

had no such thought as that one of their Governors wrote this line; but, inasmuch as students generally have some pretty correct ideas respecting the official views of the college officers; and since the sentence is thrown out with such an authoritative air, and as indicative of a prevailing opinion, we deemed it fair to consider it expressive of the sentiments of their Governors when they saw their "forlorn hope" overthrown. Hence it was that we said,—“It is not a little surprising that the Governors of Dalhousie asked for a conference which they did not expect to obtain.” The point, at most is of trifling importance.

The *Gazette* then proceeds to assure us that no professor writes for that paper,—that it is conducted entirely by students. Such an assurance is quite unnecessary. We never even suspected anything to the contrary. We will not readily surrender our high estimate of the literary abilities of the Dalhousie professors.

Upon our affirming that years ago, in less prosperous times, Acadia would have been glad to unite with the other denominations of the province in establishing a central university, the *Gazette* puts the puerile question,—“Why have its feelings changed?” Our answer is contained in the very next sentence; yet our reviewers, manifesting no very enviable eclectic skill, have garbled the *first part* of our reply merely, holding it out as an object of ridicule, and have wholly ignored the *latter* portion of the sentence, in which our real answer is contained. Such contemptible culling “deserves only to be mentioned that it may be despised.” Here is the answer we gave,—“... in view of the progress they (Acadia and others) have made on the line of a *broader and more liberal policy*—a policy which other colleges have since been pleased to adopt, and sometimes with an air of boasting which would seek to confirm the impression that it is *original* with them—in view of *this* it is doubtful if ever again they will be in a position to consider this question.” Our institution evidences growth in every respect at present, and gives indications of continually increasing prosperity as regards funds, attendance and in fact in every particular. Its officers, cognizant of this fact, have no desire to unite with a college financially crippled,—nothing to gain from such an union. They prefer to hold for Acadia the position which she has worthily and honestly attained.

We come now to the “*religious tests*,” in reference to which the *Gazette* displays some logic (!) scarcely Aristotelian. We had said that our Governors would doubtless refuse to employ as a teacher, a man of known heterodox views. Our charitable critic, in quoting these words, adds:—“In other words, a man who is not a

Baptist!” A man is not a Baptist, *ergo* he is *heterodox*, is the view which is hereby implicitly attributed to our officers. In this we recognize another pitiable and pusillanimous attempt to cast a slur upon the management of our College. Up to this point we had some faith in the *Gazette's* pretended love of fair dealing; but its despicable effort to thrust such trash as the above upon our countrymen as matter of weight, destroys irreparably every trace of our confidence in its imposing professions of integrity.

The *Gazette* continues:—“If *this* is not a religious test, there is no such thing as a religious test in this world.” Undoubtedly,—if such test *existed* in connection with our institution. But we have both *precept* and *example* for the utter refutation of this gross implication. In the *first* place, section 8 of the “Act for incorporating the Queen's College (Acadia)” reads as follows:—“Be it further enacted, that *no Religious Tests* or subscriptions shall be required of the Professors, Fellows, Scholars, Graduates, Students or Officers of said College; but that all the privileges and advantages thereof, shall be open and free to all and every Person and Persons whomsoever, without regard to Religious Persuasion; and that it shall and may be lawful for the Trustees and Governors of the said College, to select as Professors and other Teachers or officers competent persons of any Religious Persuasion whatever, provided that such Person or Persons shall be of moral and religious character.” The several emendations of the Act which have since been made, have not affected this clause in any respect: it still remains the unshaken basis upon which our Governors take their stand against the assaults of those who rush upon them with the abortive cry, “You require religious tests.” In the *second* place, not long ago a Presbyterian occupied one of our professorial chairs, discharging his duties with great ability and to the satisfaction of all parties; and at the present time we have a professor who is not a Baptist, yet we can assure the *Gazette* that his services are esteemed none the less on that account.

Our support of the statement that Dalhousie is “simply a Presbyterian College” will be found in another column. The “Theologico-arts” cry we also attend to elsewhere; nevertheless, one question raised by “the opposition” may as well be answered here. We are asked “to explain how young men come out preachers and settle down in different parts of the country immediately after taking their Arts' degree at Acadia.” The answer is simply this:—They “settle down” as pastors of churches without having taken a regular theological course at all, just as several young men have

done, we are sorry to say, without having first taken even an *Arts'* course. Students who feel able to do some *extra* work may take studies in Theology: so also may those pursue “extras” who are not theologically inclined; but in neither case do these extra studies cancel a *single requirement* of the regular Arts' course. The asseveration, therefore, that “students pass in *both courses*” in the space of four years, is a bold mis-statement of facts.

The money question we couple with the consideration of the “Presbyterian College.”

The *Gazette*, eager to evince its perspicacity, next professes to discover enormous discrepancies between our course as laid down in the Calendar, and as carried out in practice. First, as to the length of our course of study. If it had been stated that some of our students have not always returned to the college at the beginning of the year, the remark would have been quite true. Not content with this, however, it flings at us the charge that “many have obtained a degree (at Acadia), whose yearly attendance has not amounted to four months.” This is a deliberate untruth; and we challenge the *Gazette* to produce *one single instance* of the kind. Secondly, as to our matriculation standard. Now inasmuch as candidates for matriculation at Acadia are thoroughly examined in all the branches laid down in the Calendar as necessary for entrance, and since we are ready to admit that the same is true of Dalhousie, we hold that the fair method of ascertaining which examination is the more difficult, is to compare the respective printed requirements of the two Institutions. Reference to these shows at once that in the various branches of Mathematics and in the Classics their demands upon matriculants are far inferior to ours, and a comparison in the other departments is also unfavorable to Dalhousie. Nevertheless, since the *Gazette* claims to prove much by stating that a person who had matriculated at Acadia failed to “pass muster,” as one of their entered “Medicals,” and that such examination is about on a par with that for their Arts' course, we shall briefly refer to the alleged instance, and mention some further examples. The fact is that the man to whom allusion is made failed to pass a satisfactory examination at *our* board; and if, after taking a *general* or *partial* course here for a year, he did not succeed in entering the medical department at Dalhousie, nothing whatever is proven by the event, except failure in both instances. Two years ago another person was unable to gain admission to our collegiate course, who has since attended the medical school in connection with Dalhousie. Of *his* success there we know nothing. Our opponents have thus miserably failed in establishing