

P.—By all means ; I have gone through it all myself. But I can tell you this, that if I had only known then what I know now, and could have my time for preparation over again, you would not find me hurrying through any short course, if I could take a full one. But let me tell you more particularly what the full course in our college is. The first two sessions are given, almost entirely, to literary studies, and these are pursued in McGill College ; the third and fourth partly to literary and partly to theological branches ; and the fifth and last, to theological subjects alone.

C.—And what examination have I to pass before entering on this full course ?

P.—You are thinking now, I understand, about the literary examination, are you not, for of course that is not the only one ; the College Board make very careful inquiries as to the Christian character, and promise of usefulness, of every candidate ?

C.—That I should expect ; but it *was* the literary examination that I had in mind just now.

P.—Well, the rule is, that candidates for the full course shall pass the ordinary matriculation examination at McGill College. In fact, our students regularly enter themselves as students in the Arts Faculty at McGill, and are dealt with precisely in the same manner as any other young men who come up.

C.—And what are the subjects on which these matriculants are examined ?

P.—The *Calendar* of McGill College gives the following : Latin Grammar, Greek Grammar, and one easy Latin and one easy Greek author ; Arithmetic Algebra to simple equations, and Euclid, books I to III ; and in English, writing from dictation.

At the same time, you should know that the mere list of books gives very little idea of what an actual examination is. Some colleges may make a pretence of higher scholarship, by giving a long list of books ; whereas, the questions asked upon them may be very easy. For instance, I have heard of an examination in Hebrew, at Oxford too, but long ago, where the only question asked was, “What is the Hebrew for the *place of a skull* ?” Every reader of the Bible knows, of course, that it is *Golgotha* ; and a man could pass such an examination without having seen the inside of a Hebrew Bible, or knowing the shape of a single Hebrew letter. As far as McGill College is concerned, I have been credibly informed that the examination is not at all severe in practice, and that more regard is had to the capacity manifested by the candidate than to his actual attainments ; in other words, to the quality of the diamond, though in the rough, than to the polish put upon it.

C.—Then, with such an education as I have already received, and some special preparation, I might hope to pass ?

P.—I think so ; but on this point, and throughout, let me earnestly warn you against the error so commonly entertained among young men, that the great object is to “get through,”—as though College Examiners were enemies who had to be circumvented in some way ; and as though ever so tight a squeezing into the ranks of the B.A.'s should satisfy the aspirations of a student. The better prepared you are for your matriculation examination, the more benefit will you derive from every part of the course, both literary and theological.

D.—Really, Pastor, you are “laying it on pretty heavy,” as we say. What a time to spend, and what work to undergo ! And what is to be the use of it all ?

P.—My good Deacon, you are a farmer—you know all about raising crops from land in every condition. In working your farm, you are going on precisely the same principle that I advocate for our young friend. It would be a much shorter process, if you were to go into the woods, when all the trees are standing, and sow your wheat on the virgin soil at their feet. But you think it worth while to cut out the underbrush, to fell the trees, and to burn all up, that you may sow on open ground. And when you are breaking up a new fallow, you go through a great amount of work again, in tearing out stumps and burning, clearing off stone,