

“THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL of a few weeks since was very severe upon the Senate of Toronto University for its recent decision that the degree of M.A. should be conferred upon any B.A. of two years' standing upon payment of the graduation fee. We cannot but think it would have been more in accordance with the high standard the Provincial University should maintain to have prescribed a rigid examination for its second degree. Of course the mere presentation of a thesis proves little or nothing, unless the thesis be examined on its merits, and the granting or withholding of the degree determined accordingly. We are inclined to think too much importance is attached to the matter of university degrees. We are not sure that the interests of sound education would suffer much if they were all abolished.”—*Educational Journal*, Jan. 16th.

Certainly. Abolish every degree that can be obtained simply by paying a fee, *i.e.*, abolish the M.A. of Toronto University. But, because a thing has been abused, is there to be no use for it hereafter? And because one degree has been degraded in one place, does it follow that all should be abolished everywhere? Be consistent, then, and do away with every mark or standard of scholarship or of anything else! Down with everybody and everything! Let us have a *Tabula rasa*. Away with Grade A, Grade B, Grade C, with M.D. and D.D., with the titles by which officers in the army or in the civil service are recognized, with labels of all kinds, and get back to the condition of primitive man, or forward to the ideal of the Quakers. What is the use of drawing a red herring across the scent? The *Educational Journal* confesses that what Toronto has done, apparently because hard up for cash, is not “in accordance with the high standard, etc.” Yes! that is always the phrase—the cure is to unfrock or unhood all the graduates in the wide, wide

world! So have we heard a little girl moan that she had found that the globe was hollow and that her doll was stuffed with sawdust! We would suggest as a much simpler alternative than the universal decapitation of graduates, that in this and sundry other matters, our sister University should “consider her ways” and mend them.

AMID all the writing and publishing of the present day there seems to be no form of literature which has attained to a higher average excellence or greater variety of form than the magazine. The foremost writers of the day do not hesitate to employ their best energies in the production of periodical literature. Not a few valuable books have had the best of their substance appear first in the form of magazine articles. It is safe to say that in the standard magazines we have presented to us the most complete view of the vanguard of modern thought. Here we may trace the birth and development of fruitful, action-producing ideas. Here we observe the lines along which modern society is seeking to progress; and here we find chronicled its failures and successes. The magazine is the medium through which the thinking men and women of the world can discuss with each other the many problems of social and individual life which spring up in the wake of our progress. Whatever may be said of journalism in other countries, in America at least, the various papers have become mere news-mongers. No longer do thinking people take seriously what the majority of them attempt to say regarding the higher interests of society, since they so plainly sacrifice truth to interest. In the magazine alone can we look for a conscientious treatment of the great questions of the day on their own merits. Long may they preserve the independent stand which as a rule they at present occupy, and may their influence extend to all orders.