

have so little time to prepare. As a matter of fact, in many courses of lectures, and in many cases, new work is taken up continuously to the very end, and in order to do justice to this work a student requires all the time he has at his disposal. The question then is, Which can he best afford to neglect, the review work or the regular work of the week or so before exams? In most cases he naturally decides to neglect the latter.

The remedy for this would be to discontinue lectures during the last week or make them wholly of a reviewing character, or else to give that week to the students outright as a preparation week for the coming ordeal. The great evil of all examinations is the process of "cramming" which they always entail, and just what effect lectures during the last week have upon this fact is a question worthy of note. If we had the whole week in which to review, there is no doubt but that more attention could be given to the new work of the closing term, and the tendency to cram would naturally be less marked. Even when a student has worked faithfully during the term he requires fully a week to get himself in shape for examination, and if he knew he was to have a week for this purpose exams. could not possibly be the bug-bear that they now are. As it is, the whole latter half of the session is made miserable for him by thoughts of a preparation which he never gets time to make. And if he does attempt to do the needed reviewing, it is pretty sure to be at the expense of his regular work.

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We would like to remark for the benefit of the graduating classes that for the last few years the procedure at Convocation, especially during the administration of the *sponsio academica*, has not been such as to impress outsiders with the dignity which might be expected at a University Convocation. At the last three or four Convocations the procedure has been something like this: When the Registrar started to read the names, perhaps the first on the list knew that he ought to stand up, and did so. The next half-dozen when their names were called would sit unconcernedly, and the solitary standing grad. would begin to think he was making a fool of himself and sit down amid a storm of hoots from the gallery.

Then when all the names have been read, it takes five minutes shouting from the gallery to bring the classes to their feet. When the *sponsio* is read the class stands in silent amazement as if Latin were an unknown tongue, until another series of shouts reminds them of the occasion, and one by one they drop to their seats in silence.

We trust the graduating classes of '93 will make a change in this respect. For the benefit of those who have forgotten their Latin, the class might hold a meeting beforehand, and get some of its classical scholars to translate the mysterious formula.

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It is with no small degree of amusement that we read occasionally of the noble efforts which College students in the States are making towards settling forever the destiny of Canada. Only recently Yale and Princeton debated upon the question, "Shall Canada be Annexed?" and still more recently the College of the City of New York aired the same question with a sister institution in that city. It is with pleasure that we note that our *existence* is at least admitted by our "cousins," and perhaps when the College boys and a few country newspapers have settled the question as to whether we shall be annexed or not, they may give us an opportunity of saying a word or two ourselves.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM JOHN A. M'DONALD, B.A.,

Missionary to the Indians on the West Coast of Vancouver's Island, B.C.

ALL who know John A. McDonald know that he is not a talker but a doer. No matter what the difficulties, he says little but he always keeps "pegging away." We give with pleasure extracts from a letter from him to the Principal, with reference to his own work and to that which Mr. Winchester, late of Berlin, Ont., is doing among the Chinese.

The death of Miss Lister, matron of the Girl's School, established at Alberni by Mr. McDonald, was a sore blow to him.

ALBERNI, B.C., March 16.

MY DEAR PRINCIPAL,—

Everything was bright before Xmas time when suddenly the Master removed our zeal-