

Prizes are also fertile in dwarfing the social education of many of our students. Those who are bent on securing them, generally play the hermit or recluse, and exclude themselves from all society and its beneficial influences. Surely this is a mistake. The minister of the Gospel, above all men, must understand human nature before he can be truly successful. He must cultivate a social disposition. He should not be a floating iceberg, as many are, chilling and freezing everything he approaches, nor on the other hand is he to let his social qualities degenerate into too great familiarity, for this certainly and justly leads to contempt; but there is a golden mean, a true manly affability, a courteous, winning disposition in all grades of society, —if we may speak of grades, and an aptness of conversation with all parties, all of which will greatly enhance the people's estimate of the pastor, and will render it possible for him to accomplish much greater good among his people than he otherwise could do. These qualifications are best obtained by frequently meeting the different classes of society in social gatherings, such as are frequently presented to the students by the good people of Montreal. If this education be neglected now, during college days, to the great majority of students they will never return. Then let not the strong desire to obtain prizes deprive any one of this very important part of our education.

Prizes, again, are injurious to all societies in connection with our colleges. How difficult, yea impossible, it is to get some of our senior men to take any thing to do with our Philosophical and Literary Society, or our Missionary Society. Neither will they read, recite, write essays nor debate, because it takes a little time. They themselves are deprived of this noble training which would greatly benefit them for their future work, whilst our societies are deprived of the assistance of some of the ablest students.

Yet one other great evil connected with prizes that I must mention before concluding this hasty scribble. Prizes are instrumental in sending down some of our noblest students to premature graves, while they shatter the constitutions of scores of others, rendering them ever incapable of performing the arduous duties devolving upon the minister of the Gospel. Many students in our colleges with the most powerful intellects, have not a correspondingly well-developed physical nature. The *engine* is too large for the *boiler*, "*mens sana in corpore sano*," I believe, as a maxim, is generally true; yet it does not follow that gigantic intellects may not be found in feeble bodies. To deny the possibility is to lapse into a sort of materialism by identifying brain and mind. Facts, however, establish the contrary, as some of the greatest intellects that have adorned the world have been found in very feeble bodies. I need mention none other name than the great Reformer, John Calvin, physically weak, yet intellectually a giant. It is true of many of the students in our colleges to-day. They have clear, powerful intellects yet are constitutionally feeble, who, however, with due care and moderation,