

# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

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## University Gazette.

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### Editorials.

#### MCGILL'S ANNUAL REPORT AND MR. PAGNUOLO'S REPLY.

In our last issue we made some reference to the annual report of McGill University for 1886, and referred especially to the reference therein made to the subject of professional examinations. In the *Montreal Gazette*, of date 28th March last, there ap-

peared a long letter from Mr. Pagnuolo, Q.C., Secretary of the Bar of this Province, in which he criticizes that report. We have not space to follow the learned Secretary through all his letter, but wish to remark upon a few of the points raised.

Mr. Pagnuolo insinuates that Sir William Dawson has endeavoured, in this report, to rouse Protestant against Roman Catholic with the sordid motive of getting funds for the University, charges him with want of reliable information, and of appealing to Protestant prejudices, and finally takes him to task for his heterodox educational views. Much of Mr. Pagnuolo's letter may be passed over with the simple observation that it is a capital, though, perhaps, ill-advised, exhibition of the lawyer's art, but displays little argument worthy either of his position or of the document which he has undertaken to criticize.

The answer that "no university graduate has ever yet been admitted to the study of law without a preliminary examination," is no answer at all to the complaint urged in the report. It is one of the many evidences that Mr. Pagnuolo clearly understands the subject, but evades the point at issue. Protestant schools train men to enter the learned professions; Roman Catholic schools do the same. The council of the Bar now steps in and imposes a programme of examination, drawn up by itself, the result of which is to place Protestant candidates at a great disadvantage. We have already referred to this disadvantage in a previous issue, in the matter of Mathematics and Philosophy. How shall Protestants get over the difficulty? evidently by accepting the Roman Catholic curriculum for preparatory study! In this connection we take the opportunity of denying Mr. Pagnuolo's assertion that the English Protestant examiner on the Board "has recommended our programme." We are well informed when we say that Dr. Howe has done nothing of the kind; but that, on the contrary, he has, on several occasions, written Mr. Pagnuolo himself on matters in connection with this very programme, and has stated his objections to it clearly and forcibly.

"To insinuate that the council of the Bar decides for universities the course of studies adequate for a degree is most mischievous, and as untrue as mischievous," says Mr. Pagnuolo. That the council of the Bar does this, we answer, is quite true, and as mis-