

same time, in this our last official utterance, as the mouth-piece of McGill students and graduates on her College paper, wish it to be clearly understood, that we misinterpret, very much indeed, the whole purport and aim of the school, if it should ever tend towards causing us to receive, with simply silent assent, the *dictum* of any man, from our gifted, scholarly and revered Principal down to the humblest citizen among us; or should ever lead us to place any custom or any opinion above the reach of honest and fair criticism; and we have equally misinterpreted the sentiment of those who have place us here, if they would consider us to have done our duty in ignoring questions which are of vital importance to them, and therefore to the University.

We have aimed at a respectful, though firm and straightforward expression of opinion, with what result we leave our readers to judge.

In addition to these really vital questions, we have endeavoured to direct attention, as the time required, to the broader field of educational work outside our own University; and have reported the transactions of various societies in connection with the College. In this latter connection we feel forced to remark that we sincerely wish, their work was better worth reporting.

The plan of having the paper conducted on the financial basis of a Joint Stock Company, has now been on trial a year. We think the plan preferable to that adopted in former years, and have good hopes for the success of the GAZETTE in the hands of succeeding Boards working under this system, especially since they will escape the friction, attendant upon every innovation no matter how good, to which the present staff was exposed and from which they have suffered slightly.

Our work is ended. We commit the fortunes of the GAZETTE to the able Board of Editors that have been selected for the ensuing year, relying upon the liberal and hearty enthusiasm of McGill men, to support and assist them in the future as it has us in the past.

THE ARTS MATRICULATION

Last year we believed the time had come for a general raising of the standards in the Arts faculty, and urged that as a preliminary to this the matriculation be made much more searching and general. We are still of the same opinion, and propose now to institute a comparison between the entrance examinations of University and Queen's and our own colleges, to the end that the necessity for action in this direction may be clearly seen. As the matriculation requirements of Queen's and University colleges are nearly identical,

and we are only concerned with the difference between our own and the most advanced of the others, it will not be necessary to refer to the slight divergencies between the former. In Greek, McGill asks its ordinary matriculants to be familiar with a single book, either of Homer or Xenophon; University demands a knowledge of one book of each. While for matriculants in honors McGill requires only the same amount of information as do the ordinary examinations in Ontario. From the upper province matriculant is exacted a knowledge of the Odyssey and of a portion of the Olynthiæcs. Similarly in Latin, the honor examination here takes up an equivalent to the obligatory test in Toronto, while the optional examination there embraces portions of Livy, Horace and Ovid. In mathematics there is but slight difference, the Ontario universities, including quadratics in the amount of algebra demanded from students entering, and the honor examinations being the same in the three seats of learning. The ordinary English examinations are also nearly alike except that in Ontario the matriculant is required to have a practical acquaintance with the rules of composition. In history, all require a knowledge of the outlines of English history, but the Upper Canada colleges demand also familiarity with the principal events in the histories of Greece and Rome. Ancient and modern geography are also obligatory in Ontario, and there are honor examinations in both history and geography. Our honor examination in literature requires merely a general acquaintance with the history of English literature; theirs a critical knowledge of a play of Shakespeare. In addition, McGill's competitors test stringently the would-be student's understanding of French, and have advanced examinations in both French and German. They also allow an option between German and one of the dead languages. It will therefore be seen that not only do the Ontario colleges require a more general and advanced knowledge from those who would enter their halls, but that their matriculation also embodies the modern idea that man may be well educated though he possess not an acquaintance with Greek or Latin. It is not necessary to enter here into a discussion of the value of the fossil tongues; it is sufficient for our argument that the spirit of to-day forbids the expenditure of much time upon a study whose practical worth is *nil*. Money has always been the cry with which the onward march in our university has been checked, but the general raising of the standard can be accomplished, the demand that the work now done in our junior years be left to the high schools can be satisfied without any new expenditure, and before long that raising must be accomplished, that demand satisfied.