

grows with each year. New realms of knowledge are opening; while common education is daily becoming more general.

But *morally* many say, the world is retrograding. Are they correct? Has the world during the past year been growing worse each day in an increasing ratio? We think not. We believe the influence of the Gospel of Him, whose birth we have been so recently celebrating, is still increasing in scope and intensity.

But while we cannot sympathize with the pessimist who mourns the world's speedy course towards universal corruption, we have no fellow feeling for the man whose faith, in the accumulative force of good, claims that the world has now a sufficient stock of virtue to run itself. The time for folding of arms has not yet come. The millennium is not yet at hand.

What has been attained is the product of effort. So still there must be struggle, not only to hold present ground but also to make truth and righteousness more aggressive. And if the world is really growing better, each year will bring with it a greater accumulation of intellectual and moral force by which we should more rapidly narrow the margin of ignorance and vice.

"THE Errors of our Collegiate System" was the subject of an address lately delivered by Dr. Howard Crosby before one of the Greek letter societies of New York University. Dr. Crosby has delivered vigorous addresses on various subjects of interest, and his opinions, though often at fault, have always commanded the respect of intelligent men. In the address to which we now refer, some of the Dr.'s ideas are not what we would have expected from such a source. He strongly urges the substitution of oral for written examinations, and although he has certainly some strong arguments in his favor, it is evident that they are not sufficiently strong to warrant the proposed substitution. In technical schools, it is quite possible the oral method of examination is the better, but where the student is supposed to receive a *literary* education, we would consider the elimination of the written test a positively retrogressive step in the cause of education. In the first place, large numbers of students, perhaps the majority, are more capable of expressing themselves properly on paper than by "word of mouth;" while in the second place, discard the written examination and not ten per cent

of the college graduates will be able to write a creditable English paragraph. To write one's thoughts rapidly, and in a logical method at the same time, is the great desideratum with many so-called educated men, yet what an important factor it is. The written examination thus answers two purposes,—it is a test of work accomplished, and an indispensable practice. What, we would ask, would Dr. Crosby suggest as a substitute for the latter?

In his view of what is called the elective college course, he will be supported by the most intelligent and experienced educationists of the day. The optional selection by students of their own course of study is one of the great stumbling-blocks to higher education, and the sooner it is removed the better. The elective system has been on probation long enough, and it has invariably proved a grand failure.

Not the least of Dr. Crosby's denunciatory remarks are directed toward college athletics, but his views on this matter strike as those of an extremist. He believes that college athletics not only make the course much more expensive, but that they also have an injurious effect upon the student, as a student. We need make no extended reference to this part of the subject, but we consider ourselves authorized by the facts to state that the expense necessitated is not at all in commensurate with the resulting good, and further, that it cannot be shown that these sports have proved an impediment to the real aim of the student.

SHELLEY'S "PROMETHEUS UNBOUND."

The world has had plenty of heroes, who carried out the wishes of their country in the face of opposition, and have been lauded to the skies for doing so. These men embody the spirit of their age or country. But there is another class of heroes, who get in advance of the age and attack some venerable custom or tradition. These are regarded as dangerous innovators and outlaws from society. Indeed nothing is so difficult to withstand as public opinion. It dictates to us in all things from the cut of coats to our religious views, and expresses all the duties of life in terms of its own conventionalities. "Order is the first law of the universe" cries public opinion; and if any one is bold enough to hint anything to the contrary, he is hustled out the back door of public favor with very little ceremony.