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Editorials.

OUR UNIVERSITY.

In the last issue of THE GAZETTE we published some notable facts, to which we wish to call attention, to mark the progress our University is making. The total number of students in the Arts Faculty is now 310, an increase of 30 over last year, and of 76 over the previous one; there is a corresponding increase in the number of undergraduates as compared with partial students. The whole number in the faculty has doubled in about five years, and the number of men alone in fourteen years; while taking all the faculties together, the number has increased from 201 in 1863 to 576 in 1888, that is, more than twofold.

The Library also shows a similar progress, with a total of 28,000 volumes, exclusive of those in the

Medical Faculty, which has the largest purely professional library in America. The number of books has increased so rapidly that additional shelf room and reading accommodation is necessary.

In the Museum, the chief fact in the improvement is found in the Botanical Laboratory. The work of classifying, labelling, and arranging the herbarium, has been going on for six years, and since that time, out of a chaotic mass of material, a collection of specimens has been made and arranged according to the most recent scientific rules. The work of assigning places to 7,363 species, representing 10,300 specimens, was enormous, and its completion marks an important step in the progress of the University. The issue of memoirs on the specimens will afford the scientific world a means of access to the treasures of the museum, and the whole collection in the geological, zoological, and botanical departments is now unrivalled in this country.

Our University has for a long time carried on the work of Protestant education, often single-handed; it has fostered whatever scientific spirit there was amongst us, and was a centre from which a deep culture spread. And it has done this with dignity; it preferred to suffer rather than insist too strongly on its rights, which were denied, and it has gone with its needs unfulfilled rather than cringe for support. But when the character and value of its degree was assailed, it stood up in defence of its spiritual children, and demanded for them a recognition of the degree they had obtained. The contest is being fought out, inch by inch, and in the near future the Bar of the Province will be forced to recognize the fact that the Bachelor of Arts degree is sufficient qualification for admission to the study of Law. The Council of Public Instruction has placed another restriction upon its degree, in refusing to accept it as an educational guarantee for entrance to the teaching profession, unless the graduate has complied with certain conditions in the early part of his course. This restriction the University is doing its best to remove, careful for its own dignity, the advancement of its graduates, and the welfare of the teaching profession. There is this distinction, however, that in one case it is entrance into the study that is sought, and in the other it is for admission to the practice of a profession.

Whatever ground of censure there has been against