

them a protector, a friend and a mouth-piece, who would supply the want created by their timidity, and give to the world those ideas which they possessed, but could not promulgate. In their search for some one to act in *loco parentis*, these students hit upon the paragraphist (excuse the term) of the *Witness*,—not the *True Witness*—and having humbly stated to this mighty personage the fact that they were misrepresented (*sic*) by the MCGILL GAZETTE, they invoke his aid. It is granted. He seizes his pen!—they hold their breath! He writes!—they stand on tip toe. He is finished!—they kneel and thank him for his assistance. But the result of all this, the paragraph to which we referred, verifies the old saw:—*Parturiunt montes, nascitur ridiculus mus*,—for a more senseless lucubration we never yet had the ill-fortune to meet with. It is in the usual style of the *Witness*; bad English, venomous intention, flagrant misrepresentation and pointless conclusion. In fact, the only part of the paragraph worth noticing is the thorough appreciation which the paragraph-writer evinces of his own merits. We referred to "a certain journal ever hostile to McGill's interests;" intending thereby the Montreal *Daily Witness*. The cap fitted; the *Witness* wore it, but perceiving the inaccuracy, or rather the incompleteness of our allusion, it adds the epithet "unenlightened," and acknowledges the justice of the amended phrase. In fact, we hardly know which to despise most, the action of any student in rushing to a sheet like the *Witness* with his troubles, the unconcealed malignity of the writer, or his thorough disregard of truth and fairness, and the exigences of English grammar and composition.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Graduates' Society calling attention to the smallness of the library fund, and requesting subscriptions from Graduates, for the purpose of increasing the revenue of this most important adjunct to an Institution like McGill. The annual revenue of the library is now, the circular states, about \$600, and with the exception of the Redpath and Alexander collections, the books are of a miscellaneous character. We sincerely trust that the appeal of the Society will meet with a generous response from all interested in the College. It would not be a bad idea to have every future Graduate pledge himself to subscribe fifty or one hundred dollars, within four or five years after graduation, to the library fund. Almost every one could afford such a sum, and, though inconceivable when viewed separately, the contributions would make a handsome total. Let the Class of '77, which has inaugurated so many reforms in College, take the lead in this matter!

Graduates, who have not received the circular, may obtain copies by addressing Dr. Osler, 26 Beaver Hall, Montreal.

—We hope the Molson Hall will be properly ventilated at the approaching exams.

ERRATUM.—We were in error in stating that the recent controversy took place as to the power McGill should have of granting Theological Degrees. McGill had this power, but a special resolution of the governing body is necessary to an exercise of it, and this consent, we hope, will never be given.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Editors MCGILL GAZETTE:

GENTLEMEN.—In reference to your article on Theological Degrees, of March 1st, I think, that, although your opinion is held by a great majority of the students, it is an erroneous one, arising from a misconception of the object desired, and of the means of attaining it. The degree of B.D., as now proposed, would only be granted to graduates of affiliated theological seminaries, who are also B.A. graduates of the University, some general exercise, such as a thesis, being imposed. The advantages of such a course are not by any means few or unimportant. A greater number of theological students would be induced to take a full Arts course than at present; they would then be required to take a three year course in their own theological college, and afterwards present themselves for the University theological degree; they would then be styled graduates of such and such a college, as the case might be. Far from ruining the University, I am disposed to regard it as a beneficial move. That the University would fall into the hands of any one sect is, on the very face of it, a fallacy; for the different denominations would vie with one another in sending men to the University; and owing to the amount of work imposed, the men would be necessarily well trained and creditable to the University. These are, briefly, the facts of the case, and by giving them insertion you will greatly oblige,  
C.

## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

One of the chief objects of a college journal is to convey to those most interested the opinion of students on matters connected with the courses of study or the management of the Institution. In such things students are rarely able to exert any but a negative influence, while the authorities may oftentimes be oblivious to the true interests of the University. And therefore we do not think it out of place to lay before our readers a few thoughts concerning the examinations in Arts.

We might not have ventured to put forth any opinion on the sole strength of our own feelings or wishes, but while turning over the pages of the *Contemporary Review* for March, the following passage appeared in an article on "University Consolidation," by the Hon. Robert Lowe:—"Any University which allows its own teachers virtually or actually to examine their own pupils is, in that respect, an evil, inasmuch as it palms off upon the public a biased for an unbiased tribunal." This, the unequivocal utterance of one of the foremost men in Britain, forms a text on which something might be said with regard to McGill. The question, however, is a very important one, and perhaps our desires have led us to overestimate the benefits which a special board of examiners would confer upon our *Alma Mater*.

There are strong obstructions and difficulties in every case wherever such an arrangement is suggested; these are so prominent in our own case, that it is necessary to take a look at them; and here, as in most enterprises, they are bound to be comprised in two words—money and men. The first,