

accordingly founded in Dublin in 1852. Application was made to the Government for a charter to grant degrees. But that was refused. For nearly thirty years the education question remained in that unsatisfactory condition. The Catholic colleges continued their work, sending occasionally students to the Examining University of London. The Queen's University, aided as it was by from \$125,000 to \$140,000 annually of government money, gradually rose in the public estimation, and sent forth many graduates who have since won distinction in the different walks of life. However, after these years of patient submission to the existing state of affairs, another change was effected, which resulted in the establishment of the present Royal University.

Parliament dissolved the old Queen's University, and issued a charter in 1880, founding the Royal University, and appointing a body of Senators. Parliament also voted an annual grant of \$100,000 for the new university, but did not cancel the endowment previously granted to Queen's University. This it left for the use of the colleges of which it was composed.

The new institution is merely an examining university, having no connection whatever with any teaching establishment. The Fellows of the University form an Examining Board, and are chosen from the professors of the five chief colleges that prepare students for the examinations. These colleges are the three Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway, the Presbyterian "Magee College," and the Catholic University College of Dublin. The University so far has worked admirably. Still Catholics have not yet received their full share of justice. As far as the working of

the University is concerned, they have received equitable treatment, more equitable in fact than the strict letter of the law made provision for. The injustice of the arrangement lies in the fact that Catholic institutions are unendowed, whilst non-Catholic institutions receive annually a large amount of money.

It is under this disadvantage that Catholics have to compete with their Protestant neighbours, and it stands greatly to their credit that during the last few years they have carried off most of the distinctions and honors of the university. The arts course, the real university education course, comprises three years of study. An examination takes place at the end of each year. For all these examinations there is both a pass and an honor course. Exhibitions, varying from \$60 to \$210, are awarded to the first thirty, or, in the case of the B. A. degree, to the first twenty-one, in the aggregate total of marks, on the honor course. Candidates for the M. A. degree may present themselves for examination one year after obtaining the B. A. degree. In connection with the M. A. examination there are offered annually from three to five studentships of \$1,500 each.

The following table gives in condensed form the successes achieved by the three richly endowed Queen's Colleges, and the unendowed Catholic University College in the three annual arts examinations, for the last eight years. All other colleges have been excluded from this comparison to avoid confusion. However, had their successes been inserted, it would be seen that two of the three Queen's Colleges seldom occupy the third or even the fourth places in the race.