

thereof a regularly constituted "court of appeal." This would have some advantages. Many undergraduates look on their promotion to a higher year, or the granting of a degree, as a matter, not of grace, but of right, and naturally hold themselves aggrieved at having no remedy when unfairly treated. That mistakes are made, and frequently, too, is suggested by the number of appeals sustained by the Department. We have no reason to believe that the University examiners are more careful or less fallible than other similar bodies.

Under the Departmental system this remedy is provided: a small fee to defray the cost is exacted, and the papers are read by men who were not themselves responsible for the possibly incorrect rating in the first place. If the appeal is sustained the deposit is returned and the candidate rests assured that he has had substantial justice.

Much dissatisfaction was expressed this fall at there being no regular method of proceeding in cases where it was felt to be an injustice to be obliged to take the year over. Such appealing as was done was altogether irregular, and in case papers were again read, no confidence could be felt in the correctness of the second report, as any change recommended by an examiner would be an admission of his previous carelessness. Under such circumstances he could scarcely be expected to approach the matter in a spirit of firmness. We do not all "do justice though the heavens fall."

The advantages of an appeal system are so manifest, and the difficulties in the way of its introduction so slight, that one might wonder why it is not already an established fact. The same could not be said of any proposal for abolishing the supplemental. True, there are English universities where nothing analogous to our supplemental exists, but the whole system of examination is so different from ours that no argument in favor of abolition could be deduced therefrom. Harder work during the college term would undoubtedly result; the knowledge that the May examination was the end-all would tend to keep noses close to the grindstone. This advantage would be offset, however, by the necessity which men, able and willing to take in the succeeding year its work proper, with the subject or subjects in which they had failed, would be under. On the whole, a combination of the supplemental and appeal would best effect the desired results.

#### A SONG ON THE WAY.

Wander not thither, O restless feet,  
Through that fair woodland lies not your way,  
Still on the highroad, mid dust and heat,  
Leads your true path till the close of day.

Pluck not these flowers, O eager hands,  
Leave them ungathered to bloom and glow;  
Must there not blossom in other lands  
Flowers whose seeds you have yet to sow?

Linger no longer, O yearning eyes,  
Looking for beauty and love and light;  
Do you not know the eternal skies  
Garment themselves in the shadows of night?

EVELYN DURAND.

The next Classical meeting is on Dec. 8 (Tuesday), not Dec. 9, as is wrongly put in the programme.

If all that has been published recently upon the condition of Canada were collected into a sacred volume, to be made the political guide of benighted Canadians, Mr. Goldwin Smith's contribution would be unanimously accepted as the Book of Lamentations. He is the Jeremiah among those sincerely interested in Canadian affairs. For his profound and varied attainments, for his acknowledged literary ability there is the utmost respect and admiration throughout the Dominion, but that constant dissatisfaction which his writings exhibit, that continual tendency to belittle, to put the worst possible face on everything Canadian, is extremely irritating to the greater part of the reading public of Canada. It very materially lessens his influence, which might otherwise be a power in the country.

His last book is no worse in this respect than much else that he has written. He advocates commercial union with the United States, a measure which most all thinking Canadians believe would be for their country's good. But, as usual with what he advocates, most Canadians do not believe that it can be attained at present. It is the belief that the United States would not entertain the proposition, rather than any lack of faith in "commercial union," that keeps the great majority of Canadians from expressing themselves more heartily in its favor. It is not, however, his open advocacy of commercial union, nor his unavowed advocacy of political union, that is distasteful. Everyone is ready to respect his convictions upon these points. But the manner in which he advocates his views is very annoying, if not humiliating, to many Canadians. We do not object to being convinced that annexation is for our benefit, but we do object to being held up to the world as a people that must soon be starved into annexation. We are not *in extremis*.

His professed object in this book is to discuss "the Canadian Question." Before doing this, however, he affects to put the reader in possession of all the facts of Canadian history pertinent to the argument. It is in this part of his book that he makes Canada and Canadians cut so indifferent a figure. It might be difficult successfully to controvert his more important historical conclusions; but there is a lack of anything like sympathy with the struggles and difficulties in Canadian politics, which may not always have found their best solutions, but which, nevertheless, deserve honorable rather than dishonorable mention. He seems to be unconsciously controlled by a notion that Canada is a poor little place that has not sufficient intelligence to accept his advice, and thereby become happy and great. In accordance with this notion he seems to see only that part of Canadian history which feeds his misconception; and even this he relates with that disparaging, half-hidden irony of which he is such a master. This is the impression his book makes upon many of his fellow citizens. That he intends to be strictly impartial and to be of the utmost service to the country, no one doubts. He is conscientious to a fault, but, nevertheless, his book seems to many calculated to convey an unjust impression of Canada to those who do not know her as she is.

He represents the people of Quebec as an utterly unenterprising and shiftless race, without energy and without ambition; as a people who are entirely inimical to all that is British and all that is Canadian, unless it be French-Canadian. To establish this view, he quotes some words of the Prime Minister of Quebec, uttered in a moment of enthusiasm at a banquet, which was given by a French national club to do him honor upon his achieving victory at the polls. He complains bitterly that the hall on such an occasion should be profusely decorated with French flags, while only one Canadian flag was to be seen. He thinks it very significant that the Premier should declare

\*"Canada and the Canadian Question." By Goldwin Smith. D.C.L. Pp. 325. Macmillan & Co., 1891.