

✻EXCHANGES.✻

WE often regret that College journals contain so little matter of a literary character. In looking over one of our exchanges—*The Lehigh Burr*—we find that too much prominence is given to athletics, and not enough to literature. We are quite ready to acknowledge the importance of this branch of our education as University students; but we expect a College paper to give some evidence that muscular activity is not unattended by that calm and philosophic reflection on matters which belong to the mental life of the scholar. We do not pass this judgment on our contemporary from a desire to find fault, but offer it rather as a suggestion. It is remarkable, however, to find the papers of many Colleges of great name devoid, or nearly so, of literary tone, in so far at any rate as concerns contributions from the students themselves. Some contain feeble attempts at literary production, but very often these are more distinguished by what we may call “gush” than that critical discrimination which is so much the more desirable. The cause of the evil we suppose to be that students have not become sufficiently matured by reflecting on the masterpieces of literature, or are too blind in their devotion to traditional decisions.

One article in particular, in the *Presbyterian College Journal*, of Montreal, we have read with great pleasure. Its author is the Principal of that Institution. He warns us of the many signs of national degeneracy of which we would do well to take timely heed. We do not sympathize with the reverend gentleman's views on many questions, but we would feign acknowledge the respect we have for the admonition given in his article.

It is, indeed, a serious fact that parents are far too lax in the discipline of their children. Some in this country may adopt an extreme degree of severity in the training of the youth; but they are few. Judicious training is what we need, not indiscriminate meddling with a child's individuality. Why should parents in this country object to hear their children's faults mentioned, when considerably done? Reverence for religious instruction is highly desirable. We do not profess perfect accord with many of the accepted theories of the Christian pulpit; but, notwithstanding, we recognize the importance of paying due respect to that great factor in our national life—the development of the religious element in man.

The reverend Principal of the Presbyterian College of Montreal, we imagine, is somewhat extreme in some of his views. We are not quite convinced that all the forms of apparent desecration of the Sabbath are real evils. Yet these are nice points. The danger now-a-days, we believe, to be in the revolutionary tendencies common especially among the uneducated. Destitute of mental discipline they too often rush into extreme license. This is the more to be guarded against on account of the growth of democratic sentiment. This is

surely the time not to fan the flame of change, but to preach a rational conservatism, in matters both of church and state. The apostles of change are generally enthusiasts, who foolishly think they can construct an ideal state of society by obliterating all previous landmarks. This feeling of unrest is sadly common in the church. The poorly educated part of the community assume the office of judges of their religious teachers with a boldness that is deplorable. The cause of this is the undue development of certain theological dogmas instead of a harmonizing of the whole. Democracy may have its glories and its excellencies; let us not forget that it has its dangers as well.

Society is too boastful and given to empty parade. Why do not men, strong in their self-consciousness of worth, if they have any, refrain from such an extreme of pomp? We fear an undue craving for glorification by others lies at the root of this evil. Let us cease then to be perpetually playing the actor to win the praise of others, and give earnest heed to the still small voice which is in every man.

Several other exchanges are to hand, which we have not space to notice. We are pleased, however, by their arrival, but especially of those which are from institutions in our own land, and which are the exponents of the educational thought of our common country.

PERSONAL.

LOST, stolen, or strayed: Messrs. Lett, '88, Watson, '89, and Fulford, '90.

J. S. Skinner, B.A. '83; is enjoying a pleasant trip through Europe.

James Hales, '88, has been wielding the rod in Newboro public school, but will return to Queen's in January.

A. K. H. McFarlane, '88, has gone to his home in Dundas. He, however, will turn up for the finals next spring.

W. D. Neish, M.D., who graduated from the Royal last spring, is working for further honors in Edinburgh University. We wonder if he ever gives them the “Singin' Schewl.”

Drs. H. Cunningham, '85, and J. V. Anglin, '87, returned a short time ago from the Old Country, where they have been visiting the hospitals and hunting around for more degrees.

Rev. Allen McRossie, B.D., is looking after the spiritual welfare of the Methodists at Corunna, N.Y., having graduated with honors from Drew Theological Seminary.