

quote from the address, which contains some sound practical advice, and considerable evidence of mental culture : but there is one point of public interest to which, before ending this brief notice, we will direct the attention of our readers. As the President has stated the case fairly, we can hardly do him a greater service than by quoting his own words :

"The present tariff 17½ per cent upon prints, commonly but erroneously called engravings, acts most strangely and unjustly upon collectors of the works of the old masters. A tariff or Custom House regulation so unjust and absurd needs only, one would think, to be pointed out as an oversight, to be repealed. For instance, large illustrated books full of choice prints, take for example :—Boydell's Shakspeare, Hogarth's Works, Robert's Holy Land, and Layard's Nineveh, when handsomely bound, are only assessed at a 5 per cent. duty, whereas any loose sheets out of the same books would be assessed at a 17½ per cent. duty ; and then, these excessive duties are not always levied upon the published prices, but occasionally on the fictitious or fanciful values. Surely this is very unfair. Again, if the Canadian book-making resources only require 5 per cent. to protect them, the engravers cannot require more than 5 per cent. to protect them. It may be said, in reply, that the reason why there is not a greater tax put upon books is because it would be considered a barrier to education. I contend that prints, copies of the works of our best ancient and modern masters, are educators ; they are *libri idiotarum* as St. Augustine calls them—"the books of the simple." Such prints touch the heart and adorn the tale whether it be the narratives in Biblical, Roman, English and French history, or the writings of our great philosophers, dramatists, poets and novelists. The object of all true Art, more particularly Christian Art, is to teach ; it is at once the instructor and edifier of the people. If books be the crown of literature or knowledge, prints illustrating them may be termed the adorning jewels. In a country like Canada, where so much is done by the different Provincial Governments for the intelligence and education of the people, the least the Cabinet at Ottawa could honorably do, with a clear conscience and a full treasury, would be to admit prints illustrative of literature, free of duty."