

college, parents ought to try their natural dispositions in a good elementary school, and ascertain through the medium of some experienced and enlightened friend, whether they have the required natural ability, and the firmness of purpose, necessary to persevere in a collegiate course. In case they should be found deficient, in these points, or any of them, it would be advisable to send them to some model school or academy, where they would obtain a sufficient degree of mental cultivation, and acquire the amount of knowledge sufficient to enable them to carry on the ordinary pursuits of life. For the child whose talents are anything but remarkable, or whose parents cannot afford to allow him more than three or four years of attendance to school, a good primary school, such as those of the Christian Brothers for instance, would be preferable to the college of the highest order and reputation. Would to God that we might offer to the sons of our farmers, good agricultural schools, wherein they could learn the elements of human knowledge, together with the theory and practice of the first of all human arts, and secure for themselves those habits of industry, which will become through life an invaluable treasure! The creation of such institutions would meet our most anxious wishes, and they eventually would check the evil which is threatening to overcome us.

"But, beloved brethren, shall we condemn a system of education which ages have confirmed, because abuses, not certainly such as are insuperable, or even difficult to extirpate, have crept along with it in the course of time? Because forsooth society is bound to attend to the physical wants of its members, shall we enslave education within the narrow limits of a mere physical training?

"Man does not live of bread alone, that noble mind which God Almighty has imparted to him, asks for food of another description. By the study of the ancient classics, that mind will strengthen itself; it will imbibe the wholesome doctrines pervading the works of the noble minds of other ages; it will be both elevated and expanded by its daily intercourse with those master-spirits; it will enrich itself from the stores of knowledge, which they have laid aside for posterity; it will assimilate to its own genius their

productions, and render to the world those treasures, in a new form, the same gold with a new coinage. But the mind of the young child, not unlike his body, will grow by degrees; it would be choked with food better suited for a cultivated nature. Before entering studies of the highest order it has to be initiated in the art of learning. Reason and experience, both, will tell us that it is only by the study of grammar, by the science of language, that the young mind will learn how to compare and co-ordinate its ideas, how to link them together, so as to qualify itself for mastering of the other sciences.

"The rules of language being nearly the same with all civilized nations, those idioms whose grammar is the most perfect, and will lead more effectually to the learning of other languages, will at once offer themselves as the best instruments of mental cultivation. Experience has taught the world that the greek and the latin are in those essen-

tials superior to all other languages. They are indeed the source of all modern European languages; they may be said to be the mothers, or at least the benefactors of each of them, and he who knows them, can easily master their offspring. Their clearness, their vigour, their precision, offer to the student who goes through the analytical process of that study, ample means of strengthening and developing all the resources



of his mind. Besides, greek and latin, bring us as it were, in contact with the greatest geniuses of antiquity, Homer, Demosthenes, Cicero, among the heathens; Jérôme, Augustine, Basilus, Chrysostôme among the christians. Who will deny that much is to be gained in the company of such men."

The Seminary and the Rector of the University lost no time in carrying the Charter into effect. The Faculty of Medicine was the first organized and this was done by the merging into the University of the Quebec school of Medicine, which used to receive a legislative grant of £250, and ceased to exist a short time after the inauguration of the University, most of its professors having accepted professorships in the new institution. Dr. Jean Blanchet, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, one