

Most of the activity of a free community after all is voluntary. The time of State monopolies is long past, and it will not do to ignore all action which is not directly the product of the State in its corporate capacity. The public lectures at Trinity of recent years have attracted large audiences to listen to distinguished scholars and lecturers from all parts of the

Dominion, and in this and other ways old Trinity, with her thousand graduates behind her, is endeavouring to take no mere narrow or sectional view of her mission, but to justify the charter she has received from the Imperial Crown by rendering with ever-growing efficiency her special contribution to the higher education of this great Dominion.

IMPORTANCE OF MODERN LANGUAGE STUDY.

BY J. SQUAIR, B.A., LECTURER IN FRENCH, U. C., TORONTO.

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IT is often supposed that the modern languages of Europe are less perfect instruments of mental training than the ancient languages, because they have not such highly developed systems of inflection. But it will be difficult to show that the consideration of the various uses of the preposition *à* will not require as much careful thinking as the consideration of the various uses of the Dative Case in Latin. Or the mastering of the French subjunctive, why should it be considered so much less useful than the mastering of the Latin subjunctive? It cannot be held that the laws of French grammar are less rigid than those of Latin. A Frenchman is just as able to express his thoughts with clearness and exactness as a Latin ever was, and certainly he has a greater number of them. Doubtless no language expresses all the ideas possible to the minds of men, but it will be found that if one is superior in some respects it will be inferior in others. A language at any moment of its existence must be competent to express the thoughts of the people using it, and if so, it is doing all that can be expected of it, and may in a sense be said to be perfect;

a statement which is true of the language of savages as well as of civilized men. If one language is superior to another the main reason must be that the people using it have a greater mass and variety of thought to express, and this cannot be asserted of the ancient languages as compared with the modern.

Truth is many-sided, and all its phases are not represented in any one language. One of the most constant causes of surprise in studying a new language is the recurrence of strange ways of saying familiar things. It is a never-ceasing attraction to the student, and not only an attraction but a most useful experience. To know that the French have one way of looking at a truth, the Germans another, and the English another, is a sure means of preventing the narrow and pernicious view that the English alone are right. To the person who knows one language only, all its statements have a solidity, a finality which makes them appear the embodiment of all truth. To him who knows several, it becomes evident that all languages are conventional and in a certain sense imperfect, and that one supplements the other. The study of lan-