

labour and the reduction of cost of production, combined with improvement in quality of product, till the small village shop or factory has no longer a chance for life in the competition with the great manufactories in the cities. The result is that the occupation having largely gone to the cities, the labour follows it. Nor should it be overlooked that as farming must always be the chief business in the country, and as the subdivision of farms beyond certain limits is unprofitable, the surplus population of the country, produced by natural increase, must always, in any case, be migratory.

**B**UT is the tendency of modern populations to great centres necessarily an evil? We do not now refer to the accidental though very serious disadvantage at which our own country is unfortunately placed, and in consequence of which the natural movement carries so large a part of her migratory population across the borders into another country. But it is customary to speak of the tendency in itself as a thing to be deplored, and so far as possible counteracted. In the first place, is it an economic evil? It seems often to be assumed that if a much larger proportion of our young people would but stay in the rural districts and cultivate the soil, the country would be vastly better off. This may be questioned. It is well known that even in the most fertile districts farming is becoming less and less profitable. Nine farmers out of ten will assure us that it is only by incessant toil and strict economy that they can make ends meet. Of course by improved methods of farming the productiveness of the soil might be greatly increased. But supposing such improvement became general, would not one of the first effects be to overstock the world's markets, and so reduce the price of agricultural products that the scientific farmer would be no better off than his father or grandfather before him? The sum is this. The supply of food, which is the business of the farmer to produce, is, under ordinary circumstances and apart from occasional failures of crops over wide areas, already equal to the demand. That is, food enough is raised, under present conditions, to supply the world's markets. Were it conceivable that by any means the world's population could be at once so increased, or its ability to purchase agricultural products so enlarged, that the supply should prove unequal to the demand, it is obvious that a proportionate advance in price would immediately take place. The farmers would begin to grow rich. Can anyone doubt that under such circumstances farming would quickly become again popular, and that the current of migration would quickly set back towards the country? If, then, the flow of population to the great centres is but the legitimate result of natural causes, why should it be regretted on economic grounds? Whether it should be deplored on social and moral grounds is a more complicated and difficult question. If city life has the greater temptations to immorality, it has also larger opportunities and stronger incentives to industry and virtue. But the direct answer to the question depends evidently upon two conditions: first, the character of the incomers to the city, and, second, the character of the city itself. At the rate of improvement which has been going on during late years in the great cities, in ways too numerous to mention, the time may soon come, if it is not already here, when the balance of moral advantage, which includes of course the social and intellectual elements, will be markedly in favour of life in the city.

**A**S the time-limit allowed us by the printers for "copy" expires, all Europe is more or less disturbed by the complications arising out of the act of the Sultan of Turkey, in permitting Russian volunteer transports to pass through the Dardanelles. The latest despatches which, though not fully confirmed, seem too circumstantial to be without foundation, are to the effect that a position on the west coast of Mitylene has been occupied by a detachment of British marines, landed from an ironclad, and that the place is being fortified. Coupled with this is a rumour that friendly relations have been restored and a good understanding reached between Sir William White, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, and the Sultan. If the former despatches be correct, the latter are probably true, for it is highly unlikely that the British Government would have taken possession of a part of the Turkish dominions without permission. That would be a very serious step indeed, such as would hardly be taken unless the situation had become such that an amicable settlement was almost hopeless. It is scarcely worth while to indulge in conjecture when in a day or two the facts may be known. But the simplest inference seems to be that

second thoughts, backed by British influence, had convinced the Porte of his great mistake, and had shown him that the best interests of Turkey will be subserved by a faithful observance of Turkish obligations, under the treaty of Paris. Indeed, the folly of the Sultan in permitting a violation of that Treaty and giving Russia free passage would be so supreme that it is almost incredible that he could deliberately take a step towards it. It would be either to put Constantinople in the power of Russia, or to precipitate a contest in which the victor would be pretty certain to take that city as a security for future good behaviour and good faith. But, speculations aside, European news, for the next few days at least, will be looked for with intense interest all over the civilized world.

