

the great facilities offered in those departments. Lastly, it is plain that by the steady expansion and improvement of the elective system the American college is to be gradually converted into a university of a new kind—not an English university, because it will not subordinate teaching to examining, or enforce any regulations by means of bars, gates, and fines; and not a German university, because the elective system does not mean liberty to do nothing, and no American university has absolved itself, as the German university has done, from all responsibility for the

moral training and conduct of its students; but a university of native growth, which will secure to its teachers an inspiring liberty and an unlimited scope in teaching, offer its students free choice among studies of the utmost variety, maintain a discipline adequate to the support of good manners and good morals, but determined by the quality of the best students rather than of the worst, admit to its instruction all persons competent to receive it, while jealously guarding its degrees, and promote among all its members a productive activity in literature and in scientific research.

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## CREREDENTIALS.

BY DAVID BOYLE, ELORA.

FROM the nature of the circumstances that affect teachers and their calling, more especially with regard to the means and sources of supply, it is absolutely impossible for them to unite for purely business purposes, as doctors and lawyers do, or even after the manner of mechanics and tradesmen. Teachers' Associations are not guilds. The object or purpose of these gatherings—for they are not in any sense unions—may be said to be wholly of a public nature. Now and again, superannuation engages the attention of the profession at county and provincial meetings; but, as a rule, the time is chiefly occupied in the discussion of topics relating directly to school government and education—that is to say, to subjects the better understanding of which tends chiefly in the direction of giving the people increased value for the salaries they pay, or for any other moneys expended for educational purposes. No

attempt has ever been made by teachers in this country to form "a ring" for self-protection; and few things are more probable than that such an attempt would fail, not because the necessity for organization is not apparent, but for the reason already assigned—the peculiarity of circumstances. Not only are there scores of intermediate county model-school-teachers looking for situations at all times, but there is a host of itinerant incompetents, the nomads of the profession, who seldom remain in a position more than a year, removing elsewhere at the end of that time to some distant section, the trustees of which have been deceived in their choice by means of voluminous testimonials from ministers, ratepayers, former trustees—ay, and even from inspectors.

It might naturally be supposed that in course of time the eyes of engaging trustees would be opened to this fraudulent testimonial business, and