

we wish in the shape of Christmas pleasures, though their ingenuity will have to be utilized more than that of more fortunate companions. Our peace of mind is such, and we are so much under the benevolent influences of the season, that we have determined to extend our greeting even to unpaid subscribers and unfriendly critics. Let us close by once more wishing to students and Professors, to College Council and Chancellor, to contributors and subscribers, to advertisers and printers, to all our friends and their female relatives, and last but not least to ourselves a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

IN reading over the calendar for this session, we have noticed at least one change that we regretted and that is, the change in the subject for the Prince of Wales' prize. Before the very important change in our internal economy which gave to the student the great freedom he now enjoys in the choice and order of his classes, the Prince of Wales' prize was awarded to that student who stood highest in the pass-examinations of the fourth year. It was therefore considered rightly as the highest prize obtainable in our course. When the above mentioned change occurred, it became necessary to define the subjects on which the candidate for the prize would be examined. Recognising the fact that the prize was not one to be contended for by mere specialists, but that it had always been awarded for general proficiency, the Senate fixed on four subjects for examination which were agreeable to this idea, and in spite of the introduction of gold medals—which are avowedly given to specialists—the Prince of Wales' Prize retained its previous high rank. This year, however, we notice that, though still open only to the graduating class, the subjects chosen for examination are mathematics, natural philosophy and chemistry.

No one needs to be told after reading that announcement that the Prince of Wales' prize has stepped down from its high place, and instead of being any longer the highest prize for general proficiency, is not even the highest prize in those branches, on an examination in which it depends. The honor work in mathematics and natural philosophy presupposes a thorough knowledge in the pass work in these subjects, and goes over more ground; and will any one maintain that a prize awarded on the pass work in these subjects and chemistry is higher than a gold medal awarded for the best examination in the honor work? Besides this, instead of giving all students a chance to compete, it utterly throws out that usually large class, who, excelling in classics, ethics, English literature, etc., take but a medium stand in scientific subjects. We admit the importance of scientific subjects, we also feel that full privilege should be given to students to choose special branches of study, but on the other hand we felt that all inducement (as far as prizes are concerned) to obtain a general knowledge of the subjects taught in College should not be taken away. We have medals for specialists, and up to the present session we had the Prince of Wales' prize and its accompanying honor list in the Calendar for all. We hope we will have it again and that the Prince of Wales' prize will in the future be as it has been in the past, the highest prize in the gift of the Senatus.

IN another column we give a list of the donations to the College Library, which we are glad to see the friends of Queen's have kindly remembered. Our library is now a good one, but still it can bear all accessions to it that can be given, so when we move into the new building we may have a collection of books in keeping with the chaste apartments. The value of a good library to the student cannot be over-estimated.