

volumes of speeches which have lately been addressed to the British public by the various parliamentary candidates will reveal the truth that words rather than facts have, in many instances, been the instruments employed to convince and convert electors. Within our college walls during the past week many words have been poured forth in connection with the Alma Mater elections. Candidates on both sides at one time were found freely, flatly and solemnly contradicting statements advanced; at another time they became profuse in apologies. Yet each man "told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." Many men, under exciting circumstances, allow their tongues to falsify their intentions. They make hard statements unwittingly; and as the tongue is the servant of the mind, they are judged by what they say not by what they think. Words are easily uttered; but their power either for good or for evil is vast. We trust, therefore, that if anything has been said of a displeasing or hurtful character in the heat of the electoral conflict it will be forgotten and forgiven. Human nature at the best is weak and faulty.

THE existing system of examinations as a test of the ability of students is far from satisfactory. It is the student who can cram and mechanically reproduce at an examination direct answers to direct and cranky questions who gains the honours and is reckoned the scholar. But how often do we find such men in after life give way to their fellows when real practical, thoughtful work is demanded of them. In order to give men who have not prodigious memories, but who may have much common sense and knowledge in their heads a chance, such a method as that about to be submitted to the faculty of the Columbia College, N. S., might be acceptable. The *Acta Columbia* says: "This plan is a development of the

idea that a man's 'stand' is best determined by his average throughout the year. Semi-annually each class will be divided into two sections, neither of which will have marks. The first will include those who have a passing average and over; the second will be those who are under this line of division. The first section will not be examined; the second will receive a very exhaustive examination. Each professor will hand in at the end of the year four names, marked respectively 1, 2, 3 or 4. The name, the sum of whose marks is the lowest, will be the leader of his class; the second will be the next higher, and so on." This, or a plan somewhat analogous would, we think, give fuller justice to students than that now in vogue.

THE electoral contest for offices in the Alma Mater Society is now of the past. The Rev. G. Milligan, B. A., Toronto, has been elected unopposed to the post of hon. president. For the presidential chair considerable animation was shown by the supporters of Messrs. Heath and Wood, the opposing candidates, each possessing special claims to the honour. Mr. Heath had behind him the united support of the Medicals, and some countenance from both Arts and Divinities. To this he added his individual influence. Mr. Wood was the Arts' candidate; but he was perhaps lacking in energy, and threw himself too implicitly upon those who had brought him forward. His principle was to say as little as possible about his own merits: very good under general conditions; but experience has proved that candidates for public honours require to make the *Ego* a prominent factor in their electioneering speeches. Now that Mr. Heath has been elected, by a large majority, we congratulate him upon his success; at the same time we would not depreciate the ability and claims of Mr. Wood. We also congratulate the other successful candidates.