

the name of a gentleman well known as an able educator, as Professor of Ancient and Modern History; so that we began well in relation to this subject. It soon, however, became necessary to transfer the occupant of the Chair of History to another and more onerous position. In these circumstances, to keep faith with the students who had entered on the course, it was necessary for a session that I should myself deliver the lectures on History, which I accordingly did; but other duties soon rendered even this make-shift impossible, and we were obliged to content ourselves with the ancient history connected with the course in Classics and such modern history as was included in the subject of English Language and Literature. Beyond this we could do nothing, except in securing one course of lectures in English History from Prof. Goldwin Smith, and in assigning the medals given by Lord Dufferin to a course of historical reading. I confess I have always regretted this enforced retreat from the position of 1855, and have looked with longing eyes to this abandoned outwork of our position. When, therefore, two years ago, we were so fortunate as to secure the services of the present associate Professor of English Literature, the title of Professor of History was bestowed on him, and it was arranged that so far as his other onerous duties would permit, some time was to be given to modern history, to which, however, in the circumstances we could assign merely an optional and honour place. I have reason to know that this arrangement has already done good, and while it is a present benefit to many of our students, it may be the entering point of the wedge which shall ultimately open up for us a regular historical course. In point of fact, however, this subject, important though it is to every educated man, and fraught with the highest lessons of human wisdom, has some inherent difficulties as a branch of academical study. In so far as a mere general knowledge is concerned, any educated man can attain this in an easy and delightful manner by his own reading. On the other hand, to attain to any fitness for profound or original research, requires a thorough preliminary training, more especially in languages and literature, rather than any premature entrance on the direct study of history. Again, it is a subject which, to produce its highest results, should be taught not by one instructor merely, however competent, but by several advanced specialists wholly devoted to particular departments,