

fair was being held; these fairs, with the French, are a perfect mania which rages from June to November. Always the same fiendish-looking dolls, which one must "fell" with balls; fortune-tellers, shooting booths, "merry-go-rounds," and dancing in clouds of dust. But at the fair of Meudon I found a *nouveauté*. Over the door of a miniature improvised theatre, "*La tentation de St. Antoine, ce soir*," was announced.

When we entered the wood it was quite dark, but when we returned the harvest moon had risen, piercing, every here and there, the night with silver lances. The garden of this "Restaurant de l'Hermitage" is filled with tiny rustic houses where one may dine. There, in the depths of the Meudon wood, "far from the madding crowd," sipping iced champagne under an August moon, with the perfume of new-mown hay stealing in at the door, one finds for some moments a haven of rest from Paris heat.

Another odd but charming little summer restaurant is at Ville d'Avary, where one dines on the banks of a bewitching lake, which, in the rising mist and the moonlight, seemed enchanted.

Rushing home on top of the train, where seats are placed that tourists may the better see the country, an old Frenchwoman beside me exclaimed, as she viewed the pretty but very innocent scenery: "And they, the strangers, ask us why we don't travel!"

L. L.

Paris, Sept. 7, 1886.

MISDIRECTED STATE AID.

THE Parkhill *Review*, in its issue of the 26th ult., contains a leading article with the title, "Education in Ontario," which is well worthy of careful perusal. Among the many topics with which it deals is that of the recent Second-Class Examinations, and the large number of candidates who presented themselves for the same:

"It is quite possible," says this journal, "that the low prices prevailing for the products of the farm, and the dulness in business enterprises, may be impelling too large a number of the young men of our country to essay an entrance into the calling of teaching and of the learned professions. If such be the case, the officials of the State who frame questions for these candidates should not facilitate too great a diversion of the young people of our country from the comparative freedom of farm life to the more restrained and artificial life of the professional, the business office, or the school room. While not discouraging the laudable development of all the intellectual forces of Ontario, the publicist is justified in exercising, where possible, a just discretion as to the amount of inducement given by the State to divert young men from the important industry of our country, one in which there is ample scope for all the intelligence that can be employed upon it. There is then good reason to raise the standard of examination sufficiently high to prevent a repletion of green material to fill our school rooms by elbowing out, on the lowest tender principle, the experienced teachers of our land."

The Parkhill *Review* has here hit the right nail very hard on the head. That this is a young country and a rapidly progressing country we are all fond of saying over and over again, but some of us are sometimes apt to form very erroneous ideas as to what true youthful vigour and progress mean. To many the sole aim of life is to "better one's self," and by "bettering one's self" is meant entering a sphere of life presumed higher than that in which one finds one's self, beginning life where one's father left off. The farmer's son thinks he would rather teach than follow the plough; the tradesman educates his boy for the bar or the ministry; the clerk behind the counter enters the medical profession. What is the result? A twofold disturbance between demand and supply; a deficiency of manual labour; a superabundance of intellectual labour.

The first is, to a large extent, counterbalanced by immigration; the second has no remedy—hence the outcry against "overcrowded professions," "low salaries," "underbidding"; hence also a lower grade of lawyers, of physicians, of clergy, of teachers. Competition being keen, and birth and education being at a discount, the status of the learned professions is not maintained: professional dignity, even sometimes professional honour, is lost.

To regain these, unions are formed, *videlicet*—the Law Society of Upper Canada, the College of Physicians of Ontario, and the proposed College of Preceptors for Ontario. And these unions differ only in one respect from the unions of which we have heard so much of late, and of which the "Knights of Labour" may be taken as a type: they are recognised by the State.

