



TORONTO, November 6, 1891.



THE most important event of the week has been the meeting held in the interest of University extension. At the call of the Hon. the Minister of Education for Ontario, about two hundred of the most prominent educators of the two provinces were present. McGill, Queen's, Toronto, Trinity, McMaster and Victoria Universities were well represented, while the collegiate institutes and the public school staffs were in force. No less than three of our prominent ladies' colleges were represented by their principals, and a small contingent of ladies responded to the minister's invitation. At the public meeting on Thursday night, Professor James, of the University of Philadelphia, presented the idea contained in the term university extension as developed by his university in the two years the system has been in operation in the United States, the inception of it in America coming from the Quaker City.

At the morning meeting for organization a similar audience to that of the evening before assembled, Hon. Mr. Ross taking the chair, Mr. Wm. Houston acting as secretary. A very open discussion decided the feasibility of the scheme for Canada, and the only voice that hinted at affiliation with the Philadelphia association, that of Dr. McCurdy, of the Baptist College, was left to its own echoes.

A committee was appointed to draft a form of constitution and report at the afternoon meeting. At 3.30 the meeting again assembled, a little weakened in the matter of attendance by the calls of duty upon professors and others, but quite as enthusiastic as before. Principal Grant, as chairman of the committee, read the proposed constitution, which was adopted *seriatim*, the composition of the council forming a nucleus of rather sharp discussion for a little while.

Eventually, the meeting passed the first resolution calling the new organization the Canadian Association for the Extension of University Teaching.

The third resolution placed the composition of the council as, (1), the university corporations and their affiliated colleges; (2), the ministers or superintendents of education in each province; (3), representatives elected by the Association of Teachers in each province.

The following gentlemen were elected by acclamation as presidents of the association:—Sir Donald A. Smith, Chancellor of McGill University; Hon. G. W. Allan, Chancellor of Trinity University; Hon. Edward Blake, Chancellor of Toronto University; Sandford Fleming, C.E., C.M.G., Chancellor of Queen's University; Professor Goldwin Smith, D.C.L.; M. l'Abbe Laflamme, Laval University; with Mr. B. E. Walker, General Manager Bank of Commerce, and Mr. W. Houston, M.A., as secretary.

As with all new schemes, even in the minds of highly educated people, a somewhat hazy idea of the subject and its methods was evident in objections and claims made by certain speakers, and at one time it looked as if University Extension was going to be lost in a maze of ideas; ideas that floated away from the main point on a wave of indiscriminate responsibility that seemed to drift only towards seats in the council.

As Principal Grant wisely reminded the gathering, University Extension was the intent of the organization, and it was not at all a matter of personal or concrete representation on the board that would do the work; work which would be hard, unpaid, anxious and unflagging.

A weakness in the composition of the council, in view of present conditions, consists in the absence of the lay element and of provision for women upon the board. This latter was a feature certainly contemplated by the Minister of Education, but as the council is constituted there seems no opening for women in it. Whether the council can amend itself under a year's notice or not does not appear; a great mistake has been made, however, in excluding women, and certainly their addition was not before the minds of the men who spoke to any resolution.

The absence of the lay element is also a mistake. In all popular work the people must have a representation in the managing power if their interest is to be secured. And

without such interest the University Extension scheme cannot prosper. There are philanthropists in education as well as in charity—more, perhaps, than would be generally credited—and to these, both men and women, the scheme should appeal, claiming at once their confidence in its value and applicability to popular needs, and their enthusiasm in promoting it.

Two points were well insisted on at the organizing meetings: the power of finance as tending to secure continuity of prosperity, and the men sent out as lecturers. On the latter, perhaps, most depends, since, if you evoke enthusiasm by touching the soul of the audience, an attachment to the system is awakened which will bear pecuniary fruit. If our system of public education has really had the effect, as one speaker said, of making our people look for something for nothing, it would be a good plan for our lecturers to begin by inculcating a prouder independence of spirit.

In point of fact, however, our educational system is not so cheap as it looks. It is the people's money in taxes that pays for it all, from building to teaching staff, and books have been, in the past at least, a serious item to the average wage-earner's income, as also for the student. And if they are made cheaper it will still be by means of the taxpayer; only when all are taxed it lightens the burden to some.

I have probably said more on one topic than the limits of a letter justifies, but in a matter of national importance it is not easy to be brief.

Excellent news comes from Niagara. Two descendants of Col. Butler, the state of whose burial vault was spoken of in a previous letter, have at last been found: Dr. Stevenson, of Toronto, and Mr. Butler, of St. David's. These gentlemen have signified their intention to Mr. Kirby, who is president of the Niagara Historical Association, of having the contents of the vault, disturbed and dishonoured as they have been, moved to St. Mark's Burying Ground, Niagara, by the aid of the Niagara and Lundy's Lane Historical Societies; they will also legally convey the old Butler burying plot to St. Mark's corporate body, thus securing for it care and guardianship forever.

And all will gladly concur with the president of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, who says: "So, we are succeeding in doing something at one time and another in reverence for the past, in reverence for our fathers of old time, and in strengthening in ourselves and our people those principles which they practised, and in transmitting that goodly heritage to those who will follow us."

