

Journal. Mr. Williams seems to have mistaken our meaning in more than one respect: we had no reference whatever to strictly theological work, but our whole article, as may easily be seen, was a plea for an increased amount of literary and scientific training. Speaking of the action of the Methodist Church, he denies that the standard has been lowered in the slightest respect, in which he evidently has reference to the final theological or professional examinations. This, of course, we readily admit, as we were not aware any material change had been effected there whatever, and we only claimed then, as now, that the preliminary examination had been lowered. What we have stated in the above light we believe to be facts, and do not care to enter into an endless controversy, productive of good to none of our readers.

THE human voice should be cultivated as much as possible. There are hundreds and thousands of people in the world to-day, who, had they properly trained their voices when young, would now possess excellent ones. The inability of certain people to sing is often due more to their own neglect than to the natural incompetency of their vocal apparatus. A person cannot play skilfully on a piano until his fingers become flexible from practice, and this practice must be performed in youth, before the muscles of the arm and hand become fixed. The education of the other muscles of the body can be effected only in the same way, and those employed in voice production are not exceptions to the rule. The voice of young Marie Garcia was at first harsh and husky, but afterward it became the sweet voice of Malibran. Of course, natural physical gifts manifest themselves prior to attempt at culture, but voices naturally unmusical, if trained properly at the right time and under the guidance of a proper teacher, can be vastly improved, especially when the individual has what is termed "an ear for music."

AT a late meeting of the Natural History Society in Toronto, an interesting paper was read on "Manitoba Plants,"