

morning was given by Professor William Layton, the Professor of English, of whose kind assistance to me in this inquiry, both at the time of my visit and afterwards, I desire here to make fitting acknowledgment. Sixty-eight students were present at the lecture. About ten minutes after it began a *répétiteur* came round and marked the attendances. The professor began in French. He said he would read a passage from the commercial intelligence in an English newspaper. Producing a cutting from the *Times*, he read aloud that "a large contract for the supply of 20,000 tons of best colliery - screened Monmouthshire steam coal had recently been placed at ———, and that great interest had been excited in the trade at the size of 'he order.'" He proceeded to read the market quotations for different kinds of coal. A student was then called upon to translate into French the dictated passage, which had been taken down in English. The whole lesson, which formed part of the first year's course, was an admirable disquisition on the meaning of a large number of technical terms used in English trade, and on their equivalents in French. After thoroughly working through such a course, a young Belgian or German would have much less difficulty in understanding the commercial intelligence in an English newspaper than if he had to rely on the best of dictionaries.

The next lecture was on Civil Law. The professor began by slowly dictating some notes, which were taken down by the whole class — about eighty-nine in number. He then broke out into an animated and interesting address, listened to with much attention by the students, on the Belgian law of domicile, on the position of aliens in Belgium, on

naturalization, and on the right of expelling strangers who were suspected of fomenting civil disturbance. The students were diligent in taking notes. They looked mostly of about eighteen to twenty years of age, some older. Here and there was a young fellow in military uniform. On this point I may say that the law of military service has no such influence on the number attending the Antwerp Institute, as I was informed in Paris was the case in the French *Écoles Supérieures de Commerce*. In France, a young man who gains the diploma of a recognized *École Supérieure de Commerce* is now excused two out of three years of compulsory military service.* And I was told by many competent observers in Paris that this new privilege has had a great deal to do with the increased popularity of the French higher schools of commerce. But this is not the case in Antwerp. In Belgium, it is true, all young men are nominally required to serve in the army, but in point of fact only about one in eleven draws an unlucky number in the ballot. A parent can, indeed, insure against his son's drawing an unlucky number by pledging a sum of £64 (1,600 francs). Those few students at the Institute who are actually attending its courses of instruction during their period of military service are virtually exempted by the Government from the more arduous part of their military duties. They have, it is true, to answer to their name at roll call in barracks once a day, to wear uniform and to take part in the autumn manœuvres. But otherwise they are excused real service with

* The Décret du 22 Juillet, 1890, extends to recognized *Ecoles Supérieures de Commerce* in France the privileges granted under Article 23 of the *Loi sur le Recrutement de l'Armée* of July 15, 1889, as further specified by the Décret du 31 Mai, 1890.