

introduced, and no other at present, it would be easy afterwards to introduce indefinite improvements : indeed, some would even grow up from it spontaneously."

This examination, (preliminary to entering the University) equal to the former examination called "responsions," is recommended for the purpose of allowing the introduction of scientific studies during the last year of the course, without diminishing the classics and mathematics heretofore required.\* After this preliminary examination, and then after a second examination (heretofore the first) called responsions, but more strict ; and then after a third Public Examination, called the Intermediate Examination, and to be passed during the third year, (the high character of which has been shown in a preceding letter) the Commissioners recommend that students, after having given satisfactory evidence of classical knowledge at the Intermediate Examination, be allowed a choice of studies in the following subjects or "schools," as they are technically termed, namely—"Theology ; Mental Philosophy and Philology ; Jurisprudence and History, including Political Economy ; Mathematical and Physical Science." The same choice of studies is recommended to be allowed at Cambridge,† after the students have passed what is there called the Previous Examination, and which corresponds to the "Intermediate Examination at Oxford, and which is made as high as the former examination for a degree, as I have shown in a preceding letter.

It will thus be seen that the mode of introducing studies of mod-

\* In the calendar of Trinity College, Toronto the following regulations are given in regard to scientific studies :

"In addition to the Mathematical Lectures for the degree of B.A., students of the second and third years are required to attend a Course of Lectures on Optics, Astronomy, Sound, and the Theory of Light popularly treated. The course will extend over two years, and the Lectures will be given in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Students of the third year will also be required to attend during the Easter Term a Course of Lectures on Fortification. Questions on all these subjects will be introduced on the examination for B. A.

"Students of the second year will be required to attend a course of Lectures on Surveying during the Easter Term, and questions on the subject will be introduced into their examination at the end of the Term.

"The Lectures on General and Organic Chemistry have particular reference to Agricultural Chemistry ; those on Experimental Philosophy to Heat, Electricity, Light in its Relation to Chemistry, and Photography.

"Lectures on Physiology in its relation to Natural Theology. Attendance on these Lectures is required of Students of the third year, and the subject is added to the subjects in the Annual Examination of that year.

† The introduction of the choice of studies during the latter part of the course at Cambridge, and the permission of options in several subjects of Moral and Natural Science, was a concession to a popular demand. But the result has not been as successful as had been anticipated. One of the writers of the Cambridge Essays for 1855, says—"These new regulations, though framed to meet the spirit of the age, have failed in producing any practical change. The curriculum has been extended, but no one will enter for the new races. The Moral and Natural Triposes present, year after year, a singular spectacle—more examiners than examinees. The experiment, in the opinion of even those most anxious that it should be tried, is admitted to be a failure."