

continue to be poor, and its bulk light; but the public demand and taste is not altogether for poor fare and light weight, and we have had, of recent years, sufficient evidence that the enterprise that has launched experiments in higher journalism finds a constituency of appreciative support encouraging enough to give them life in proportion to the area interested in their publication. The difficulty in the way of their permanent establishment has been that of maintaining the experiment long enough until the public eye and ear at a distance can be caught and interested in their existence. This is the work that could be done by disinterested wealth, responsive to the claims of social life, in contributing to its intellectual well-being, and the furtherance of its highest aims.

Many other objects appeal to the public spirit of our wealthy citizens for encouragement and aid, which, on reflection, will naturally suggest themselves to a liberal mind. None of these, however, presents greater claims upon the would-be benefactors of the people than the establishment and endowment of public libraries, and no influence can be more potent than theirs in contributing to the public culture. Whatever may be the difficulties that confront one, and particularly in depressed times like the present, in placing such projects on foot, they should not deter from hearty and persistent effort in establishing them. If no more ambitious scheme can be launched than a moderately equipped book-club, with ample provision for the purchase of those engines of thought, the modern reviews, monthlies, and the English critical and literary journals, let that, at least, be attempted. The more widely the formation of these reading clubs can extend, the better; and there is no town of any size but might light this intellectual torch in the com-

munity and avail itself of its helpful aid to mental illumination and advancement. It wants but the inspiring stimulant of enthusiasm, and the contagion of strenuous effort to set the project in motion; and, not of necessity by some influential person, but by those, here and there in the country, who have faith in the benefits their efforts would confer, and are loyal to the cause of culture.

From their occupation, the public would naturally look to their professional educators to lead them in this work, were they more accustomed to see teachers take an active part in performing those duties in society which pertain to the higher life, and for the fulfilment of which they are professionally so well adapted. We know that the social position conceded to teachers, as a rule, is not that to which they rightly should lay claim; but society is not altogether to blame either for its deficient acknowledgment of their status, or for the parsimony with which it rewards their labour. It is an old adage that we value a thing at the price we pay for it; but it is as true that we affix to ourselves our own price. "Respectability," as an old schoolmaster used to say, "is after all a personal attribute," and the teacher can as successfully assert his true position in society as any other member of the community. In Ontario, the High School masters are, as a class, worthy of greater social distinction than the public is accustomed to confer upon them, for their academic standing is higher in the aggregate than that of an equal number of any other of the professions. The attainments, also, of the Inspectorate, are of a high order, and there is no class in the community doing more praiseworthy work. Though lower in the professional scale than the Inspectors and their brother-labourers in the Collegiate Institutes and High Schools, the Public School masters of the Province