## She Presbylerian Cullegq Journal,

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T seems that the high standard fixed by the Senate I for the degree of B. D. is not likely to deter graduates and others from presenting themselves for examination. We understand that a considerable number will appear in the spring. The more the better, even if some should be plucked. Let us have men of courage and scholarly attainments not to be intimidated by the searching scrutiny which they are sure to encounter at the hands of stern examiners. The Rev. Geo. Burnfield, M.A., Brockville, is the first to set an example of triumphant victory in this respect. He has passed in all the ten subjects in a most creditable manner. We are to hear from him when he reaches the land of the Pharaohs.

PROFESSOR CAMPBELL has sent to the Society of Biblical Archeology of London, the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, the Ethnographic Institution of Paris and the Canadian Institute of Toronto, an account of his discovery of the phonetic values of the hitherto unread Hittite inscriptions. The Aztec Hieroglyphics were the key by which he professes to have deciphered the Hittite. He is now engaged in determining the meaning of the solitary Mou id Builders' inscription from Iowa, of which the Davenport Academy of Sciences has had enlarged lithograph copies printed for the purpose. He is confident that the Mound-Builders represent a Hittite colony from Asia, on their way to the South. Should the result of his investigations successfully pass the ordeal of severe criticism, which he invites, the story of the Hittites, Mound-Builders and Aztecs will no longer be a mystery, and the defender of the unity of the race will be furnished with a new argument of no small importance.

We draw attention to the notice of the Montreal Presbytery—to candidates for license. This is a step in the right direction. Hitherto the Presbytery examination has been the bite noir of every graduating class, because of the great uncertainty as to its nature which varied from year to year according to the time, temper, and talent of the individual members of the Examining Committee. All kinds of unlooked-for questions were liable to be put until the unfortunate graduate, whose information might not be quite encyclopædiac, came to look upon it as an ordeal akin to blockade running.

Now it has ceased to be a Proteus, has taken a definite shape, having crystallized itself into the form of particular text books. These are all good in their own way, but we take the liberty of calling in question the propriety of requiring an examination on text books that have not been studied in the regular University and College course. Calderwood's Philosophy was only last year placed on the McGill calendar. It will, therefore, be three years before any student who has studied it under Dr. Murray can present himself for license before the Presbytery. then any who may so present themselves will require to get up this particular book as extra work over and above the prescribed work of the third year. To those who not only take the ordinary but also the honour work, and are competing for the medals and scholarships, this is particularly burdensome, especially if it be remembered that the Presbytery examinations begin-at least have hitherto done so—on the afternoon of the same day on the forenoon of which the honour men of the third year have their last and twelfth college examination. They have thus to plunge into a Presbytery examination on five additional subjects requiring special study, without a moment for revision, even if they should be fortunate enough to have gone over any of the work before.

We would suggest that instead of Calderwood's Hand Book of Moral Philosophy, which is an exceedingly difficult book to get up and of very questionable benefit, even when known, such a book as Wayland's Moral Science, which is more elementary in its character and has the great advantage of treating ethics from a Christian standpoint, should be prescribed. Instead of Murray's Outlines of Hamilton's Philosophy, Dr. Reid's little work or Wayland's Intellectual Philosophy would be preferable.

We understand that in the new carriculum of McGill University all repeating of examinations is likely to be done away with. We hail this as a great improvement, and are confident that its beneficial influence will at once become apparent. It is the removal of what has hitherto been a standing reproach.

HIGHER CRITICISM.—The Broad Churchmen of the Free Church of Scotland have recently given vent to their pent-up feelings against the last General Assembly for its action in the case of Prof. Robertson Smith. The Champions of Freedom and Higher Criticism met in goodly numbers in Queen Street Hall, Edinburgh, and was presided over by Benjamin Bell, M.D., Lawyers, Writers to the Signet, Doctors of Divinity, Professors of Theology,