

understood, and the duties which it entails seem to be in dispute. Fond regard for one's educational *alma mater* is very desirable, but it is not an essential part of education; and even if the "double-undergraduate" feels his allegiance divided, the question really is whether his scholarship is deteriorated and his attainments reduced by that division. It is beside the mark for Mr. Loudon to argue that a graduate who takes an *ad eundem* degree thereby transfers his affections and allegiance to a new university; for such is not the case. Very considerable confusion also is introduced into the discussion, and into the arguments on either side by the difficulty of distinguishing between Toronto University and University College. It is almost as difficult for outsiders to know where the University ends and the College begins, as it is to understand the precise system by which one member of a legal firm acts in his pleader's capacity before another member of the firm acting in his legislative or judicial capacity, without infringing official etiquette or moral justice. While we deprecate anything that may narrow the broad basis on which our Ontario University ought to rest, we shall always maintain the necessity of supporting a high standard for our university education, and shall be prepared to strengthen, as far as in our power lies, the hands of the Senate, whether of one central institution or of several smaller bodies, which is endeavouring so to raise the standard as to ensure respect and value for Canadian degrees.

We are glad, by the way, to see that an early opportunity has been taken in the House of Commons to call attention to an apparently arbitrary assumption of power by the English Board of Trade in refusing a clearance to passenger vessels except when their surgeon has a diploma from some British University. This restriction, we feel sure, has not been levelled against Canadian graduates in medicine, but against those fictitious degrees which have been notoriously disposed of at set prices by American Colleges. Not many years ago the business of a passenger on an Atlantic steamer was for some days a mystery, but it eventually leaked out that he was going to England to dispose of medical diplomas which he had purchased wholesale at an American "University." He offered one, as a personal favour, to the surgeon of the ship at the reduced rate of £25. If the traffic still continues, it is high time that the British Government did interpose; but Canada may justly claim that her medical diplomas, as well as her masters' and mates' certificates, should be recognized as valid and sufficient evidence of competency.

The Commission Tilting to adjudicate upon the disputed State votes, has given Florida to Hayes and Wheeler "by a strictly party vote"; thus confirming the suspicions of the American writer to whom we alluded last week. If the same process is repeated it can hardly be said that the result will be satisfactory; the defeated party will be at liberty to claim that its rights have been sacrificed to party

prejudices and not adjudicated upon by their merits. The sting of defeat will rankle as deeply as if the count had been made in the regular way; and the stigma of preferring party to justice will be attached to those prominent names to which each party has committed its interests. The only thing gained by the commissioners will, apparently be that the country must abide, by its decisions, as its appointment was formally and legally made.

The political event of the week affecting the Eastern question has been the summary removal of Midhat Pasha from the office of Grand Vizier and his deportation to Italy. The grounds of his disgrace are still uncertain. At first he was charged with conspiracy and treason. Bismarck is said to allege drunkenness as the cause of his fall. But it is more probably owing to local intrigue. Midhat was going too fast for the Moslems, and also for Italy. His reforms were too sweeping. They offended his own countrymen, and also would, if carried out, have cut the ground of complaint from under the Czar's feet. The negotiations with Servia are said to be progressing favourably; and still there is hope of peace; but Russia is massing troops, Austria is doing likewise, and the Porte is doing the same. Where so much loose powder is about, the chances of an explosion are very great. The policy of the English Government in the East has not been questioned at the opening of Parliament, when the Address passed both Houses without a division; but doubtless a very full discussion will arise when the papers on the subject are brought down. We are glad to see that the Queen was well enough to open Parliament in person.

QUADRAGESIMA SUNDAY.

OR the *First Sunday* in Lent, comes before us in the teaching of the Church under a most impressive aspect—bringing before us the temptation and the forty days fasting of our blessed Lord. The collect contains the first allusion to fasting; and although no Sunday in the Christian year is a fast day, yet the character of the Sunday services is in the most decided manner made to correspond with the season. This is more especially the case in Lent, because the collect for Ash Wednesday is used after the Sunday collect until Easter, although it is in practice omitted on Good Friday and Easter Even. The Epistle points to the power of Divine grace under the most arduous and afflictive circumstances; and the Gospel sets forth the Lord Jesus Christ perfecting His sympathy with our nature by undergoing, among other trials, temptation from the adversary of God and man. The Saviour, as the Originator of a new spiritual nature which was to take the place of that lost by Adam, went through a trial similar to that of our progenitor; and that He might have the most perfect sympathy in His human nature with His followers who might be assaulted by the evil one, "He was tempted like as we are."

The three forms which the Tempter

selected for Christ are comprehensive types of all He has to offer—sensual indulgences, the seductions of vanity and pride, and the desire to go beyond God's will. The old formulary, which includes all sin under the three heads, "the world, the flesh, and the devil," is strictly in keeping with the view of sin as given to us in the Fall of the first, and the Victory of the second Adam; and as we acknowledge ourselves to be sinners through our origin from the one, so we may perceive the full force of our prayer to the other, "By Thy Temptation, good Lord, deliver us;" even though we refuse our assent to the sentiment which Milton appears to have entertained, that Paradise was regained for man chiefly by the Saviour's successful resistance in the Temptation.

Whether the tempter knew that the person he assaulted was the Son of God, is questionable. It might be supposed that the subtle fiend would not have made the attempt he did, when he could only have expected defeat and disgrace. But evil beings, whose understandings are perverted, sometimes attempt the most impracticable schemes; and perhaps we can scarcely imagine anything too bold or too extravagant for the Prince of fallen angels to undertake. It is probable, however, that the devil only suspected the high character of Christ. Both his suspicions and his doubts seem to be expressed by his address: "If Thou be the Son of God." Even pure and holy spirits did not entirely comprehend the mysteries of redemption. That man was to be redeemed, and that it was for this purpose Messiah was born, they understood. Witness their song on the night of his birth, and the joy they feel when a sinner repents. Of this knowledge perhaps the Tempter in some degree partook. Finding Christ hungry in a wilderness, his suspicion of His high dignity as the Son of God might waver. He madly thought to prove Him; and could he draw Him into sin, he would triumph over the Being intended to bruise his head.

The first part of the temptation, as we have seen, was towards an indulgence in sensuousness, corresponding also with the first temptation to partake of the forbidden fruit. The second embraced presumption and a display of Divine power; and so our first parents were tempted to adopt means which should elevate them to the rank of gods, knowing good and evil. The third excited to covetousness and worldly ambition; but associated with the condition, "If Thou wilt fall down and worship me."

The malice must have been terrible which could have set its eye upon the innocence and happiness of Paradise and seek to destroy it. But when we behold the chief of the "principalities and powers" with which "we wrestle," assaulting the very Son of God Himself and endeavouring to overthrow the deep and gracious counsel of Redemption, nothing can give us a stronger sentiment of the turpitude and malignity of him and of his fallen race. Tremendous must have been the apostacy which could render an order of angels so depraved! And this should fill us with alarm at the depravity to which an intelligent nature may sink, when it has become sinful and is left to itself.

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