

September 1895.

To the Secretary of the Gilchrist Educational Trust:

SIR,—

We have been informed by Prof. Goodwin of Queen's University, Kingston, that the Trustees of the Gilchrist Educational Trust have it in contemplation to re-establish in some form the Scholarship formerly offered by them to Canadian students. As old Gilchrist scholars, we take the liberty of addressing you on this subject.

The old Scholarship was withdrawn, partially because the progress of the Colleges of Canada was supposed to have rendered it unnecessary; but chiefly, we have understood, because it was supposed to have failed of its purpose. We wish to show reason for believing (a) that the Scholarship was by no means a failure, (b) that its influence on the Higher Education in Canada was in a high degree beneficial, and (c) that it is no less needed in Canada now than it was when established.

(a) The impression that the Scholarship was a failure was due (1) to the small number of candidates who presented themselves at the competitions, and (2) to the failure of the candidates in some cases to distinguish themselves, and in others, even to complete their courses and take their degrees.

(1) That the Scholarship did not attract more candidates, was due to the fact that the regulations were not suited to the educational needs of Canada. The Matriculation Examination of the University of London was too difficult and too miscellaneous an examination for boys leaving our High Schools; consequently, candidates were for the most part men who had wholly or in large measure completed their courses in the Colleges. The Colleges, whose curricula had been based upon the state of education and the educational needs of their respective communities, were naturally unwilling to re-model their curricula so as to make their Junior classes a convenient means of preparing for the London Matriculation Examination. Intending candidates, therefore, found it difficult to secure assistance in preparing themselves for the Scholarship Examination, and it was consequently to be expected that for a number of years, until the advantages offered by the Scholarship should have become well known, the number of candidates would be small.

(2) That the scholars, in some cases, failed to complete their courses, and in others to distinguish themselves, was due also in large measure, in our opinion, to the want of adaptation of the regulations to the educational needs of Canadian students. As mentioned above, scholars were in general men who had wholly or in large part completed their courses at the Universities, and who were therefore ready and eager to engage in advanced work in special departments. They therefore used the Scholarship as a Fellowship, *i. e.*, as a means of pursuing advanced study, while at the same time they were required by the regulations to pursue and to pass the examinations in the undergraduate courses in Arts or Science. It was, we believe, the endeavour first to combine the College courses in Canada with preparation for the Scholarship Examination, and afterwards to combine the general and at that time very miscellaneous work of the B. A. and B. Sc. Courses of the London University, with advanced study of special departments, which led to over-work, loss of health, and consequent failure to complete courses and achieve distinction. We may mention also that in some cases, scholars did not become candidates for Honours, because Honours were not provided for by the London University in the departments, *e. g.*, in English, to which they were giving special study.