

the errors of the middle ages. The fact that a dozen different camps of theology exist, each acknowledging the others contain enough fundamental truth to insure the salvation of true believers, affords *prima facie* evidence that there should be only one individual and Catholic Church. Against these primal truths the world may throw its scepticism, but it will be but as the mist against the rock. Investigation is to Christianity as fire is to gold—a refining and purifying power. The numerous troubles that beset the church of Christ arise from our creed-making propensities; we must have the how and the why and the wherefore of everything. It is on the radii of tenets that battles are fought; as regards the central truths we are a unity. It is always refreshing to turn to the teachings of the great teacher Himself, which shine with as broad a light to-day as they did 1800 years ago. They are based on reason, and if in all the realms of nature there are laws of method, they will be found in Christianity alone, and for that reason. The Reformation did much to unshackle the church, but a full century passed before the world commenced to comprehend the powers of Christianity. It is a curious fact that Christianity is the only system that refuses to change with the changing years. Science changes,—has varied its theories several times within the last fifty years,—but Christianity is steadfast. Groups of gentlemen have lately been revising the Scriptures, and searching for the most primitive forms of Christianity, feeling that the nearer they came to them the nearer they would be to truth. The idea that some people have that Christianity is changing has arisen from the fact that for the last 300 years men have been lopping off the excrescences that have attached themselves to it. Systems that depend for success on the illiteracy of the masses may sit in sackcloth and ashes, for no power may keep from the people the knowledge of their power and of their privileges. The spirit of our day is peculiarly suited to the spirit of our religion. Hitherto the image of the Creator has been veiled by creed-makers—the day is coming when we shall see Him as He is.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Burns at the close of the lecture, and presented in suitable terms by the chairman.

LECTURES vs. TEXT BOOKS.

(Yale Courant.)

Can a student acquire as much knowledge from a lecture as he can from a text book? This is a question which we have revolved in our minds of late, and have come to the conclusion that he cannot. There are certainly some subjects which can be treated better, and be more clearly understood, when delivered in a discourse than when read from a dry text-book. Many of the books now on abstruse subjects are difficult to understand, and when one hears these subjects discussed by an instructor who can frame these ideas in simple language, he, of course, will get a much better idea of them. An instructor, however, must have the talent to express himself clearly, and make himself understood in order to produce the least result. We have in our mind several professors who, when they deliver their lectures, rattle on so, and speak their ideas so fast that the student cannot begin to put in his note-book all he hears, and consequently misses many of the important and prominent ideas. There is another disadvantage in the lecture, namely, the listener, of course, cannot put down the lecturer's remarks *verbatim*. The principal ideas, and those bearing directly on the subject, are the ones which it is necessary for him to note, and it is the minority who have the power of expressing these ideas in a proper manner. If we look over a note-book we will find many ideas jotted down that are unimportant, and not at all essential to the subject. Whereas, if the student has a text-book before him, he can study out the meaning conveyed, and get the true gist of it, though he has to employ much of his time in doing so.

A student wants a clear head and plenty of time to understand and appreciate a study, at least most of us do. One ought not to be bothered with the trouble of putting down notes and endeavoring to understand at the same time. It is altogether too much to ask of any ordinary individual. It is well enough for the instructor to give his views and explanations on certain points to the class, after they have studied them up, and endeavored to understand them, but to try to go through a whole course on the lecture principle, seems to us too great a feat for almost any man, no matter how good a student he may be.