

modation for students, now said to be urgently needed."

It is reported that the authorities of the University of New Brunswick have all but decided to have a three year's course for the B.A. instead of a four years' course as it has been. The step is discussed in the following way by a student writing to the *Educational Review* :

"Whatever may be urged against it there is also something to be said in its favor, among other things that the president of one of the largest and most influential seats of learning in the United States has come out in favor of a three years' course. In a young country where the field for specialists is limited, four years seems a long time and a large slice of a man's years of usefulness to devote to an Arts Course, and if it be possible to limit the time consistently with thoroughness it is most desirable that it should be done, especially from the standpoint of the young man or woman who has to work his or her own way.

"The colleges having a four years' course cease work in the spring and do not resume until autumn, taking four months or more summer vacation. Why should this be done? Are the labors of students or professors more arduous than those say of the schools? If not, why should they require a longer rest? With the students of the leisure classes these long recesses may be popular, but with those of less means, and having less time, they are the reverse. Some studying and reading may be done in the time, but in the case of most of the students and professors they pass their time as other people, having nothing particular to do. It is true that it affords opportunity to some to earn a little toward expenses, but the field for such is curtailed save in the direction of book agencies. There

is no chance now open for teaching, and take it all in all the average student would prefer attendance at college during much of the long vacation if it would insure graduation one year earlier. After all the value of an Arts degree does not so much depend upon time as application. If length of time in attendance at lectures is to be the criterion, by shortening the vacations as much time can be put in in three years as with the existing ones in four years."

What with the assimilation of the matriculation examination, which is now one and the same for all colleges affiliated with McGill University, and the regulations of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, the union colleges of the Province of Quebec are likely to become extinct. The first to give way to the pressure is Stanstead College, and it is more than likely that St. Francis College will not be able to come up to the standard next year. The only institution of the kind left then will be Morrin College, and though the numbers attending the latter institution fall somewhat short of the requirements, this year, a generous consideration of its affairs may lead to its continuance.

In connection with the discussion in our columns on religious instruction, the following from a headmaster at a conference in England: The effect, said he, of the new methods was not so much in the things taught as in the way they were taught, and he was quite convinced that a large proportion of the difficulties in the elementary and secondary schools depended entirely upon the character of the teachers. The main thing, however, he wished to say was that he hoped Mr. Rutty's friends would not try to force their views forward in the form of definite regulations, for he