

Of the high school work, the number of pupils who studied commercial subjects in 1890 was 14,861, as against 5,621 in 1877, and as against 482, who in 1890 passed a university matriculation. Here is another fact: The number of candidates in 1891 for high school primary and leaving certificate was 5,715 as against 500 candidates for matriculation certificate. Greek and Latin must seek in such facts as these an explanation for their decrease, rather than in the nature of the University curriculum, and so must French and German also for the fact that they too are at a standstill.

Granting, however, for the moment that the fate of Greek in the schools does depend upon the university curriculum, which is not the case, what is the position of those who urge the change in the curriculum on this ground? They hold that, in the hope of galvanizing into renewed life a subject of study which is expiring in the schools, the university course shall be distorted, and a grievous wrong done to university education in this province. Suppose that it were thought desirable to force Hebrew into the schools. A regulation which, in order to effect this, should make Hebrew in the University an option as against Latin and Greek would be a parallel absurdity.

It is time now to inquire into the various consequences of the statute referred to. They are much more serious than might appear at first sight. First of all, the standard for the pass degree has been lowered, and this in face of the fact that the standard was already lamentably low. From its organization until March, 1891, the University had demanded a knowledge of either French or German from every pass-man, whether he took Greek or not. This is no longer so: The student who takes Greek now grad-