A pamphlet from the press of *The Week* has just come into my hands, which I am glad to see, since it is written by a graduate of Toronto University, who is doing his Alma Mater honour by excellent work in literature and learning. It is "Modern Languages and Classics in America and Europe since 1880; Ten Years Progress of the Learning," by A. F. Chamberlain, M.A., Clark University, Worcester, Mass. I hope to refer to the pamphlet again.

From a number of a monthly journal called *University Extension*, published by J. Haseltine Shinn, Philadelphia, I perceive in the Oxford annual report that "the first agitation in favour of University Extension was made at Oxford University as early as 1845." The first course, however, given under this title was by sanction of Cambridge University, in 1873. Oxford did not enter upon active work until 1878.

A great revival towards popular education in England followed the agitation for cheaper educational literature that was carried on by Lord Brougham and his friends in the early years of the present reign, and one of the active results was the organization and equipment with libraries, scientific apparatus, etc., of mechanics' institutes in most large towns. The same class of institutions exist throughout Ontario, but have become little else than newsrooms, instead of as they should be, the seats of popular lectures, even though some might be "of the magic lantern order," as a speaker to-day said.

S. A. CURZON.

A STEAM PHAETON.—A steam phaeton has been exhibited in London. A guiding wheel takes the place of the shafts, and the driver sits in the front. The engine, which is almost smokeless and noiseless, is well-nigh concealed in the framework of the carriage. The vehicle is said to be under complete control and capable of accomplishing twenty miles an hour. Coke is used as fuel, and sufficient is carried for a run of twenty miles.

POINTS.

By ACUS.

To point a moral and adorn a tale!
—Johnson: *Vanity of Human Wishes*.



ET us be comfortable. If a high collar cuts your neck, wear a low one. If narrow shoes pinch your toes, wear broad ones. If you cannot be fashionable without being uncomfortable, why, be as fashionable as you can. I think that is the true philosophy of dress reform. Ladies who have small waists naturally, do not need any sermons about lacing. Sometimes in pleasant way: express my idea of the proper size of a waist, in this way: If your arm will just go round once, it is the right size; but if twice, it is too small. That is a very good way to test; and I will be glad to lend my assistance to any young lady desirous of settling the point. I know a nice waist when I see one; but whether the corset in itself is an unmitigated evil, is a difficult point to determine. And the divided skirt is a subject upon which opinion, like the skirt itself, is very much divided. Whatever may be evolved in the matter of dress reform must be modest and becoming. Dr. Mary Walker will never be accepted as an ideal type.

It was contended in a recent letter that the truest critics were not the professional critics, but rather the great world of readers who take a liking to a book without being able exactly to explain why, and without applying technical standards; and who were termed "lay critics." A New York publisher comes forward with another idea altogether, and holds that the truest critic is neither the professional critic nor yet the lay critic; but that it is the publisher who reads a book with a view to spending money upon it, and making money out of it. And it is true enough that a man is apt to be very critical about anything that affects his pocket. So, it appears, there are three kinds of critics: the professional critic, the lay critic, and the publisher with an eye to business.

Like the sea-serpent, the whale that swallowed Jonah appears in print every now and then. It frequently serves as a convenient peg on which to hang a little scepticism. Although the whale may have swallowed Jonah, there are many people who cannot swallow the whale. It is, therefore, a prolific subject of controversy. Those who take the negative side particularize upon the well-known fact that the throat of the whale is small; while those who take the positive side argue that no whale is mentioned in the original narrative, but simply a "great fish." The pros and cons have been ventilated over and over again. On reading a recent article upon this subject, written by a gentleman who is a photographer, I could not help thinking it a pity he had not been on hand upon the occasion in order to have taken a photograph of the event for the benefit of posterity, and thus have cleared up the whole difficulty.

The Greatest Woman Money-Maker.

Madame Patti without doubt makes more money than any woman of the present day. Among the aristocracy of wealth and birth there are no doubt many ladies whose incomes greatly exceed those of the charming songstress, but it cannot be said that they earn their wealth.

Her returns for singing when engaged are frequently as much as £4000 or £5000 a week, and the smallest sum for which she has been known to sing during the past few years is £750. On many occasions she has been paid as much as £1 for every note she has sung during the evening. In addition to her huge earnings she is able to stipulate, when travelling, that all her expenses are paid. What these expenses can be gathered from the fact that her railway carriage is fitted with a drawing-room, dining-room, kitchen and sleeping accommodation, and that two French cooks always accompany the party.

But though her generosity is famous, Madame Patti is a smart woman of business, and her accumulated wealth in property of various kinds is estimated at between £800,000 and £1,000,000 sterling, most of which she has taken great care to invest in England, which she considers by far the greatest country for investment in the world.

In Africa the following summaries of square miles are claimed by different countries:—Spain, 210,000; Italy, 360,000; Portugal, 774,993; Congo Free State, 1,000,000; Germany, 1,035,720; Great Britain, 1,909,445; France, 2,300,248.