

lineal descendant of the inimitable author of the *Deserted Village*:—Such are the characteristics of a few of the poems, and these are the names of a few of the poets, of Canada.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—

HAVING been requested to furnish an article for your next issue, and feeling myself incapacitated on the scores of both time and ability from communicating to you anything of a nature calculated to instruct your readers or to elevate the standard of your periodical, as I suppose it should be called, it has occurred to me that it would not be out of place to point out something in the affairs of the college, which, I think, might be remedied, and give you my ideas of how the remedy could be effected.

The matter which I have in my mind is one peculiarly within the province of the students, and is calculated, I believe, to have a strong bearing on the future course.

I am aware that in this I will hardly have the sympathy of a certain class of scholastics, who appear to take a cast iron view of the Collegiate Course, and consider that the only safe way to achieve success is by working at the curriculum as the blacksmith at his bellows, keeping the iron at a continual white heat. But I consider a human being something better than a hard surface to be beaten into shape by classic sledge-hammers. As a being endowed with great capacity for employment, and possessed of social qualities, of which he has the sole right and title to the exclusion of all other created things, he should refuse to be welded into intellectual shape by any such process.

I do not, by any means, wish it to be understood that I under-value strict application; on the contrary I have all that regard for it which we are apt to bestow on advantages which have been disregarded, but at the same time I object to the ultra process.

Now what I wish to direct your attention to, is this: As far as my observation extends, colleges turn out two classes of men, one consisting of those who have applied themselves unceasingly to study, taken honors innumerable, stand

high in their respective classes, and probably are broken down by their exertions. If the latter contingency has been avoided through bodily vigor and physical strength, yet they are only prepared to class among their fellows as mere book-worms, holding the same relations to other men as an encyclopedia or dictionary, and having their natural instinct for lively intercourse and cheerful association among their kind, nipped in the bud by the hard frosts of an intellectual winter. These may be called the laboring classes in the words of learning, who never rise to mental affluence, but content themselves with a life of drudgery.

In the other class are those who have not strength of mind or of purpose to apply themselves as their diligent neighbors, and are engaged in a perpetual struggle to worry through the course with the least possible exertion to themselves, and with a view of denying themselves as little as may be of the comfort of life. They form a class of intellectual sharpeners or vagabonds, living as to mental achievements by their wits, and depending on what they can obtain from others for their advancement.

Now let me suggest a mean to be observed between these extremes and I have done. I speak particularly to the plodders, and to them I would say relax occasionally in your efforts. You may be in the habit of taking bodily exercise. That is good and proper in its way, but you want also a healthful mental recreation.

There is too much lack of sociability among you. It is far from being the least among the requirements of a public man to be able to tell a good story and indulge in witty observations. I put it to you not only for the safety of your physical capacities, but as a means of perfecting the end for which your present position is intended, that you cultivate the habit of mingling among your fellows in friendly association and cheerful companionship. For this purpose I would advise your holding social meetings with a view to cultivating these engaging properties, and perfecting yourselves in the requirements of social life. Have in these gatherings sufficient system to exclude all low or unseemly tendencies among the performers. Practise the art of story-telling, indulge in passages of wit and