

CORRESPONDENCE.

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*To the Theologue* :—The circumstance of having finished the mid-sessional exams calls to mind the many things that have been said against examinations. The ideal of a certain class of students is a time when colleges shall have no examination papers ; a time when everything shall be free and easy. One would think that theologues, who preach the legal side of righteousness, who dwell with rapture upon the conception of a judgment seat before which all must come and render account, would be staunch upholders of a system of stringent examinations. But no ; strange paradox. They are found maintaining that to insist on examination halls and standards of education is to speak a want of faith in the Christian consciousness of the candidates, and to put the affairs of “the Kingdom” on a level with those of “the world” ; and with the next breath they declare, that the future world is one in which rewards and punishments are meted out according to the merits or demerits of those entering it.

Why make this distinction ? If it is moral for God thus to judge men, is it not moral for judgment to be passed in matters relating to His kingdom on earth ? In short, is it not immoral for students assisted by their presbyteries to seek to avoid the annoyances and drudgery incident to the prescribed course of preparation for the work of the ministry, unless sufficiently good reasons can be given for such a course ; a proviso which has *not* always been met in years gone by. Not until such time, when in the process of development men shall come to love truth and integrity for their own sakes, will it be safe to remove the healthful disciplines of examinations. I do not think there is an honest man among us who does not accept them as, in existing conditions, a necessary part of his training. Our standard of education has been rapidly advancing, and it is a thought which may well fill with joy the hearts of those who love our hall, that that standard will be advanced still higher, and that too, in harmony with the expressed wish of our students. For let it be