### ATHLETIC CULTURE.

**O**NE of the chief causes of the predominance of the Anglo-Saxon is his sturdy and stalwart frame which gives energy and power to its controlling mind. The spirit of the British youth finds its first training ground on the village common, the manor lawn or the college green. The cricket and football field, the heathery hill, the winding river, the broad lake and the moving sea add their quota to the moulding of his dauntless, self-reliant spirit, and his strong, active and well-knit body. The elder Disraeli held that the fascination of physical training had wooed many a promising scholar from the intellectual path which would have led him to distinction. The same may be said of a variety of habits which moderation makes necessary and healthful, but excess renders objectionable and harmful. Athletic training begets in boy and man a confident and resolute spirit, a graceful and manly bearing, a promptness in danger and a mental and physical ability to help oneself and others at the call of sudden emergency. Moreover, the moderate use of gymnastics develops and strengthens the nerve, muscle and sinew, promotes the circulation of the blood and gives vigour and endurance to both mind and body. What is good for the individual is good for the nation. We cannot expect to find manly energy and physical perfection where healthful games are publicly discouraged and even legislated against. In Canada we are glad to say that the manly games of cricket, football and lacrosse have many devotees, and golf woos the banker from his office and the merchant from his gains. The Canadian skiff and cutter have forged ahead of doughty rivals on many a lake and stream. And when winter coats the lake and stream with ice, and mantles the earth with snow, the merry broom, the ringing steel, the gliding shoe attest the perpetual love of our people, young and old, for vigorous healthful exercise. Though Toronto has a variety of rowing and other clubs of a kindred character, she has lacked a suitable and well-equipped athletic club of an exclusively athletic character. The public spirit of Messrs. C. H. Nelson, John Massey and others has, at last, after vigorous and sustained effort, most efficiently shared in by Captain Greville Harston, provided the means, plan, and site for what promises to be one of the best-equipped athletic club houses on the continent. The ceremony of turning the first sod was performed at the Sleepy Hollow Robinson—by Mr. C. H. Nelson on Monday last. Appropriate speeches were delivered by Mr. Nelson, The Hon. J. B. Robinson, Professor Goldwin Smith, Sir Adam Wilson, Dr. Larratt Smith and others. Professor Smith urged the importance of the club as a means of moral as well as physical recreation to the bank clerks and students who may be said to be but temporary residents in the city, and suggested that their fathers who reside in the country should become stockholders or subscribers, and otherwise interest themselves in a club that would prove a safeguard to their sons. It is to be hoped that this club will receive the heartiest encouragement and support from all lovers of athletics in Toronto as well as throughout the Province. Men of means could give to a far less deserving object than this. The club's success will largely depend on its management. Fortunately, the directors have secured in Captain Harston an indefatigable secretary, whose heart is in his work and who brings to his duty habits of method and discipline coupled with unusual energy. The grounds are central and beautifully situated. The building will be an ornament to the city, and the fact that it is intended to expend \$100,000 in the enterprise warrants the expectation that in all respects the ground, building, appointments and management will be of the most satisfactory character. Provision will be made for swimming and other baths, tennis, bowls and all other modern features of a first-class

athletic outfit. Ladies as well as boys will have their hours for exercise. We would suggest that, at the start, a mutual arrangement be entered into by the management of all the clubs of like standing and character in the city to share each other's privileges. This would aid and strengthen all, and beget a healthy mutual interest, and do away with all occasion for petty jealousy and rivalry. We heartily wish the Toronto Athletic Club abundant success.

### ABBE LAFLAMME ON UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.\*

**T**HIS address on University Extension, delivered by Dr. Laflamme, the Vice-President of the Royal Society of Canada, at the Queen's Hall, Montreal, on 27th May last, and translated since by Dr. Kingsford, is sufficient to show that French-Canadian university men are interested in the new movement that has arisen for extending as far as possible the benefits of higher education. Dr. Laflamme is now President of the Royal Society, and will, therefore, give the Presidential Address next year, when the Society meets in Toronto by special invitation of the City Council. It is a great pleasure to introduce the President to the people of Ontario before his public appearance, in his true character, not only as a man of science, honoured in his own department by all fellow-workers, but as a warm friend of everything that promotes the intellectual development of all classes of the people. "We desire," he says, "to develop their intelligence by bringing within their reach knowledge of a higher order. We desire to open out to these honest men the horizon of new enjoyments which will essentially prove morally elevating, and to raise up as much as possible, frequently in a manner to cause surprise, minds often as richly endowed and as naturally powerful, often even more so, as those of their teachers." That this is the real motive animating the Abbé Laflamme, and that induced him to call the attention of the Montreal public to the subject of University Extension, no one who is acquainted with him will doubt for a moment. I take the liberty of saying this, because doubts have been thrown upon the motives actuating the authorities of the English universities, to whom must be given the credit of inaugurating this popular movement. President Stanley Hall, of Clark University, at one of the meetings of the National Educational Association held in Toronto last July, stated that he had been informed by Dr. Pusey and others that the real motives with the English universities were dread of popular enquiry into their vast revenues and a desire to propitiate the English democracy. Canadian and American university men are certainly safe from any such suspicions, though it has been hinted that the competition for students is so keen in the United States that the least known and worst equipped universities are most zealous in the new movement, with the hope of thereby recruiting their numbers and also of increasing their endowments indirectly. Canadians can, however, afford to discuss the subject on its merits, and to take any good from the movement that it is calculated to yield without further consideration of motives.

The Abbé Laflamme defines the system of University Extension as follows, and thereafter points out the advantages to be derived from it by the pupils, the community, and the university respectively:—

"In the first instance a central committee is organized whose duty it is to receive applications for admission to the course, to obtain the necessary professors from the university, and to arrange for the payment of their salaries. Each course to extend over three months at a lesson the week, given always in the evening. The course includes four constituent parts. First the lecture itself, to occupy about one hour. The pupils or students are furnished with a summary of the whole course divided into twelve parts. . . . The summary of each lesson sets forth the authors to be read, and at the same time gives a certain number of exercises to be performed, conceived both to test the memory of students and to habituate them to write an essay on a given subject. These duties are performed at home, the pupils having full liberty to consult and to refer to the authors who treat upon the subjects of their study. The completed essays are sent to the professors. It is in the class which generally follows the lesson that the professor in a familiar conversation with the students gives an account of the performance of their duties. It is evident that this examination carefully given is yet more interesting and more useful than the first lesson itself. In this intimate association between the pupils and the professor the last shadows of mis-intelligence disappear, the last difficulties vanish, and the instruction given definitely reaches the point aimed at.

"There is a saying that a tree is known by its fruit, equally we must appreciate the value of this university education *ad extra* by the importance of its results. In the first place we can easily believe that in the centre of a population where these lectures are given, the tone of thought of the community must necessarily be changed. The guardians of the local libraries remark that the volumes the most sought after are more sterling in character than those ordinarily required. There is less frivolity in the

\* Address of the Abbé Laflamme, M.A., D.D., Professor of Laval and Vice-President of the R.S.C. Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchison. Montreal: E. Picken. 1891.