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W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1887.

The Chautauqua Movement.

THIS is one of the greatest educational movements of this or any other age. It is only nine years since it was begun, and already it has swept into its four years' course of study 100,000 readers. It evidently meets a felt want. With every religious awakening there comes also an intellectual quickening. Persons whose early educational advantages have been defective or neglected, by adopting this course of study, may more than make good the neglected opportunities of a lost youth. But without such guidance as the C.L.S.C. course of reading offers, they would—amid the wilderness of books—be like children wandering in a pathless forest.

There are in Canada some 2,000 Chautauqua readers, but that is much less than the number we should have, in comparison with the large membership in the United States. The establishment of a local Chautauqua Assembly in our own country, upon the same plan, and adopting the same educational methods as the original Chautauqua Assembly, it is expected will prove a powerful stimulus to the multiplication of these useful circles. This new departure has the hearty approval and co-

operation of Dr. Vincent, the originator of the whole scheme. At considerable personal inconvenience, he favoured with his presence the first meeting of the Canadian Assembly, and conferred the diplomas to a class of Canadian graduates. In an admirable address of an hour and a quarter's length on that occasion, he set forth the mental and moral advantages certain to accrue from the faithful following of the carefully prepared course of study of the C.L.S.C. It secures a grand moral uplifting of the entire being—a realization of the truth of the poet's words:

"Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal."

The class mottoes of this institution give an insight into its spirit and purpose. The first of these is: "Let us keep our Heavenly Father in the midst." The second is: "We Study the Word and Works of God." The third is: "Do not be discouraged." As Dr. Sutherland pointed out in his excellent address at Chautauqua, it is of the utmost importance, at a time when the effort is being made to rule God out of the universe that He has made, to combine, as in this course, the study of His word and works. We need have no fears of the revelations of science when we realize that we are studying therein the thoughts of God, no less than in His revealed word. Those who take these studies in hand will not become the victims of the shallow skepticism produced by exclusively materialistic theories of the universe.

Another effect of the Chautauqua course of reading was well pointed out by the Rev. Dr. Potts, Vice-President of the Canadian Assembly. Those who acquire a taste for the instructive and elevating kind of reading which it prescribes will acquire, at the same time, an utter disrelish for the frivolous and pernicious reading in which so many waste, and worse than waste, their time. A new life and interest will also be given to social gatherings, by the common topics of thought and conversation, furnished by common reading and studies.

It is not contended that the C.L.S.C. course of reading is a substitute for a college course; but it will unquestionably, to a large degree, give the college students' outlook at the world of letters and thought. It will give such an impulse, on a higher plane of study, as will lead many to press on to a full college course;