

OUR COLLEGE LIBRARY.

Now that the Library is open every day, though unhappily only for a short time, we have a better opportunity of appreciating its contents and employing them to advantage. It is at least an agreeable way of spending a half hour after dinner to search through its treasures and dip into volumes that we may never possess or read through, or to consult some convenient work of reference that may clear up a doubt or settle a point in dispute. If tables were only placed in the alcoves with a sufficient number of seats so that the books could be conveniently read, and matting laid on the floor, it would be a more desirable resort than it is. But in any case a little time given daily to communion with the world's great minds will be profitable. And we meet many of them here. Considering the somewhat fortuitous way in which the Library has been collected it is really marvellous the number of works of the best class to be found on its shelves. So far as Theology is concerned we have a good basis for all its departments, while general literature and science are by no means wanting. Of course all of the 12,000 volumes which it contains are not of equal value; but those friends who have given the chief donations have been wise in selecting chiefly what is of genuine utility and interest, and if there are many gaps unsupplied there has been little unnecessary duplication. Foremost of its treasures comes the magnificent Greek and Latin Patrologia, which practically embraces all Christian literature down to the Reformation, and is not infrequently consulted by those outside the immediate College circle. It were much to be desired that we had similar collections of Rabbinical writings, Reformers, and Puritan fathers, as well as of the Sacred books of the East now being published by Max Muller. A complete set of the celebrated Bampton Lectures would also be an acquisition of the most valuable kind. The fac-similes of two of the leading manuscripts of the Bible are always objects of interest. That of the Vatican manuscript (probably the oldest now remaining) has recently been published and should be beside them. The Sebright Collection lately added contains rich materials for study in the departments of Ancient and Modern Literature as well as in Theology, for which it furnishes especially the famous Complutensian Polyglott. But space will not allow us to particularize further. At the risk, however, of exposing our poverty in some unexpected directions we may venture to indicate some other important works still wanting, which ought to be in a special library such as this. And for the information of any generous friends who might be disposed to supply them we have taken the trouble to ascertain the prices at or about which they might be obtained. We should have Clark's Foreign Theological Library (cost of vols. wanting about \$100); McClintock and Strong's Biblical Cyclopædia (the greatest and most