

the sea. No water is found on it, and there is scanty vegetation. Large crabs infest it, and altogether our new possession must be considered more interesting than important. It is to be considered as forming part of the Straits Settlements, to the south of which it is situated.

THE GROWTH OF CITIES. — The growth of cities in the present century is without parallel or precedent in any previous age of the world. When Rome was at its height of grandeur and prosperity its population is estimated to have been from 500,000 to 2,250,000; and in all the rest of Europe there was not one other city which would now be above the third or fourth rank in respect of population. The only city of the first rank in Africa was Alexandria, with a population somewhere between 500,000 and 1,000,000. In Asia, so far as known to the European world, Jerusalem alone had a vast population. In the middle ages no city anywhere attained to great size. For example, London, which was called an illustrious city by the Venerable Bede, had a population in Shakespeare's time no larger than Boston is now. No other city in the world has grown as London has grown, but through the whole of Europe there has been a marvellous growth of city populations during the present century. In Eng-

land alone there are now seventy-five cities, the smallest of which has 75,000 inhabitants; and if suburbs could be counted the figures would be still higher. Hundreds of square miles of land in Scotland have been cruelly depopulated, and yet the population of Scotland continues to grow, but the increase is in the cities. On the continent the same law holds. While the population of Belgium has increased 11 per cent., that of Brussels has gained 20 and that of Antwerp has gained 30. In Denmark the increase of city populations to the increase of the whole country is as 2 to 1; in Sweden it is as 4 to 1; in Norway it is as 10 to 1. In Prussia, while the population of the country is stationary, the increase in cities is 25 per cent.; and Berlin alone, which in 1850 had 400,000, has now 1,400,000. In Russia the four chief cities have doubled their population in twenty years. Since the war with Germany Paris adds 50,000 to her population every year. In 1780 only one-thirtieth of the people of the United States lived in cities of 8,000 inhabitants or over; in 1880, nearly one-fourth. These facts require no comment; they speak for themselves. They show a change in the habits of the people of the present age, and especially in this country, which must bring with it a radical change in all the social conditions of life.—*Ex.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

"LEAVING" EXAMINATIONS.

The Editor THE MONTHLY:

SIR,—I should like to enter a protest in the columns of *THE MONTHLY* against the Minister's scheme of "Leaving" Examinations now before the University Senate for consideration. I am told that many members of the Senate do not approve of the

plan, yet they are afraid of not showing proper respect to the wishes of the High School Masters if they do not adopt it. They have been told that the High School masters favour it and want it. I do not believe they do. I, speaking for myself, do not approve of it. I prefer the plan proposed by Principal Grant, if it can be worked out. If not, I