

of these students to the studies preparatory to their callings, would give an impetus to proper intellectual development, we cannot admit that the argument changes, in any way, our views upon the matter. We hold that the primary aim of a university is the furtherance of the public good, and that the shortening of the course to three years, would be antagonistic to this end which should not be sacrificed to any sentimental consideration.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

This year, more than heretofore, has the OWL been fortunate in its friends. Those who have favoured us with the work of their pens in the past have kept with us, and we have also made the acquaintance of several others who can justly be classed among the *literateurs* of the day. Among the latter we must mention our most recent ally, Mr. Archibald Lampman, of Ottawa, whose sweet verses depicting nature in all its various moods and tenses are favorites wherever the English tongue is spoken. We trust that the gem from this gifted pen in our last number is but an earnest of more to follow. Another rising recipient of the divine *afflatus*, whose melodious voice has often softened the harshness of the Owl's note, can be recognized in the following reference from a Buffalo paper:

"There's a good deal—for evil—in a name sometimes. I have known bright geniuses to be borne down by a too big *nom de plume* and so I was sorry when I saw one of the most promising young poets in Buffalo bearing the name of the author of "Paradise Lost." I was surprised when he told me the reason. It was no attempt to carry big feathers. Milton is a family name, and being too modest to sign his own at first he compounded with his uncle's and made the *nom*. I am glad to see he has reached the stage of American assurance necessary to drop it. Some of his verses appear to-day in

The Sunday News over his own name—Theodore McManus—now used for the first time. It looks better and will be more useful than the other, and if he continues to write as well as he has begun, he need never be ashamed of it. Success to him, and to all who bring down to the groping world the glimpses of light divine they and all true poets catch above the clouds that hedge in the most of our narrow lives."

We are happy to state that one of the most beautiful, if not the most beautiful, poems of our gifted young friend, "Guard well thy Heart," which appeared in the Christmas OWL has been extensively copied, and is still circulating in the best journals of the country.

Others of our contributors having persisted in hiding behind initials, or a *nom de plume*, we are precluded from giving their merits the public recognition due to them. They can rest assured that there is nothing Owlsh in our gratitude to them. There is another contributor to our pages more reluctant than all others to encounter the public gaze, to whom, more than to anyone else, does the OWL owe much of its excellence, both in prose and poetry. We unhesitatingly avow that but for these friends the OWL of 1889-90 would have offered very meagre fare to its readers. We will ever hold ourselves grateful to them for their assistance, and in conclusion, we can wish nothing better for our successors than a body of contributors as numerous and capable as ours have been.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

An abundance of literary matter is not all that is required for a journal, especially a college journal. But couple with this an abundance of advertising matter, the value of an advertising medium depending on the number and class of its readers, and prosperity will smile upon it. We are