

THE SEMINARY BEMA

Vol. I.

SAINT MARTINS, N. B., APRIL, 1890.

No. 5.

The Seminary Bema

— EDITED BY —

THE STUDENTS OF THE UNION BAPTIST SEMINARY,
And Published Monthly during the School Year.

PRICE 50 CENTS A YEAR, IN ADVANCE

Single copies 10 cents.

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THE Winter Term is now gone, and the long dreaded examinations are over at last. To many it has been a period to which they may look back with satisfaction and delight, satisfaction because of the earnest and diligent manner in which they have applied themselves to their work, and delight because of the creditable degree of success which they have attained. As a general rule, the results of the examinations have been most gratifying to those concerned, bringing credit alike to the students, to the teachers, and to the school. The marks have been good, and the well answered papers show how comprehensive has been the work of the term, and how thoroughly that work has been done. But though the last two terms have been both pleasant and profitable, affording, as they have, ample opportunities for improvement morally, physically and intellectually, still their work has been but preparatory (more or less advanced) for that which is now before us, as laid down in the course of study for the present term, that is to say, that though the work of the previous terms has been of a most agreeable character and conducive of a substantial progress, still it may be considered as a ground-work on which to build, rather than a complete and finished structure. Though there has been great advancement made, still it is the Spring Term, upon which we are now entered, to which we must look for the grandest results. This term will be occupied in pushing forward with greater zeal and activity the work upon which we are now fairly started, and will, we trust, serve to promote a depth and power of

thought that shall lead us on to new and greater conquests of knowledge, besides retaining and consolidating that which has already been acquired.

To those who have not made as good a use of their opportunities as they should, we would say to begin now. "It is never too late to mend," "better late than never," and so we advise all to go in strong while yet the privilege is given, for now the time is ripe, this is the tide in their affairs which if taken at its flood may lead them to their fortune. Let them seize now the golden fruit and it is theirs forever. The line of study for the present term is in many respects different from that of previous ones, the work of the course has in some branches been completed, while in others it has just begun. Many of the old text books have, therefore, been laid aside, whilst new ones come to take their place, but practically the work may be regarded as but a continuation of what has gone before. In most cases the time tables are fairly full, and one must give attention in order to carry on the allotted work. But if all will strive with earnest desire and application, they may feel assured of success, for the work is not so hard that all may not succeed if they do but try. The term is opening most promisingly, general satisfaction prevails throughout the school, the work is pleasing and interesting, the teachers are kind and obliging, and the students are anxious and willing. At the close of the term we are to have a public examination, and it is expected that there will be a large attendance of visitors from various places; it is, therefore, to the interests of all, for this, if for no other reason, to make as good a showing as they possibly can. Another thing which is likely to arouse interest is the fact that there have been several prizes offered, and these will be bestowed at the close of the school year. We are pleased to learn that such is the case, for we believe this prize system to be a very beneficial one, as it helps to encourage the student and stimulate him when visited with fits of gloom, of course we expect to hear many say that the student ought to take enough interest in his work without needing the inducement of a reward to urge him on. This may be true in many cases, but not in all, and we doubt if it be always true in any. At least we know that, even though the student should not need such help, it is a help nevertheless, and, therefore, as it tends to good alone, being in purpose and effect entirely free from wrong, it is a custom that should be more generally encouraged. Now, of course, more than one cannot