

cated, we were necessarily dependent on the capacity of the High Schools to train their students for Matriculation; but a careful review of the successive revisions of our courses of study will show how promptly we have followed up each step achieved by the schools, to elevate the standard of the College in every requirement for honors and degrees. A comparison of the subjects prescribed for the entrance examinations and the three years undergraduate course, to which, in accordance with the requirements of King's College, the candidates for a degree were limited at the outset: with those of the four years course now required for proceeding to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, will show with what systematic care the College Faculty, in cooperation with the Senate of the University, have aimed at maintaining a high standard, and making the degree in Arts a guarantee of sound scholarship. Mr. Langton, of Trinity College, Cambridge,—to whose services as Vice-Chancellor of this University during a most critical period of its history, not only the graduates, but every friend of higher education in Canada, are largely indebted,—when giving his evidence before the Committee of the Legislature, at Quebec, in 1860, remarked: "The course of study in the College itself must be made to harmonise with the education which can be obtained out of doors. If the College commences at too high a standard for the schools, the great bulk of the youth must be debarred from entering it at all; or on the other hand, not only the examination for matriculants, but as a necessary consequence, the earlier years of the College course itself, will become a mere paper scheme which is not acted upon in practice. The real standard for entering the University, whatever it may be in theory, must be based upon the standard of the schools of a country." Experience has abundantly confirmed this seeming paradox; and hence the need for a frequent readjustment of our standard, not only at entrance, but throughout the requirements of all the years, so soon as the High Schools of the Province were able to send up matriculants adequately prepared for the work.

This readjustment has accordingly been repeatedly arrived at; as will be seen by a comparison of the College Calendars of successive periods in 1854, in 1859, in 1869, in 1877, and once