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THE TEACHING OF THE CLASSICS.

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OF late years great improvements have been made in our schools and colleges in the position and teaching of modern languages. Not only have those languages been placed upon a higher footing socially, so to speak,—that is, among their fellows in the academic curriculum, but the teachers and professors of French and German have shown such enterprise and enthusiasm, and have made such progress in methods of instruction that their Latin and Greek brethren, who used to turn up their classical noses with scorn at anything Teutonic or Romance, now humbly crave pardon and sue for pedagogic enlightenment.

Much of this advance is due, I believe, to the formation of Modern Language Associations. Once a year the members of such bodies meet to discuss, to exchange ideas, to urge reforms, and, above all, to unite for their common weal. In Ontario the results may be seen in the increased activity and enthusiasm of modern language teachers, in the greater prominence given to modern lan-

guages in the University curriculum, and in the largely increasing number of students in this department.

It is the duty of classical teachers to take a leaf out of the book of their *modern* friends, and unite both in their own interests and in those of the studies which they have, or ought to have, at heart. Let them throng to the meeting for organization which is to be held in Toronto next Christmas vacation, and there let professors and lecturers and teachers resolve to work, shoulder to shoulder, for the cause of classical education in Ontario.

In the frequent discussions of to-day upon the educational system, it is pleasing to note that the classics are not regarded with the same hostility as formerly by the specialists in other departments. The modern language teacher acknowledges the value of Latin as the parent of the Romance group of tongues, and sighs for a knowledge of that Greek, apart from which half of our modern literature is inexplicable. The scientist has concluded that for his special studies a little learning in Latin and Greek is far