

Correspondence.

In consequence of the warm and sometimes bitter discussions which, in some cases productive of good, in others evil, take place at intervals between the Champions of science and classics respectively, the following short report of a meeting held in connection with the Catholic University College, may be of some interest to the readers of the Athenæum:

Cardinal Manning presided yesterday evening at the annual meeting of the hierarchy in connection with this institution. there being present Monsignor Capel (Rector of the college), the Bishops of Clifton and Salford, the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Ripon, K.G., and many of the professors and students.

The Rector's report stated that the institution now possessed all the necessary elements for the faculties of arts, science, and law, and that it was hoped it would soon be made a university. 73 students had passed through it, and at the close of the passed year there were 41 in residence, among whom were representatives of some of the oldest Catholic families in the kingdom. The finances of the college were in a satisfactory state, and its friends had every reason to believe that it was now securely planted in the land. Professor Barff's discovery of a process whereby to prevent the corrosion of iron—made in the college laboratory—should be mentioned as reflecting honor on the institution.

An inaugural address was then delivered by Professor Barff, in which he insisted on the prominence which should be allotted to natural sciences in a sound system of education, at the same time deprecating anything approaching to an exclusion of classical studies.

The Duke of Norfolk, being invited by the Chairman to address the assembly, congratulated Monsignor Capel on the success of his labors, saying that the College offered to the Catholic clergy of England such a chance of acquiring knowledge as they had never had before.

The Marquis of Ripon looked forward to a long career of utility for the institution. The discovery made by professor Barff, which was calculated to confer the greatest possible benefit on the commercial and industrial classes of the country, shed much lustre on the college. Alluding to the controversy now raging between the older studies and those connected with science, he considered it satisfactory that there they were animated by the true university spirit which looked upon all branches of knowledge, not as rivals determined to extinguish one another, but as rivals engaged in a contest as to which should prove

most conducive to the cultivation of the human intellect and confer most benefit upon mankind. Theology, he was glad to see, formed part of the college curriculum, for upon that the foundation of all knowledge worth having must be laid.

After some remarks from the Bishop of Clifton, Cardinal Manning, having explained why the meeting was held at so late an hour, said he would not venture to determine whether classics or mathematics were the more effective in the formation and training of the intellect. The study of classical literature tended to increase the fertility, while it did not fail to cultivate the accuracy, of the mind. It not only imparted great fertility to the intellect, but included in itself the severest processes of logic, that supreme and transcendent science of the government of the intellect. The results produced by the different training imparted at our two oldest universities could not be better illustrated than by the work of those eminent men, Dr. Whewell and Dr. Newman. Alluding to the words that had fallen from the Marquis of Ripon as to the Catholic religion serving as the proper foundation for science, he felt confident that the confusions, oppositions, and conflicts at present seen between science and morals, when men were found to deny the existence of the soul and of God Himself, could never have happened so long as those three great regions of intellect, of life, and of light were kept in their unity and harmony—the science of God, the science of man, and the science of the world.

MESSRS EDITORS.—

On every hand are to be seen indications of the approaching vacation. The general topics of conversation are, with those interested in their work, "how close are the examinations," and "how well prepared do you feel;" while the careless are wont to exclaim, "Hurrah for the coming holidays."

But let me state my object in addressing you, for I feel that your space must be limited, and I will receive no thanks for a long-spun letter.

Some months or more ago, a petition was in circulation to the effect that a certain reasonable tax, sufficient to meet the interest on the money expended, would be paid by the students, if the College authorities will erect for our convenience a gymnasium. Has that petition ever been presented? and if not, why not? The importance of this matter cannot fail to impress itself upon the minds of all students. Bodily exercise is a neces-