

We offer a word in reply to the October article. First, the *Argosy* greatly deplores the decision of the Convention. Why should she not? A affiliation on the part of Mt. Allison, is a proof of her approval of the new Act of the Government as a wise piece of Statesmanship. By Acadia's position, that act is shown to be unwise; to have been devised in weakness and blindness, devoid in its conception of foresight and comprehensiveness of vision, and a right calculation of adverse, discordant elements; to be in fact a great big baby that sucks the milk of the Province, and lies a good-for-nothing burden on her breast. What folly to enact what the executive cannot enforce. What folly to attempt in a little country to legislate denominations into central boards! which, wherever they have been instituted, even in countries where such a scheme is most practicable, have failed to accomplish their projected ends. Mount Allison no doubt begins to fear that she has identified herself with an impolitic administration—that in fact she has been playing at pitch-penny; heads I win, tails you lose! and she has lost. Entranced by the external glare of a novelty; “dazzled by the gold of the candlestick, rather than the lustre of the light,” it is only in accord with human nature for her to wish Acadia had fallen into the same blunder. Secondly: “Since the students of Acadia are not to have their acquirements tested in fair competition with students of other Colleges, the worth of the degrees must suffer in public estimation. It is only in the Baptist denomination that they will have any weight.”

Wonderful Sapience! irrefragible logic! At what altars were such fires kindled! Not at Whately's surely, for he would call it a clear case of *non sequitur*. The truth of the deduction depends not on their premises, but on other things. Allowing a degree to bear a prestige, to possess inherent or exchangeable value; if competitive examinations were the only standard of their relative value, the above conclusion might have weight. Doubtless it never occurred to the *Argosy* that the merit of a degree depends on the acknowledged worth of the degree conferring Institution. Do the degrees of Harvard, Oxford and McGill, have no value because they examine their own students? No. They have

reputation and character. Shall the degrees of Acadia be depreciated in value because, forsooth, her students do not go up to a little examining board established in doubt and trembling as an experiment, against the multiplied experience of the world? We rather think not. Acadia College has a reputation. Harvard acknowledges her degrees to be worth fifty per cent. of her own—a procedure fully warranted by results. Let Acadia be measured by her Orators, Scientists, and Divines, scattered abroad in three Grand Divisions of the Globe—yes four.

“Only have weight in the Baptist denomination!” Would you, Methodist friend, repudiate Acadia's degree as valueless? When the country sinks to such supreme silliness, well may all who have common sense cry: O tempora! O mores! To sum up it is said, “This may be hard, but it is *undeniably* and inevitably true.” Really now, you don't say so. And alas! poor Alma Mater, how wilt thou bear thy sentence? “Hard but true;” what transcendental nonsense! Tie up that logic with Chinese pigtails, and preserve the specimen in alcohol for your museum.

Grant that the Provincial diploma will be more showy to the unthinking *canaille*; let the men who would be drawn away by such clap-trap, go. We want to catch no such tom-cods in our net. They think more of a diploma than they do of an education, and sport it round as a fop does his gloves and cane. Let them go. They prove that a mere degree has no value of its own; that no worth inheres in the parchment. To such men, who have not the gold to redeem their paper, who are destitute of stock and capital to support and justify their advertisement, a degree is but the credentials of their impotence, the beacon of their insignificance and shame. Men are not judged by a name painted on a conspicuous place, but by their mental avoirdupois in the balance of the world.

Thirdly: It is said that “the Speakers, as if by preconcerted evasion, blinked this part of the scheme altogether, and exhausted themselves in windy declamations,” etc., meaning that they did not touch the vital point, viz, the substitution of a Central Examining Board apart from the College Instructors. Passing by with contempt the slur of demagogism and turgid declamation charged