

That is not the case with their anti-types in Canada. At Radley the prime expense for a boy is \$625 per annum. The cost of a boy at our Canadian "English Schools," is much less. Large private donations and endowments are necessary to enable boys to have the untold advantages of first-class masters and handsome buildings and surroundings for this sum. It is the duty of all who can to contribute to perpetuate in Canada the schools which faithfully reproduce the advantages and merits of English Public Schools, and which yet, being free from the trammels of long-standing abuses and an almost irresponsible administration, are weeded of their imperfections and their faults.—*Montreal Gazette.*

CONVOCATION SEASON.

The first blush of spring is a fitting season for our University to send forth its noble company of *débutants* on life's stage, each perhaps animated by hopes and desires peculiar to himself, but all alike sustained and nerved for the contest by the fervour of glorious youth. They leave their academic halls with eloquent words of counsel and admonition yet sounding in their ears, and while they revere and strive to follow the advice of their late instructors, they can hardly feel themselves left without a rudder in the stream of life. Year by year addresses of marked ability are delivered at these University gatherings, and though the unusual pressure upon our space prevented us from doing more than hint at the subject of them on the last occasion, there has been no falling off in the care and talent which they indicate, or the interest with which they have been received. We are not surprised at this, for the theme is of supreme importance, and even those who have passed the first stages during which such advice is most useful, must give their attention while the way which is thought best is pointed out to those who are pressing in their footsteps. The first statesmen of the day have not disdained the theme. Mr. Disraeli at Glasgow and Lord Derby at Liverpool have given to the British youth their matured thoughts upon it; and hardly any one is so low as to think he cannot add a little to the common fund of knowledge. Notwithstanding the multitude of counsellors, however, it is possible that we have not found out much which was not known at some time to our ancestors, though the precepts may have been forgotten or unnoticed. We cannot dispute the noble examples of individual culture which abounded even in the remotest times, but one thing we may claim, that a greater number of persons are in our time afforded the opportunity of drinking at the divine fountain of knowledge. We are not disposed to value this privilege lightly, for the success of educational work must be judged not by isolated examples of high culture, but by the diffusion of knowledge among the multitude; let the lives of the masses be lifted above the slow, unreasoning existence of undeveloped intelligence, and a great step has been taken beyond what ancient times can show us.

Those of us who listen to or read addresses on university education and mental culture, may imagine there is considerable diversity of opinion among those engaged in the work. It is true that there are differences of opinion, and it would be a great mistake to suppose that we have yet discovered an absolutely perfect system of education. But educationists are at least pretty well agreed in the rejection of certain injudicious systems which had their day. There is no longer hesitation, for instance, in disapproving the exclusively classical curriculum. Nor are there many intelligent admirers at the present day of that devotion to the midnight oil which took not into account the physical well-being of the student. It may be hoped that amidst all the impressive warnings respecting the importance of physical health, warnings which were recently reiterated by Lord Derby, there will be fewer victims to the *régime* lamented by Horace Mann, who said that in college he was taught all about the motions of the planets as carefully as though they would have been in danger of getting off the track if he had not known their orbits; but about his own organization, and the conditions indispensable to the healthy functions of his own body, he was left in profound ignorance. There have been pedagogues who considered all time wasted when the printed page was not before the pupil's eyes, but we trust their days are past; and while the subjects of study are more numerous than our fathers ever dreamed of, it will not be forgotten that it is essential to success in life that the mind should have a suitable temple in which to reign, and that mere book-lore without bodily energy, is of little profit to its possessor.

One thing which is apt to bewilder the student of the present day is the great variety of the subjects which by his various instructors are pressed upon his attention as of equal importance, and each of which seems to him to demand a lifetime for its mastery. It is undoubtedly becoming more and more important for those who aim to excel in any pursuit, to fix early their choice; after they have done so firmly and irrevocably, there is not much danger of extending their studies too far. But if the student wanders listlessly,

undecided and hesitating as to his future, there is danger that the keen memory and intellectual freshness of youth may grow dull before the time arrives when the actual preparation for life's work is entered upon. "Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien," says the French proverb. By seeking uneasily and anxiously after what shall approve itself to his judgment as absolutely the best work for him, the student will often be put to serious disadvantage in the battle of life. "The man who succeeds above his fellows," said the late Lord Lytton, "is the one who early in life clearly discerns his object, and towards that object habitually directs his powers."

At the same time we are far from urging our young friends to make pre-eminence in some particular pursuit the engrossing care of their life. Some one has lamented that so many excellent men in the United States have been spoiled by the hope of one day filling the Presidential Chair. So, too, we have no doubt that men capable of doing very useful work have been led to waste their lives by the hope of handing down a name to posterity. It must be admitted that specialists are not always the most complete of mortals. Few of them approach closely to the "superior man" of Confucian philosophy, who "while there is anything he has not studied, or while in what he has studied, there is anything he cannot understand, will not intermit his labour; while there is anything he has not enquired about which he does not know, will not intermit his labour." And still less does the restless toiling after distinction chime in with the idea of William von Humboldt, whom Matthew Arnold calls "one of the most beautiful and perfect souls that have ever existed," and who used to say that one's business in life was, first to perfect oneself by all the means in one's power; and secondly to try and create in the world around one an aristocracy, the most numerous that one possibly could, of talent and character. Those who hold these views would fain see the process of culture, mental, moral and physical carried very far before the student's mind is suffered to be engrossed with a specialty, though the need of honours and wealth be less; and while it is generally desirable to defer the time when the professional work of life should break in upon the work of general culture, so it is certain that it should never supersede it.—*Montreal Gazette.*

THE PROVINCIAL SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

As the above-named institution is to be opened very shortly, it will be observed that a beginning is to be made in a very moderate way. Not more than thirty pupils can be received for some time to come. More buildings must be erected before a larger number can be accommodated. Applications for admission to be sent to the Principal of the Institution, Professor McCandless, Guelph. A very tempting offer is made for the first year. Board and tuition are to cost nothing, and each pupil who makes proper proficiency is to receive fifty dollars in money at the year's end. Our young men ought to jump at such a chance as this. It is incredible that there should be any difficulty in filling the school to its utmost capacity on such terms. We are afraid many will be crowded out and doomed to disappointment.

Candidates for admission to this preparatory term, are expected to know arithmetic as far as simple proportion, to be familiar with the rudiments of English grammar, the outlines of English and Canadian history, general and Canadian geography. This is the standard according to which transferences are made from a common to a high school. We have heard the opinion expressed that the requirements are too high, but, in our opinion, those who make this objection form too low an estimate of the attainments of farmers' sons. The schoolmaster is abroad, even in country localities, and there are many sharp lads under fifteen, the age fixed for entrance to the institution in question, who are well up to the required standard. But we apprehend that a candidate for admission to the School of Agriculture, who is otherwise qualified and promising, will hardly be rejected because he falls a little short of the required standard. That lays down the general rule, but it may fairly be supposed that there will be exceptions to it, as there are to every other general rule. A certificate of admission to any high school or college, or a certificate as a duly qualified teacher, will be accepted as proof of educational fitness without examination, and where these are not forthcoming, applicants will be examined. Proof of sound health, and evidence of good moral character, will be required, and an engagement must be entered into, with the consent of parents and guardians, to complete the term of one year, to submit to the prescribed rules, and to give undivided attention to the duties and studies of the Institution.

We learn that seven hours will be the average *maximum* of outdoor work; that often much less time than this will be so employed, though sometimes in hurrying seasons of the year it may be exceeded; that instruction will be given by intelligent foremen in the principles which govern the practical operations of the farm; and