

**A LETTER TO THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN,  
LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL; THOUGHTS  
OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF  
ACADEMIC EDUCATION IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE; LETTER TO  
PHILOGRANTUS, BY EUBULUS, PP. 1-25**

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# **PHILOGRANTUS & EUBULUS**

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A  
**LETTER**  
TO  
THE RIGHT REVEREND  
**JOHN, LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL,**  
gc. gc. gc.

BY PHILOGRANTUS. Professor Mo.

1870

A  
**LETTER**  
TO  
THE RIGHT REVEREND  
**JOHN, LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL,**  
RESPECTING  
AN ADDITIONAL EXAMINATION  
OF STUDENTS  
IN THE  
*UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE,*  
AND THE DIFFERENT PLANS  
PROPOSED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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BY

PHILOGRANTUS, *pseudon per*

*13p. James Henry*

*Cuncti adsint, meritaque expectent premia palma.*

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1822.

TO  
THE RIGHT REVEREND  
**JOHN, LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL,**  
MASTER OF CHRIST COLLEGE  
AND  
REGIUS PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY.

MY LORD,

HAVING determined to submit to the Members of our University my thoughts upon the propriety of an additional Examination of Candidates for their first degree, as well as upon the different plans which have been suggested for that purpose, I venture to address myself particularly to your Lordship. My apology for taking this liberty must be, the weight and consequence justly attached to your name, arising not only from the high and important situations which you hold, so much to the satisfaction of the public, both in the Church and in the University, but from the judgment, the candour, and the sound sense by which your sentiments and conduct are invariably distinguished. When treating therefore of those studies, in which you have been yourself pre-eminently successful, I am desirous to give my pamphlet some



chance of attracting notice, by inscribing it to the personage, whose example ought, of all others, to be proposed as the object of imitation.

The subject, upon which I intend to suggest some considerations, is one of no recent origin: it has been a very prevalent opinion for half a century, or more, that our University would do well to require from its students a proficiency in some other descriptions of knowledge, besides those at present exacted, as indispensable passports to a degree. It is, however, to the different schemes for the improvement of our system, which have been agitated among us during the last four or five years, that I wish to call attention; with the hope of being able, by fairly and fully stating the merits of each proposed course of proceeding, to reconcile in some degree the present discordance of sentiment. The strong conviction of my own mind, relative to the method which ought to be pursued, a conviction arising from long and intimate acquaintance with academical education, encourages me to think that a fair consideration of the matter in all its bearings will lead others to the same conclusion. Besides, the candid and dispassionate manner in which all discussions upon this topic have of late been conducted, forming a contrast to the heats which, we are told, were formerly excited by the proposal of new regulations, while it is creditable to the present state of feeling in our body, holds

out the prospect of a result favourable to the true interest of these establishments.

You will probably recollect, that in consequence of a very strong and prevalent wish, that our young men should henceforth be examined, previously to their degrees, in theological and classical knowledge, as well as in mathematics, metaphysics, and ethics, there was appointed about three years ago a *Syndicate*, of which your Lordship was a member, to deliberate upon this topic, and to propose to the University such a plan as appeared most conducive to the object in view. The committee selected for this purpose were persons, in whom the senate was as well disposed to confide upon such a question, as in any in its body: long and repeated were the discussions, and great was the anxiety shown to arrange a scheme, which might answer the intended purpose, and obviate as much as possible certain objections urged from different quarters against the measure. Owing, however, to the great diversity of opinion upon some particulars, and an anxious wish to satisfy every scruple entertained in our community, the proposal resulting from their deliberations fell far short of the general expectation, and did not, indeed, reach the views of the Syndics themselves. Such as it was, it never received either the approbation or condemnation of the senate; being stopped by a negative voice in the *Caput*. Several other

schemes, differing materially from one another, have been subsequently brought forward by individuals; but have all hitherto proved abortive. Upon one only have the suffrages of the members of the senate been taken; I mean the plan for examining the students in classics and the elements of theology, and for apportioning honours upon a scale similar to that already established in mathematics: this scheme was proposed in a *Grace* last year, by the Master of Trinity College, then Vice-Chancellor; and, although it met with considerable support, was rejected by a majority of voices in the Non-Regent House. The failure of a proposal, brought forward after frequent consultations with the other leading members of our body, recommended by the high station of the proposer, and still more by his character for ability, discretion, and public spirit, has led many friends of the measure to despair altogether of its success. It is this disposition to abandon the cause, coupled with another circumstance hereafter to be mentioned, which has induced me to send these considerations to the press. My only title to offer to the world my opinions upon such a question, consists in my intimate acquaintance with the studies and the feelings of the young men, during many years spent in the University, in the constant occupation of a tutor and an examiner. Or, if I possess any other claim to be heard, it is the devoted attachment which I bear to our aca-