

stress and burden must fall ultimately on those engaged in the work of education ; and in order that this important class of our fellow subjects should be equal to the task laid upon them, it is quite evident that they must attain their fitness and capacity in the period during which they remain as pupils in the Normal School. Here those who are to instruct the youth of the Province are themselves instructed how to impart knowledge ; and this implies toil, or even if you choose so to term it, drudgery. Severe and conscientious toil alone will suffice to attain the needful proficiency ; I have no doubt I am now addressing many who are now pupils in the Institution, and I would beg earnestly to urge upon them the importance of this preliminary toil. It is in this dry and apparently needless elementary drudgery that the finished scholar is produced : That distinguished scholar, the late Rev. Dr. Twining, who for many years occupied the position of Principal of the Halifax Grammar School made the thorough grounding of his pupils in the rules of grammar the very life and substance of his tuition ; I can well remember that not only his pupils but even sometimes their parents used to complain of the ceaseless round and reiteration of the lessons in grammar exacted from the boys ; but I know that at King's College no boys were so welcome as Dr. Twining's ; the advantage of the long and dreary task of elementary drilling then became evident ; his boys went away from all their competitors with a bound, and they reaped double benefit from their College course from the fact of their thorough preparatory training. And I would urge upon all the pupils of the Normal School the lesson taught by the experience of that eminent preceptor. It is not sufficient to attend a few lectures, interesting no doubt though they are, nor to anticipate the pleasures which the paths of literature afford to the student who has earned his leisure ; these are the rewards of toil, not the steps by which we ascend the ladder. It is doubtless pleasant to wander through the graceful symbolism of the ancient mythology ; to trace, for example, the origin of the touching story of the sacrifice of Iphigenia and to compare it with its undoubted source in the Hebrew Scriptures ; or in the fascinating field of philological enquiry to detect a whole page of history in the laws which prohibited the exportation of figs and so became imperishably imbedded in the language which expressed the idea of an obsequious informer in the word Sycophant or fig shower. But these, sir, are the diversions not the labor of learning ; and to attain the power of enjoying one we must make up our minds to submit to the uninteresting toil of the other.