

with a direct reference to their literary or scientific attainments we say well and good. But let the competition be open to the whole Dominion. It is not desirable that such positions should be kept a close preserve for only class in the community.

✻ CONTRIBUTED. ✻

. We wish it to be distinctly understood that the JOURNAL does not commit itself in any way to the sentiments which may be expressed in this department.

THE PRINCE OF WALES PRIZE.

To the Editor of the Queen's College Journal.

DEAR SIR,—In a recent number of the JOURNAL I notice "Junior's" reply to my innocent suggestion on this subject. He seems to have written in a spirit of resentment that I am quite at a loss to understand; but passing over that I merely wish to call attention to the unfair assumption which underlies his letter. He says I assume that "a meagre acquaintance with two or three branches in the pass course is of the same distinction as a thorough acquaintance with a department where eighty per cent. is required of gold medallists." That is, "Junior" considers it beyond a doubt that the passing of the Honour examination in Classics is a greater distinction than the winning of the Prince of Wales prize was in former years. The very opposite is the truth. With the addition of several gold medals and other prizes the Prince of Wales gold medal has now become a mark of much less distinction than it was. The number of subjects was not two or three, as stated by "Junior," but five, and for a few years four. As for the "meagre acquaintance" and the percentage, the winner then had usually to make over ninety per cent. in order to beat his competitors, and that on the average of all the subjects. Besides this, the examination being on the Pass subjects, he had the whole Class to compete with. Surely this was a greater distinction than a successful Honour examination in one subject, and vastly greater than where (as some times happens) the candidate for the Gold Medal has no competition at all, but is merely required to make the minimum percentage.

"Junior" intimates further that I am "very ignorant of what a gold medal really is." I am quite well aware, however, of that article's character; but what I proposed was, that for the reasons given, (which he makes no attempt to invalidate,) the usual rule should be broken in upon. To such a proposal it is hardly an argument simply to state. A gold medal is always given "on Honour work; not merely on pass work;" especially since this very Prince of Wales Gold Medal has been given in Victoria until recently on the ordinary pass work of the graduating year, and is still so given, only with the proviso that the winner must have taken honours in two subjects.

HERMES.

To the Editor of the Queen's College Journal.

DEAR SIR,—You express a desire for some personal reminiscences of Queen's College in its early days. I at once comply with your request. I may as well do so, since you have intimated your intention of levying such contributions from all who, from their connection with the College in days long past, may be supposed to be able to furnish them.

I may tell you something about the anxieties and difficulties of the students, before they could reach the College in those days. In 1841, with a few other young men, I was looking forward to the work of the ministry. I was wondering how my College curriculum, begun in Edinburgh, but interrupted by the emigration of my parents to Canada, was ever to be completed. A return to Scotland for such a purpose, or even a sojourn in Princeton or some other American College, was in those days almost too formidable a thing to be undertaken. Just then Dr. Bayne, the eminent and honoured minister of Galt, came to preach in the log church in which I was wont to worship. It was on a week day, and the special object of the sermon was to excite an interest in a Presbyterian College about to be established in Kingston. It was a sermon of power. The text was, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Not only the truths which he enforced, but some of his very words and sentences, I remember now. I listened with intense interest, and resolved that, should the College now be organized, I should be there, God helping me, on the very day of its opening.

The College was organized, measures were adopted for the opening of the classes, and intending students and others were duly notified. Navigation, however, was not open; there were no railroads then; and like some others who would gladly have been in Kingston, I was two hundred and thirty miles distant from it. But, as has often been said, where there is a will, there is a way; and so we found it to be. Three of us, in preference to taking the stage, engaged a friend to drive us down in his wagon, our trunks forming the seats. In five days and a half averaging over forty miles a day with the same team, we reached Kingston. But, on arriving, we knew not whither to turn or to whom to apply. There were at that time no Dr. Reid's nor Mr. Croil's, cyclopædias of ecclesiastical intelligence; although there were men (all honour to their memory) ready to spend and to be spent for the church which they so greatly loved. Walking along the street, not far from the Court House, we saw a sign, "Donald Christie." Now, said I to my friends, if there is a Presbyterian College here, we cannot fail to get information about it from a man with a name like that. To him we applied, and he said, 'I could tell you something about it, but I will send you at once to a man who can tell you everything about it that you need to know. Go to Mr. Alexander Pringle, at the Court House, and he will tell you what you ought to do.' There we found a man con-