous exchanges, published the cards. We have frequently heard it stated that money was a more powerful factor than knowledge in procuring professional sheepskins, but till now we had never seen the “business” of selling diplomas so openly advertised. No wonder that the degrees of American colleges are looked upon with suspicion! No wonder that there is a growing determination on the part of foreign universities to ignore them!

The abuse became so flagrant and dangerous in the matter of medical degrees that the law intervened and to a great extent repressed it. In other branches of science the evil still exists, and will grow day by day, until reputable institutions unite and adopt some method protective of their own interests and of