

sufficiently impressed with the great importance of a youth being properly prepared for entrance at the University. So long as he can barely get through, that is all that they are anxious for, being content to leave his future progress to his instructors. The consequence is, that too many enter who are not prepared to profit by the advanced instructions of the Professors, and they are either left entirely in the rear by their better-prepared companions, and thus become discouraged, or the teaching has to be brought down to their level, and the general progress is seriously retarded.

It may be said, that the College authorities have the remedy in their own hands, by simply exacting a suitable amount of proficiency at Matriculation; but at present this will be found to be only partly true in practice. Owing to the condition of the Province, and the peculiar state of education, the rejection of a Candidate generally amounts to sending him away altogether; and not unfrequently the youths or their guardians are excessively indignant if it is even hinted that there has not been sufficient preparation. How can it be expected, that a pupil who knows only the rudiments of Latin and Greek, has a flavouring of Euclid and Algebra, a smattering of French, a very imperfect knowledge of English, and knows nothing of Natural Science, should, in three years, be turned out a proficient in these and several other branches?

Most of the Candidates, also, are too young to profit fully by their advantages. Fifteen is the earliest age at which admission is possible; and instances sometimes occur in which through natural precocity and careful training a boy is qualified to enter at that early age; but as a general rule seventeen or eighteen is quite young enough: the character is more formed, the tastes more developed, and the progress much more likely to be satisfactory. In the case of Divinity Students, the age at Matriculation should certainly not be less than eighteen, as before that few can be considered qualified to enter upon the studies necessary for their future profession, or at least to enter upon them with advantage.

Every parent who intends to send a son to the University should therefore pay particular care to his preparatory education. Thoroughness in everything should be esteemed essential. The more