

tion has been effected in our knowledge of its history by the studies of Dr. Doughty and his colleagues, made possible primarily by the housing and classification of an immense bulk of documents. By enlisting the services of special students the material at Ottawa, at the Record Office, London, and in Paris, has been at least partly sifted. The change of Ezekiel has come over the dry bones of Canadian history. No student of federalism to-day can afford to neglect the practical lessons taught in the gradual development of Canadian constitutional history.

A final word from one student to another. Your business is that of purveyors, universal providers of the mental food of the public; and not only are you caterers but you will often be called upon to do the work of cooks and doctors. The majority of mankind, as Burke says, providence has doomed to live on trust, a trust less in you, I fear, than in the ephemeral literature of the day. It is not often that one has a vivid, enduring impression of a newspaper article; but one day in October, 1872, in a Tottenham Court Road tea-shop, I read in "The Times" a statement of Ruskin to the effect that no mind could resist for a year the dulling influence of the daily paper. Doubtless as an exclusive dietary the press and the magazine do lead to mental conditions the counterpart of what we know in the body as the deficiency diseases, scurvy, rickets, etc. The library through you supplies the vitamins which counteract the mental lethargy and anæmia which come from too exclusive use of North's and other patent foods. You have a great opportunity—see that you rise to it. For most of you, I fear, the college course is not open, but for all of you there is the open door of self-education. The magic personality of the teacher, the stimulus of comrades, you may miss; but in compensation you may get closer to the moulding influences of the great minds of the race. We no longer lay our disposition to the charge of a star—a man is his own star. Strive for mental accuracy and independence, cultivate the critical investigating faculty, keeping at the same time your mouth shut. Get your minds into touch with such magnetizers as Plato and Plutarch and Montaigne. In a profession demanding an amazing measure of equanimity, you cannot afford either to fight or to fret.