

The Ontario Law School at Toronto is now in full swing and the learned Benchers are rubbing their hands in ecstatic satisfaction that such a desirable institution is now established with such an able staff of lecturers and such a large number of students. It is certainly a matter of congratulation that Ontario has at last a Law School, but we sincerely hope that the rules regarding the compulsory attendance of students at the lectures will undergo a certain amount of pruning and molification, for perfection is at yet, in our estimation, very far off.

The principal objection that we have to urge is that graduates of universities studying law, under the existing regulations are compelled to spend all their time—except during the long vacation—in the school and are thus deprived of anything more than the mere rudiments of office work. The result, of course, will inevitably be that such students, when at the end of three years they are called to the bar, will be abnormally efficient in theory but sadly ignorant in practice. We are not prepared to, nor indeed would we suggest a remedy for this very evident evil, but we hope that in the near future it will be so arranged that office work will occupy a more prominent place in the course than is now given to it.

In the meantime we wish the newly established school all success, and we confidently expect that in a very short time it will be in the front rank of the educational institutions of America.

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Since our last issue one of Queen's youngest and brightest sons has gone to his rest. In September last, Dr. W. G. Downing, who graduated from the Royal in '88, carrying off among other honors the gold medal for general proficiency, passed away after a long and weary battle with consumption. It would be impossible for us to fully express our regret for such a great loss, for a more brilliant student, a more entertaining companion, a warmer friend and a more devoted christian has seldom left the walls of Queen's. His influence during his course was far reaching and always told for good, and many of his fellow students have great cause to be thankful that they had an opportunity of meeting with him. He left us just as life seemed brightest, just as he was crossing the threshold of youth to take his part in the world's struggle and now that he has fallen others are needed as courageous, as unselfish and as skilful as he, to take his place.

Our sincere sympathy is with those who have perhaps more reason to mourn his loss than we, but together we can rejoice in that we know he has passed from death unto life, from darkness unto everlasting light and glory.

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The *Educational Monthly* for October contains among other things a well-written article on "Examinations in Colleges and Schools." Its matter, however, is of a very questionable character. Although we cannot accept the present system of examinations *in toto* yet we must say that the abolition of written as well as of oral examinations is too sweeping a change. The chief reason for such a step urged by the writer of the above article is that they "injure the morals of the student," inasmuch as there is "in no part of an undergraduate's career so much duplicity, so much fraud, so much absolute theft, as

during an examination." But does the fault lie in the system as such or in some element of the system?

It is quite obvious from the article that the writer, despite his pessimistic views, would admit the efficiency of the present system *if only the student would act honestly in the examination hall*. But is not this dishonesty on the part of the examinee mainly due to the carelessness of the presiding examiner?

Too often has a single professor presided over an examination and quite frequently "has he taken out a book and commenced to read," or rather to nod, thus inviting the students to practice dishonesty instead of honesty. Surely it is not only the function of an examiner to set questions, read answers and attach values, but to see as far as possible *that the students reproduce their answers and not merely transfer them*. We venture to say that if every college examination were presided over by two or three sharp-eyed professors who would not only detect but punish the transgressor, then the number of those "who could cheat the most without being detected" would be reduced to a minimum.

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For a long time past our susceptible hearts have been filled with a great and sincere compassion for those unfortunate members of the Alma Mater who from time to time, in the absence of the president, are called upon to take the chair and conduct its meetings. A man in this position must have the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon to so rule as to preserve order and decorum, which we are sorry to say are often trampled most outrageously in the dust.

We do not mean to say that all or even most of the members of the society are responsible for this state of affairs, on the contrary we believe the sole responsibility rests upon the shoulders of comparatively few and some of these profess to know better.

The remarks of some of the speakers are often very childish and would be amusing were they not out of place in such a gathering of professedly educated gentlemen. The sooner such boorish conduct is stopped the better it will be for all concerned.

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After a long delay and much wrangling successors have been appointed to the position held by the late Professor Young, in the department of Philosophy in the Provincial University.

The opponents of the government say that the appointment is a scheme to satisfy, not only the followers of the late professor, who want a man versed in the philosophy of the master, but also the leader of the Anti-Jesuits, who requires one versed in a philosophy that does not tend to weaken the foundation of what is called orthodox theology.

Whenever there is any provincial appointment to be made, there is always a great amount of contention and division of interest. In the case before us, we have an illustration of the factional spirit displayed on every such occasion. Here we have two men appointed to fill the position left vacant by the death of Dr. Young—men representing two schools of philosophy, very different and almost directly opposed to each other in their fundamental principles. Mr. Hume received training under Dr.