

misinterpreted and misapplied by some of our readers. For ourselves we have attacked the position and not the occupant. We have it now to say that since the position has been created, it is probable, so far as can yet be judged, that no better person could have been found to fill it than Dr. McCurdy. His scholarship is unquestioned. As a native Canadian he can sympathize fully with the spirit and aspirations of his students. He is untiring and energetic in his efforts to add new interest to the work of the department. And it is this enthusiasm which our college needs more than scholarships and medals as a source of inspiration to study. It seems probable that this department will acquire new importance in another way. The Senate are now considering the potential merits of the Oriental languages as a means of liberal culture with a view to the establishment of a new graduating department in Greek and Orientals. This measure would no doubt prove acceptable to a large number of students. Sanscrit could perhaps be added with advantage during the last two years of the new course, and it is probable that earnest students in philology from the other departments would be anxious to acquire some knowledge of the parent tongue. We look upon Dr. McCurdy's Saturday classes in Sanscrit as a commendable initiatory measure to the introduction of this language into the regular curriculum.

The members of the Young Men's Christian Association of our University are now fully at home in their new hall and a corresponding measure of fresh life and activity is being manifested among them. With such an attractive and commodious place of meeting it is certain that the membership will be largely increased, and also that that there will be a more regular attendance upon the society's meetings of those who are members. Mr. McLeod and his fellows may now rest well satisfied with the result of their noble enterprise. It would be difficult to speak too highly of the character and objects of this association. It is a great centre of moral and spiritual life among our students. With a creed as broad as Christianity itself and high as the spiritual aspirations of our race, the Young Men's Christian Association is the type and the partial realization of what the New Church will be. This society represents not a dogma but a Life. And by this grand band all the churches will at last be united. Looking to such an end our College association is worthily doing a great work. For here no one is Baptist or Methodist, Anglican or Presbyterian; it is enough that he is a Christian. Thrown together in earnest fellowship at this most impressible period of their lives, our young men will learn how artificial and trivial are the distinctions that separate the denominations when compared with the great vital principles that underlie all Christianity. The partial and one-sided views which purely denominational instruction necessarily produces will be counteracted by the liberalizing influences of fellowship in this association. Next to a non-denominational theological college such as Harvard possesses, a University Y. M. C. A. is the most powerful means for the furtherance of liberal religious culture. The prosperous existence of this institution in our midst must also in time have a good influence on that large class of students who as yet care very little for these things. They may come to learn that there are realities which purely physical science does not dream of and that there are cravings in the mind of man which knowledge will not satisfy. And so by spiritualizing science on the one hand and rationalizing belief on the other we may hope that University Young Men's Christian Associations may some day help not a little in producing the final harmony of science and religion.

The dramatic poem "Tecumseh," which was reviewed in our columns recently by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, is attracting much attention throughout Canada. The author, Mr. Charles Mair, has become a subject of interest, and many are the inquiries concerning

him among our literary people. Through the kindness of a Toronto friend of his, we are able to lay the following particulars of Mr. Mair's life before our readers. He was born in the village of Lanark, in Upper Canada, in the year 1840. He received his early education in his native village, and in the Grammar School of the neighboring town of Perth. From here he entered Queen's College, Kingston, but entered upon a business life before completing his course in this institution. His father, the late James Mair, came to Canada from Scotland, nearly sixty years ago. The elder Mr. Mair was one of the pioneers of the lumber business in the valleys of the Madawaska and other tributaries of the Ottawa River. Much of our author's early life was spent in the forest, and to this source we may trace his sympathy with nature in her varied forms and moods. In 1868, Mr. Mair published a small volume entitled "Dreamland and Other Poems," which was favourably received by Canadian readers. Copies of this book are now very scarce, as a large portion of the edition was burnt shortly after publication, in the Desbarats fire in Ottawa. In the fall of this year, Mr. Mair was sent by the Dominion Government to the Red River settlement, as paymaster to the men engaged in opening the Snow Road from Fort Garry to the Lake of the Woods. Mr. Mair was consequently in Fort Garry at the time of the outbreak of the first Riel rebellion. He was a prisoner in the hands of the rebels for many weeks during the winter of 1869-70. After being sentenced to death by the Provisional Government, he escaped from prison, and subsequently joined the expedition from Portage la Prairie to Fort Garry under Major Boulton. Shortly afterwards he set out for Ontario. With two or three companions he walked 400 miles on snow-shoes to St. Paul. Subsequently he reached this province and with Drs. Schultz and Lynch, was accorded a most enthusiastic reception. Upon the restoration of order, Mr. Mair settled at Portage la Prairie, and a few years after he moved to Prince Albert on the Saskatchewan, where he was engaged for some ten years in fur trading and general business. In 1883, foreseeing the outbreak which occurred last spring, and wishing to have his family safe, he moved from Prince Albert to Windsor, Ontario, where he has since been living. Here he wrote "Tecumseh," many of the scenes of which are laid in this part of the province. When the rebellion broke out he came to Toronto and enlisted in the Governor-General's Body Guard, whose commanding officer, Colonel George T. Denison, is an old and intimate friend of the author's. He was appointed acting Quarter-Master of that corps and served through the whole campaign. Mr. Mair was at one time a contributor to the *Canadian Monthly*, and it is said he will continue his literary career in other fields.

## Leading Articles.

### A STUDENTS' LOAN FUND.

There is nothing wholly bad, and it is to the presence of an element of good that the scholarship system owes its continued existence. When we admit all the harm that is done by the competition, the frequent injustice of the decision, and the fact that the awards often fall to those who are not in need of financial assistance, admitting all this, there still remains the undoubted fact that valuable aid has often been given through this means to needy and deserving students.

This is the ultimate ground upon which the scholarship question will be fought out. No one now cares to advocate the efficacy of money prizes as lures to attract students and to prevent them from entering other colleges. Some persons still speak of their potency in stimulating study and raising the level of the whole class, as the phrase runs. But this is a mere delusion of the men who get scho-