

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION

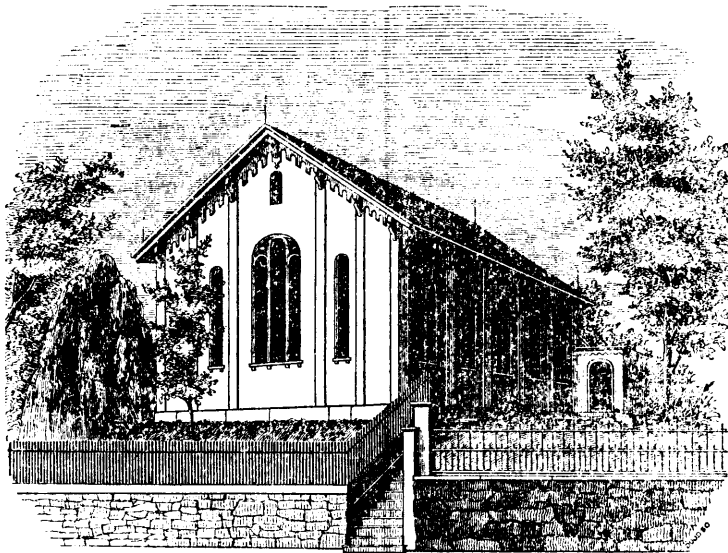
FOR

Upper  Canada.

Vol. IV.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1851.

No. 3.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF A FEMALE SEMINARY IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

Designed for Forty Pupils, and under the management of Mr. JOHN KINGSBURY.

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WHAT IS A GERMAN UNIVERSITY?

A popular notion seems to be that a German University is an institution to which a person may resort in almost any stage of study without previous examination, pursue any branch he chooses, to the entire neglect of the "dead languages," and quit at pleasure; the whole being quite a cheap, almost a self-supporting institution, receiving students, to considerable extent, below the range of the college course. The German Universities are no such crude and heterogeneous systems.

What is the rank of a German University? It is higher than that of our colleges; it is really a cluster of professional schools.

Does it admit all students that choose to come? And does it receive students not versed in Latin and Greek? No, no, to both inquiries. Every student must have passed the severest examination before admission, and have attained a proficiency in Latin and Greek far beyond that of college graduates in the United States. The regular place of preparation is the *Gymnasium*, where all students go through a thorough course of classical study. "They are not only taught to read Greek and Latin with fluency, but to write them. They are moreover accustomed to speak the latter language with ease, in the latter part of their course to hold all their exercises in it." [Dr. Robinson, in *Bib. Repos.* Vol. 1.] They undergo semi-annual examinations in the *Gymnasium*; the last of which, designed to show whether they are fitted for the University, is very severe; for three days they have to write exercises on questions proposed to them in history, the Greek and Latin languages, mathematics, besides themes in German, and in at least one foreign modern language—while locked up alone and without books. Oral questions are added.

A certificate of having creditably passed this examination is necessary to admit them to the University. Those who do not come from the *Gymnasium* are subjected to a similar examination before a commission appointed by Government. As the whole system is under the control of Government, the process is in all cases equally thorough. Foreign students, unless intending to hold employment in the state to which the University belongs, are indeed admitted to the lectures, but not to a membership of the University,