

dispassionately. He can stand aside and watch cautiously. He is not misled, because he is distant from the scenes of strife. He observes that life takes certain clearly-defined courses. He hears about what transpires behind the scenes in commercial life. He acutely learns that professional life has its queer sides; that there is considerable wire-pulling, only of a respectable nature, in the best of vocations. He is a cool and calculating observer of these things. This is certainly an advantage to know the springs of human conduct; to be able to guess skilfully how human beings will act under certain conditions. It is a serene philosophy. But there is a danger lying wrapped up in it. It is that of being distant; that of learning to look down upon our species from a proud point of view. We can reason upon their conduct, but we cannot sympathize with their trials. Life seems to be a stage, and the cold-headed and probably the cold-blooded philosopher boasts that he can be an accurate but idle spectator. What knows he of the reality of life? Of the heat of strife? Of the glowing ambitions that govern high spirits? Of jaded and weary hearts? Of impetuosity? Of chivalrous devotion to a great cause? Of un murmuring endurance? Of the grief which is nameless? These are what constitute a sublime life. But the apathetic thinker is unmoved. He cannot throw himself into the world and share its burdens, and with a strong arm lessen its troubles. This is the danger of college life.

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## Editorials.

WILL the rebellion in the North-West interfere with our missionary work this summer? The Missionary Society is sending out a number of students who are about to start for the scene of their labors, indeed, some of them have started and probably reached their destination before this. We fear that financially, at any rate, the rebellion will exercise an unfavorable influence upon our mission work. If it continues many of the settlers will lose heavily—perhaps their all. The time of the year chosen for the rising is most unfortunate. When the farmers ought to be busy preparing the land for their crops, they are in a high state of excitement, and feel their position very insecure. Last year was not a successful one, financially, for the Missionary Society. In order to meet the exigencies of the case we have been compelled to make a canvass of many congregations for funds, and we are glad to state that we have met with a hearty response. We do not wish to take a gloomy view of matters, but still we cannot help feeling that the present unsettled state of the country, if it continues any length of time, cannot but hamper our missionary work, financially at least. We do not anticipate any lasting embarrassment; for although business may be somewhat damaged, it can only be for a short time. The farming community will suffer most, and unless peace is shortly restored, the prospects for the incoming crop will not, to say the least, be very bright. Under these circumstances we cannot expect that the support given for missionary labor will be so liberal as we would expect under more favorable circumstances.

We have no fear that the men sent out will come short of performing their duty notwithstanding the serious difficulties in their way, and the dangers they