

their work must lack those sanctions necessary to command the ardor and moral enthusiasm of their students. In this respect McMaster University has nothing to desire. Its autonomy is complete. The University is pledged in advance to maintain the standard of scholarship in Canada and in doing so it will exercise its independent functions with the fullest sense of responsibility. Following this course with prudent care, and yet with all needful courage, we trust we may be able as the years go by to contribute something of value in the field of liberal education.

In all departments of the University it is proposed to bring into operation at once methods of examination which, if not according to teachers, masters and professors their full function in determining the standing of their students, will go far, I am confident, in placing both students and teachers in conditions favorable for the best work. The regulations of the Senate on this subject have been printed and distributed. There can be no doubt that education, and especially the more advanced, is in danger of becoming a mere race for examinations, marks newspaper reports, prizes and honors. It is a very real and a very great danger. Extraneous and mechanical systems of examinations, so largely practised, can but drive further and further away the spirit of true study with its ennobling motives and aims. During my recent stay in England, whence our systems now in vogue are largely derived. I found abundant evidences of a reaction against what many foremost men call the tyranny of examinations. The end of true teaching is not the examination, nor is it the end of true study. Examinations have their place in the educational process, but that place is not that which they have usurped, and from which they rule teachers and students with a rod of iron. Until they are reduced from the position of masters to that of servants in the work of education they must greatly paralyze the efforts of the best men for the advancement of scholarship and formation of high character.

I have already referred to the freedom we are here conditioned to exercise by way of ministering to students in perplexity and doubt concerning the deepest things of life. The fact that this University receives no pecuniary support from the State, but is voluntarily maintained, enables us to exercise a freedom