

the *only* case in which it is allowable; that Richardson, although perhaps imprudent, had been guilty of no overt immorality; and that he, therefore, felt himself at liberty to gratify the murdered and dying man's wish to leave to Mrs. McFarland his name and property. In regard to the point of law we are, of course, unable to offer an opinion, but our impression is that Mr. Beecher's estimate of the *men* is the correct one; and that, although it may have been inexpedient under the circumstances to solemnize the marriage, much of the virtuous indignation that has been expressed about it has proceeded from the pure-minded Democrats of Tammany Hall! The chance of a fling at Beecher was too good to be lost.

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## Correspondence.

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### THE COLLEGE COURSE.

SIR,—I cannot but think the present a most favorable opportunity—the most so that may occur for years—to put the Congregational Divinity College on an improved basis. The College instruction was committed in my time, and after, to a single Chair, from which an impossibility was expected: that was, to teach all the subjects the course required, and to teach them thoroughly.

Since that period the only important modification that has taken place has been to form a sort of staff, with the original Chair as its practical centre, with a couple of wheels acting on the circumference of the original one, so bevelled off as to impart their chief momentum to altogether external machinery, leaving practically the work to the central wheel.

There is, and need be no question raised about the ability and thoroughness of the assistants Dr. Lillie had in the work they undertook, or in any work they might consent to undertake—all this may be admitted without question; but the fact simply is, that the arrangement as it has been, whatever it may be in point of economy, convenience or custom, is not fit for Canada—not up to the times, nor in anywise productive of the advantages of a real theological seminary.

I am not influenced by the condition or efforts of the numerous sectarian communities in the midst of which the Independents live. The question for us to consider is this: How to raise up a suitable ministry for Canada out of the materials that offer themselves; to enlist them, drill them and equip them, *secundum artem*, and thus prepare Canadian spiritual troops for the work they will be required to do.

There is no doubt that a connection with McGill College is an advantage, although an advantage that but few will avail themselves of; for I may venture to say that by the present arrangement few can be brought within the charmed circle of university degrees. The many must be just as heretofore; for is it not entirely clear to the minds of all that the majority of youth who come before the College Board will be unfit to enter College?

But the College Board may “enact” that *they shall be fit*. Very well. That rule will take very few by the hand; it would have taken very few by the hand hitherto of those who have passed through the College—many of them good, capable ministers—but it would have passed them by on the other side with *rather derisive emphasis*.

A leaning in the right direction was taken in the increase of the time of study to four years. It should be five for unprepared students, and three