

keep alive the literary spirit so much inclined to die at times, and would serve to draw out hidden powers in some minds which in other branches never shine. The procuring of a suitable person to lecture in English need present no difficulty. There are many in Toronto who are thoroughly competent to fill the position, and some, no doubt, who would be glad to take the post were it offered them.

THE CALENDAR.

The volume for 1881-2 of this publication appeared in much better time than last year. This is an improvement, and not the only one in that mystic pamphlet. Last year an index was given us to guide us through the labyrinth—an unspeakable boon—but the ugly innovation in the cover counterbalanced this benefit in some degree. This time we still have the index, but the old cover. Instead of publishing the Matriculation Classics eighteen months only beforehand, the compilers have now given the matriculants of 1884 a list of the authors to be read for that year. The full list of Undergraduates in Arts too, has been replaced in its old form. These are all small steps, yet they tend in the right direction. They make us long for a further step, which, though a long step, we may yet live to see accomplished, viz., the removal of the suicidal 25c. pricemark upon the cover in the bookstores. People generally are not so anxious to get information concerning us, that they will pay so largely for it. Our advantages, as we have frequently said, should be advertised as much as possible. We are glad to hear, however, that many copies have been scattered about the country—among the Graduates, High Schools, &c., and we learn from the residents that they have all received copies of the Annual *gratis*:—all of which is very hopeful.

JAMAICA.

During the Lent term a deputation came to Toronto, sent by the Church in Jamaica, to examine our Educational Institutions, and to make arrangements for sending students from that Island, especially divinity men, to finish their course in Canada. What opinions the Ven. Archdeacon formed of our Universities and Divinity Schools we cannot say; and the result of the interviews with the various other boards of management remains a secret. The step taken by our own Council—unlike most of their decisions—has been allowed to creep out, and we are happy to be able to congratulate them upon their action.

The great difficulty which met those who wished to take a Canadian University course was in the Matriculation Examination. Men could not be expected to come so great a distance upon the mere chance of being able to continue their studies. A failure to matriculate would necessitate a return to the south, and at least a years delay. To meet this difficulty the Corporation have wisely made arrangements to have this Examination carried on in our Southern

Sister Colony, so that none but the successful need leave their homes to seek our Northern Lecture Rooms. This appears to be a very good step, though of course the result yet remains to be seen. We can hardly venture to look for a Creole contingent to the Freshman ranks this year as the time for preparation will be too short, but we may hope, at all events, in 1882, to gain new life from the advent of some of those fortunates who have been nourished amid the 'spicy breezes' of that lovely Island of the Carribbean Sea.

OUR MUSICAL DEGREE.

It is a matter of no small satisfaction to us that our observations in the last number of *Rouge et Noir*, under the title of "Our Musical Degree," have excited at any rate some slight interest. In the May number of the *Arion*, one of our exchanges, published in this city, we find a letter from Dr. Strathy in answer to our remarks. In this letter a quotation is made from the previous number of the *Arion*, in which the editor of that paper, who is one of the most prominent members of the musical profession in Toronto, acknowledges that he had not before been aware of our existence as a musical-degree-granting body. This is rather a startling and unpleasant confirmation of the extraordinary neglect of this branch, of which our authorities have been guilty. From the same quotation we gather that a proposal had been made to found a Chair of Music in one of the larger Universities; and it is just possible that, while we are neglecting our opportunity, some such chair may be established, and then our chance will be gone. After commenting on this quotation from the *Arion*, the Doctor proceeds to correct us for a misrepresentation in our editorial; he states that the lectures in music at the beginning of the present session were discontinued because the requisite number of names had not been sent in. This doubtless makes the matter a little better; yet it hardly seems to us a complete fulfilment of the duty of one occupying his position, whose best efforts should be devoted to the advancement of his charge. The duties of his professorship should be no secondary consideration. However, the lectures in this branch among the undergraduates are a matter of no great importance since there are very few among us who will be called upon to devote much attention to the study. The all-important point is the establishment of the degree upon a working footing, quite independent of the Arts Course, among those throughout the country, who intend to devote themselves to music as a profession: and the greater part of the blame of having thus far neglected an important branch of our academic capacity evidently lies at the door of the governing body of the University.

The number of men who would prove themselves capable of passing satisfactory examinations in the higher branches of the science would undoubtedly be very small; yet it is of the utmost importance to the country at large, and a need which all true students of music feel, that such