

The developement of man's immortal condition is not in the province of a secular theme like the present ; that is left for the pulpit and the preacher. It is a branch of this subject that might fill a volume and send joy into minds that are darkened with doubt, but it is too sacred to be lightly dealt with, or simply passed over, as the limits of an occasion like this would permit.

The permanent edifice of the world's education seems to patiently await the time when men shall tire of fashioning useless building stuff from their crumbling theories, and revert to the basal granite of which the everlasting foundations are laid, caring only to shape the superstructure by the Master Architect's plan. The movement of vital energy is man-ward, and the cry of mankind is God-ward. *Excelsior !*

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OXYGEN—ITS ROLE IN NATURE.

The above is the title of a lecture delivered before the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society upon Thursday evening, 21st November, by Mr. F. T. Shutt, the chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farms. This lecture, which was upon Oxygen, as the most important constituent of Atmospheric air, formed a fitting sequel to Mr. Shutt's lecture of last year, the subject of which was water, including the chemistry of Hydrogen.

Having given a concise statement of the ground he was about to cover, the lecturer began by giving a short resumé of his last year's lecture before the society, in order to show the connection between the two subjects. Previous to 1774, when Oxygen was discovered by Priestly, it was supposed that the air we breathe was one single gas—an element. The same experiment by which Priestly made this important discovery, namely, heating red oxide of Mercury, was performed before the audience. The Oxygen was given off as gas, which kindled to a flame a glowing ember placed in the mouth of the test-tube, while the mercury was deposited in a film on the sides of the glass. The lecture was earnestly listened to throughout, and there were frequent