

In 20 religious colleges two-thirds of the total number of students are members of churches. In the undenominational colleges there has been a growing respect for religion and morality. A total abstainer is not now sneered at as a crank. There has been a great growth of personal dignity and self-respect. Pranks are less common. The spirit of earnestness and manliness is stronger. There has been a growth in theistic thinking, even among the Spencerians, and the recent works of Mr. John Fiske and Mr. F. E. Abbott are cited as examples of this hopeful change. The earnestness of science seems to be taking on a religious tone, and religious thinking is becoming scientific. With this growing spirit of seriousness we may expect to see a growth of liberality toward the colleges on the part of the moneyed men. Men feel safe in spending their money on earnestness. Nothing else pays such handsome dividends. As a confirmation of this promising sign of the times it may not be out of place to introduce some testimony as to the facts. President Eliot of Harvard says in a report of Union Theological Seminary, "Drunkenness has decreased very decidedly. The sense of personal honor and self-respect has strengthened. Public sentiment among students has improved. On the other hand vices which are born of luxury and self-indulgence tend to increase. Part of the utility of athletic sports in colleges is that they combat this tendency to luxury." Dr. Barbour, College Pastor at Yale, says: "The behaviour of the Yale students of late years, in the judgment of their instructors, has been most exemplary. College athletics, encouraged as they are here on moral grounds, contribute to the lessening of lower enjoyments among our young men." Ex-President Hopkins, of Williams, says: "There was a time when we felt it necessary to exact a pledge from every student that he would not use intoxicating drinks on college grounds. At present no such pledge is required by college orders. There has been, too, a gradual change of sentiment in the community, and so among the young men, in regard to college tricks, and disturbances generally, and so an improvement." President