

their graduates, and make their degrees possess their real value and be indicative of real work. Cases are most frequent where institutions seem to make their lists of graduates lengthen out by an indiscriminate conferring of degrees, oftentimes on subjects who had never been within sight of the walls of the institution. Besides, we have now opportunities of pursuing "non-resident" and "mail" courses of instruction, in institutions whose real estate consists of a certain P.O. box, and where the amount of knowledge required for a degree fluctuates according to the state of the market.

These prove a great boon to the anxious seeker after knowledge, or rather after the badge of it, whose ambition it is to change the commonplace Mr. Brown or Jones into the pedagogical Prof. Brown, M. A., or Dr. Jones. The royal road to learning has been discovered at last; not in the tomes of science but in the advertising columns of a newspaper, and is coming to be a very popular thoroughfare. The one in search of a "dear *Alma Mater*" needs now but do a little corresponding; and ere the dog days are over, from distant Arizona comes the———*Daily Screamer*, with the welcome intelligence that he can now affix Ph. D. to his name, and with the remarks of the President of Swollen Creek University, complimenting the successful candidate on the excellence of his paper on the "Literary Beauties of the Multiplication Table," which obtained the degree for him. His next move is to "make assurance doubly sure" by seeking an *ad eundem* degree in some institution whose diplomas possess value, with a success that, sometimes, dampens his enthusiasm.

On behalf of so many *bona fide* students who work faithfully and earnestly, pursuing a course of study for many years, we protest against this depreciation of academical degress. Their diplomas should be evidences of their work and

their learning, they should indicate that the possessor has obtained a certain proficiency in literature, arts and sciences, and in this manner they would be of real service to the owners, and would be worth working for.

Ambition and enthusiasm are potent elements in study; what a depressing effect will it not have on these qualities in a student when some one who had left school several years before him, whose knowledge was nine tenths assurance, flaunts in his face a degree obtained by the latest process? It is in the power of our higher institutions to destroy the evil. They can easily decide upon some fixed standard, and they have influence enough to secure the legislation requisite to regulate the conferring of degrees. We trust that some action will be taken in the matter in the near future.

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On Sunday evening May 3rd, Brother M. Chalifoux rendered up his soul to God. During the ten years of his life as an humble lay brother in the congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate he had never been overstrong, yet, with admirable fortitude he busied himself continually with the works assigned to his care, and made himself of incalculable benefit to the congregation wherever the work of construction was in progress, particularly at the University and in Hull. Brother Chalifoux was endowed with rare mechanical ability, and leaves a monument of his enquirening skill in nearly every house and church of the order in the Dominion.

His final illness began in January last and he bore his sufferings to the end with the patience and heroism characteristic of a true religious. *Requiescat in Pace.*

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ERRATUM.—For the second word of the eighth line of Mr. Lampman's sonnet "April" on the first page of this number, read "trim" for "tune."