

with the purpose, as stated in the preamble to the Act of raising the standard of education in the Province, and of enabling all denominations and classes, including those persons whose circumstances preclude them from following a regular course of study in any of the existing Colleges or Universities to obtain Academical degrees.

This University being an examining body merely does not enter into competition with any of the existing Colleges, but yet the advantages to be derived by the various Colleges from their affiliation with the University are neither few or insignificant, and I may be permitted here to refer briefly to just one of them. Each College is a separate and independent institution, prescribing such curriculum as meets the views of its faculty and governing body for the time being, and regulating the severity of the examinations as the faculty of each College deemed most to subserve its own interests, and by a scale known only to themselves; and though the standard differed in the different Colleges. A degree was of equal value no matter by what institution conferred, and though the possessor of the parchment of one College might as a student and a scholar be much inferior to the graduate of a rival institution, and again examinations as now conducted by the faculties of the College can never be wholly freed from the suspicions of favoritism.

All this the University of Halifax will remedy, the Curriculum of Study will be the same for all. A standard of equal merit must be attained by all, while uniform examinations by disinterested examiners will ensure that none but diligent students have passed the ordeal, and that the possessor of a degree is entitled to take rank among the literary savans. From this it will be evident that a degree from the University of Halifax must count for more in the literary world than if conferred by any of the several colleges in the Province. And in the interests of that higher education which the University was established to foster and subserve, it is hardly to be regretted that the Senate have commenced by raising the standard higher than that required by any of the existing institutions of learning, and though this may at the outside impose extra exertion upon the students, yet the result will be beneficial to the several colleges; their standard must rise in proportion if they would hold their own in the literary race, emulation will be aroused and a generous rivalry enkindled, as that institution whose sons shall stand first on the examination roll of the University, and who shall succeed in carrying off its highest honors must take first rank and be acknowledged the premier College, and as a consequence attract to its halls the largest number of students and the most ambitious youths in the Province. During the past year the Senate has held several sessions, and applied itself energetically to the task of arranging for the work required to be performed, and placing the machinery in running order, while the Convocation composed of the graduates and representatives of the various colleges have met and performed their peculiar duties with an enthusiasm which augurs well for the future of the University.

The medical and legal professions have placed themselves in accord with the University, and the Senate have appointed examiners in Law and Medicine, and it is understood that candidates for degrees both in