

the grinding given by lecturers, and in this we believe lies one of the great sources of strength of the English system of education. Now, of course, in the government of the Province of Quebec, and in that of the Bar, French influence prevails, and the consequence is that among the additions to the rules of the Bar is one that requires each student, on presenting himself for his examination for admission to practice, to hand in a certificate that he has attended a certain number of lectures, 1,100 we believe, during his course of study. Whether this is a direct hit at the English, and at McGill in particular, we are not prepared to say, but so long as the Bar accepts the degree of B.C.L. granted by the Universities of the Province, as entitling the holders to any advantages at all, it ought to do so without taking upon itself to direct the universities as to matters which ought to be for the consideration of each alone. Surely it is for each university to decide how many lectures are required to give a student a fit knowledge of the studies undertaken, and to entitle him to the degree granted; and if the system of relying more on the personal efforts of the student than on those of the professors on his behalf is a correct one, then compelling men to attend a definite number of lectures will not prove that they are any the fitter to be lawyers, than those who, to a certain extent, have obtained their knowledge in a different way. It will be concluded from the above that the course in McGill does not include so many lectures as are called for by the new regulations, and as are at present given at Laval, but have those whom McGill has turned out in past years, taken lower places in the Bar examinations than students from other schools? We think not. Considering the fewness of her students, McGill men have been quite the equals of their competitors. In view of these facts, we are of opinion that serious injustice will be done to the English law schools if they are bound down to such a minimum number of lectures as that stated. Our Law Faculty is still sadly in need of improvement, but we do not think that increasing the sessions to nine months each, or the whole course to four years, one of which would have to be done, with only two lectures a day, would increase the usefulness of the legal profession. We sincerely hope that some steps will be taken towards modifying the regulation of the Bar to which we have referred.

UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

This society, formed nearly twenty years ago, has done much in the way of training the young graduates of McGill in the art of public speaking. It numbers among its members, past and present, some of the

ablest lawyers at the Montreal bar to-day, and elsewhere throughout the Dominion; while others who but a few years ago were found among its most active members, are now highly esteemed and respected occupants of the judge's bench. One would imagine that a society which has served so useful a purpose in the past, and which numbers among its members such influential men as we have above referred to, would have since that time, with its increase of years, increased also in power and usefulness. The exact opposite, however, is the truth. For the past two or three years, the active membership has been small, and the interest taken in the meetings anything but satisfactory: during the present year things have gone on from bad to worse, until we find that debate after debate has had to be abandoned for want both of speakers and hearers. At the meeting held on the 25th February last, not one of the debaters, chosen to speak upon a very important and interesting question, put in an appearance; with some difficulty, four members present were induced to go through the form of debating, which they did with little satisfaction to their audience, and probably less to themselves. Attendance at such meetings is an absolute waste of time.

Were we to search for the cause of this lamentable state of affairs, it might be somewhat difficult to point it out. We do not consider the present officers are especially to blame; they who hold office this year are probably as energetic and as devoted as were those who occupied their places when the meetings were much more popular and far more instructive. Has the usefulness of the society passed away? we are forced to the conclusion that it has. Literary and scientific societies have sprung up all over the town since 1869; there are many profitable ways in which University men can spend their evenings out, now, which were entirely wanting ten years ago. The University Society has not realized the fact that it has something to do to keep up with the times; it has been content to live upon its name. For three years past we have hoped against hope; for three years past we have gone on trying to make ourselves believe that the meetings were interesting and instructive. There is only one thing left for the members to do, and that is to dissolve the institution before its former glory is forgotten in its present insignificance.

Magistrate.—You are accused of stealing chickens, Uncle Rastus. Are you guilty or not guilty?

Uncle Rastus.—I pleads not guilty, yo' Honah, an' inquests de priviledge of frowning mysef on de merey ob de Cou't in case de evidence goes agin me.