The State, indeed, is indirectly the parent of this want of equipoise between demand and supply: it throws into one scale certain inducements. Instead of leaving the individual to work out his own salvation, it takes upon itself to do it for him. Instead of allowing each to find his proper level, it encourages the attempt to attain a higher one. Instead of relying upon the natural laws of sociology to determine the vocation of each mem-

ber of society, it offers bonuses for certain vocations: it endows colleges, it puts a luxurious (in contradistinction to a necessary) education within the reach of all, whether or not they are fitted for it by natural ability or inherited bent.

For some vocations Nature herself, or perhaps we should say history and custom, provide such bonuses: the dignity of the Law, the traditions of the Army and Navy, the responsibility of Medicine, and the sacredness of the Church, are such bonuses. But to these the State adds scholarships, prizes, free education. In other words, the community as a whole is made to pay a large sum annually out of its pocket to induce some of its members to perform a certain class of work, with the natural result that there are too many labourers for this particular class of work, and the labourers cry out for more work and—more pay. Neither work nor pay being forthcoming, there arises a keen competition for both, and in the natural order of things, when the struggle for existence becomes altogether too keen, self-restraint becomes lax, and morality suffers; hence the loss of professional dignity and of professional honour.

In older countries the same evil exists, but is neither so rife nor so keenly felt. Age breeds conservatism in a nation as in an individual. This tends to prevent that straining after "higher walks of life," that hasting to be rich, so visible in youthful countries. Age also teaches the hollowness of artificial bonuses. And this tends to prevent that eager grasping after adventitious aid—an aid which is seen to be counterbalanced by the keenness of the competition which it excites. The adventitious aid, too, is derived almost wholly from private benefactions, the State doing little or nothing beyond encouraging individual research by specialists in abstruse or little known regions of science or literature.

Where, for us in Canada, lies the remedy? If the foregoing data are correct it is easily found, and consists in the avoidance by the State of interference with the individual above that which is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the community. Here, of course, crops up the delicate question: At what point does such interference cease to be necessary? The exact point can never be found, but that we have in Canada gone beyond it the state of things sketched above proves.

And this is a great step gained. If there are evidences that the State has already shown too paternal a solicitude for the welfare of its members, a stop should at once be put to any further interference. Or, in the words of the Parkhill *Review*, "the publicist is justified in exercising, where possible, a just discretion as to the amount of inducement given by the State to divert young men from the important industry of our country, one in which there is ample scope for all the intelligence that can be employed upon it."

The important industry of the Dominion is undoubtedly the agricultural industry. This surely is undeniable when we remember not only the millions of uncultivated acres we possess, but also the magnificent means of transporting their products which we possess. Granting this, it does seem a policy short-sighted in the extreme to tax the owners of these acres and these means of transportation in order that their sons may become B.A.'s or LL.B.'s rather than farmers or shopkeepers. If B.A.'s and LL.B.'s could be persuaded to follow the vocations of their fathers—to go back to the plough and the counter with the knowledge that a "higher walk of life" means doing what their fathers did, better, more intelligently, more scientifically, all would be well and good—indeed better, for undoubtedly these Bachelors of Arts and of Laws would make the best ploughmen and the best clerks. Unfortunately they cannot be so persuaded.

ARNOLD HAULTAIN.

THE report of the Committee of Council on Education [in England], states that at the present rate of increase a new school for 1,000 children ought to be opened in London each month, for ten months of the year, to meet the annual growth of the population. Taking the whole country into consideration, the actual number of school-places is equal to the requirements of the population, although it is not evenly distributed; but apart from the question of building schools, the high salaries of School Board teachers is a prime cause of the excessive cost of School Board instruction. Thus in London the average salary of three hundred and twenty-nine masters in Board schools is upwards of £275, but of three hundred and eighty-one masters in voluntary schools only slightly over £152. So also with regard to female teachers; six hundred and thirty-three mistresses in Board schools are paid an average of £192, and eight hundred and twenty-two in voluntary schools upwards of £88. In the last fifteen years, since the Elementary Education Acts came into force, these salaries have increased between 10 and 15 per cent.