

of the citizens did not avail themselves of the opportunity of seeing and hearing what was in every respect a pleasing and intellectual treat. We bespeak for Mr. Ragan a most hearty reception, if it should ever be our good fortune to secure his services on any future occasion.

WE are glad to have the opinion of "Anti-Cram" on the question of the programme of the finals. While we concur in the general sentiment of his communication we are not disposed to admit that the conclusion at which he arrives is a perfectly valid one, viz.: that to announce the order and date of the final examination in the different subjects, say two or three weeks beforehand would be to encourage cramming. What will be the result of withholding the order of the exams. until the evening before the agony actually begins? Simply this: An effort, during the two or three weeks preceding, to cram three or four subjects at once, and hence the best adept at this practice comes off winner in the contest. On the other hand, if the student knew the order of his different examinations he could set about his work systematically, and the general result would be a much higher average percentage.

It goes without saying that by the plan proposed, or rather advocated by "Anti-Cram," many more will fall victims to the dread demon "Pluck" It seems to us unjust that the man whose staying powers on a heavy general cram should survive the ordeal, while his less fortunate classmate whose powers in this respect are inferior should fail.

At least nine students out of every ten seem to regard cramming as a necessary evil, if we may judge by their actions, and we venture to predict that while final examinations are to measure the extent of their knowledge of the subject in hand, it will ever be thus.

The whole question seems to resolve itself into this, whether it is better, by announcing the order of the exams. some time beforehand, to encourage a systematic review of each subject separately, or, by withholding this information, compel a promiscuous and general cram on three or four subjects?

THE petition of the Senate to Parliament for the abolition of the present tax upon all books imported from abroad should receive hearty support from Free Traders and Protectionists alike.

Canada is and must long be in a condition demanding rather a bonus than a burden on the introduction of books of a high class. From every point of view, the tax is a nuisance that should be abolished at the earliest possible moment; and now that there is a large surplus every year, the time has evidently come for abolition of that nuisance, at any rate so far as universities and public libraries are concerned. A Canadian who writes a good book adds immeasurably to the national wealth, but it is impossible to do good literary work on any subject nowadays without knowing what other men have written on it, and also on kindred subjects; and few people have any conception of the difficulties in the way of getting knowledge in Canada. In England a man has only to go to the British museum, and he finds every book ready to his hand. Scotland, France, Germany and the United States have their great libraries. We have no university or public library up to modern requirements, and the individual worker is handicapped by Customs regulations that add a nominal sum to the revenue, at the cost of embarrassing him, wasting his time, and adding considerably to what he has to pay out for the public good. One of our well known authors thus describes the process through which he has to pass:—"I find myself from time to time in want of