

in having in Parliament, not men of extreme views, but moderate-minded men of good common-sense, and good conscience, capable of representing the more enlightened electoral mind." It would lift politics, he thinks, into the realm of religion, for a Christian nation—and Canada is a Christian nation—cannot doubt that there is a Divine Providence that would guide and control the affairs of the country for the highest good of the individual and of the commonweal. "The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord."

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

This subject is attracting very great attention, both in Great Britain and America. It is a great movement to extend to the masses of the people, many of whom are engaged in daily toil, some of the benefits of higher education. It has already three journals specially devoted to its advocacy, and has been the subject of many articles in the leading reviews and magazines. We have arranged for an article, by an educational expert, for this MAGAZINE, which will shortly appear.

An important meeting of the leading educationists of Ontario and Quebec was recently held in this city, and a University Extension Association formed. It is stated that the age at which most young people leave school is about fifteen. Their tastes are immature, their knowledge very limited, and unless they have some further opportunity for education, many of them, if not most, will drop back into mental inanition. It is said that in Germany multitudes even forget how to read and write. The low mental and moral grade of many of the issues of the press, prepared for this half-educated class, has a demoralizing tendency.

While business, politics, and especially the Church are important educative factors in society, still something further is needed. It is an encouraging sign that the universities and other institutions of higher learning, many of which received large monies from public grants or

private beneficence, are realizing their obligations to society at large, and their duty to furnish assistance to the toiling multitudes. Many of these would eagerly embrace any opportunities for such mental and moral uplift as this University extension movement contemplates. Prof. James, of Pennsylvania, states that whereas many college students are indifferent to the advantages which they enjoy, the horny-handed sons of toil listen with hungry avidity to the University extension lectures, and make remarkable progress. The reflex influence on the lecturer is also greatly beneficial in broadening his sympathies and methods, and making less dogmatic his spirit.

In this movement the universities of Canada, few in number, and with over-worked professors, cannot do all nor even most of the work. They can only lead the way. As Prof. Rand declared, it must be entered upon with the spirit of a crusader and under the impulse of moral enthusiasm. There are a great number of university graduates and educated men in the country—high-school masters, ministers, and men in the legal, medical, editorial and other professions. If these, or a considerable number of them, would realize the obligations entailed by the advantages which they have enjoyed, to diffuse a wider and a higher culture, a great deal might be accomplished for the mental and moral elevation of the people.

Ministers of religion, especially, have a grand opportunity to get the ear of the people, and to promote their intellectual culture. While their chief functions, of course, are spiritual—to evangelize the people and build them up in religious faith, yet one important means of doing this will be to take advantage of the intellectual stimulus which always follows a spiritual awakening. It will, of course, entail additional labour, but what is the Christian life for, unless to labour for the benefit of others? Many of these men could give an occasional lecture on some great author, on Tennyson, Browning, Carlyle, or on some great epoch of history, especially ecclesiastical