

THE NATIVE PROFESSORS CRY.

THE appointment of a distinguished Canadian, as Professor of English Literature at University College, has provoked a storm of criticism on the alleged old country prejudices of Sir Daniel Wilson, the President of the University. We have ever regarded the anxiety of Sir Daniel to provide the College with efficient tutors as most commendable. The present attack seems so especially untimely as to suggest, that Sir Daniel has good reason to think his assailants to be persons who have failed to secure the appointment named. The President, so far as their charges of improper favoritism of old countrymen go, routs his enemies thoroughly. Had those graduates who fancy that one of the chief functions of a College is to provide Chairs for those who have been its students, taken pains to fit themselves for this dignity they would have been more successful. But from inexperience, and injudicious advice, they were led into making such haste for their degree, that they have landed themselves into perpetual obscurity. For declaring the standard of scholarship in Canada below that of other Colonies, we some time ago were roundly abused by students of University College, and by a few super-heated persons were threatened with extinction. But that brave and highly esteemed native Canadian, Principal Grant, after visiting other Colonies, has publicly declared that the position we took was based upon facts—as we knew it to be at the time. The trouble with our young critics was, that *their knowledge was confined to Canada!* We must remember how the tone of society affects educational work. In the old world all public men are highly educated, with rare exceptions. The clergy are mostly graduates of some University, very large numbers of them are distinguished scholars, barristers the same, many private gentlemen also. These persons have been all brought into close contact with the highest scholarship of the age—they have been measured and weighed with care alongside those whose fame will be illustrious. Compare such advantages with those of the average student here who comes up from a country village or town, where there is hardly a sign of the higher life of culture, in a land where very few indeed of our public men are educated, and where the clerical standard for popular honor set by the largest of the sects is *the very reverse of scholarship.* No wonder that many of our young students are so overwhelmed with the thought of their superiority over their neighbours as to imagine a pass degree of, say, University College to be the highest achievement of the human intellect, and that those who have it not are in darkness that may be felt. The costlessness of the preparatory course for matriculation, the low standard for entrance, the cheapness of a College course, and the absence of great prizes for such distinguished honors as give the winners of such distinction in Europe high fame in the world of letters, are seriously inimical to that higher culture needed for those who aspire to professorial dignity.

The standard would sink much lower if the Know-nothing spirit prevailed. It is not fair to a young country to expect such results as are produced by the Colleges of the old world, but it is surely the only honorable course for those in charge of our institutions to strive gradually after higher attainments.

At home it is well known that new men as a rule have a hard struggle to compete with those who, in an educational sense, were born in the purple. Old graduates may be said, in common parlance, to "know the ropes," in thousands of cases, they devote their sons to a College as soon as born, and watchfully prepare them for its life years before they matriculate. Thus it is commonly seen that students enter old world Colleges far more thoroughly educated than are the majority of those who in the Colleges of a new land have secured a degree. Besides this they have had all through their youth a standard set before them incomparably higher than any possible in a new country. It is well known that men enter certain Colleges to take the regular course of three or more years, who have already taken distinguished positions in less famous institutions. An old friend of this writer for instance who by dint of indomitable perseverance, and great self-denial had secured private tuition, which enabled him to win the position of Professor of Mathematics at the London University, went up to Cambridge hoping to secure the great prize, but he was beaten by the son of an old graduate, a comparative youth. The vast mass of our students are the children of parents who have not had the experience requisite for putting their sons in the right course early enough for achieving eminence in scholarship. Canada is too young for that. But surely we are getting old enough to see our defects and their remedy, even if the sight is not agreeable to our vanity. Several letters have appeared in the Press from persons known to be anxious for this very Chair of English Literature, in which the writers constantly used 'will' for 'shall' and 'should' for 'would.' Now, that a man may be very clever and well read who yet blunders over these words, is undeniable. But the very fact that graduates who make blunders, which an eminent Review said were, "an infallible sign of illiteracy," yet suppose themselves fitted for the Professorship of English Literature, whose College friends, too, share this delusion, is surely a demonstration that very crude ideas are prevalent as to the kind and extent of attainments such a tutor ought to possess. We have time and time again insisted upon the necessity for raising the standard of matriculation. This is the only way to improve our educational results. For a time it would bear hardly upon some, but all our schools, and what need to be influenced also, our homes, would soon adjust themselves to the higher conditions for entrance upon a Collegiate course. Streams will rise no higher than their source. We cannot reasonably look for a succession of graduates equal to professorial duties who have had no better advantages than training under tutors who imagine that the

Canadian standard is as high as is requisite to be reached. Let us make haste slowly, undue speed is ruinous to sound culture. The hopes of Canada for her Colleges eventually rivalling those of the old world are in the policy of Sir Daniel Wilson to maintain the highest possible standard in the professorial staff, in the policy of Principal Grant of raising the standard of matriculation, and in the policy, we venture to suggest, of placing before all students certain prizes which will demand for their winning, as prolonged and skilled training, and as close devotion to study as the Senior Wrangler distinction of Cambridge, or the Double First of Oxford. That young Canada could win such honors is beyond question—let the opportunity be given!

THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD ON RITUAL PROSECUTIONS.

IN a letter published recently, the Bishop of Lichfield points out that an exact, and complete, and exclusive observance of the rubrics would render Divine Service impossible. He shows that every clergyman is open to prosecution for sins of omission, and then proceeds:

"If, however, it should be asserted that the offences charged in the pending suits are of a more serious kind than those to which I have referred, it is evident that this can only be regarded as a matter of opinion, and could not prevent the operation of the law. But are these alleged offences in reality of such a serious character? Let any man sit down with his Bible in his hand and ask himself, taking the charges one by one, whether he can find in the Word of God—that ultimate court of appeal—any condemnation, either explicit or implied, of the practices which have given occasion for the present legal proceedings.

"In view of the awful responsibilities which rest upon us in our sacred ministry; in the face of vice and ignorance and unbelief against which we have to wage our warfare; in prospect of that other world, so near to us, where we trust to be united with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth; can it really be a matter of such importance and urgency as to justify a legal prosecution, that a clergyman, whether priest or Bishop, should stand at the centre of the holy table instead of the north corner or the north end; or that he should mix a little water with the wine in the holy chalice—a practice which, whether retained or abandoned by the Church of England, was in use almost uninterruptedly for 1,500 years in the Church of Christ; or should use the sign of the cross in blessing a congregation, every one of whom had been signed with that sign in their baptism; or should light two candles on the holy table, according to a very ancient usage, to signify the twofold nature of our Lord and Master the Light of the world—Perfect Man and Perfect God—when we 'do this in remembrance' of Him? These things may be wise or unwise; they may or they may not be expedient—

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