

—UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—The annual convocation of the University College took place on the 16th instant, in Convocation Hall, University building. There was a fair number of visitors. The matriculants stood on the platform in front of the Chairman. The President then briefly welcomed the students to University College, after which they retired to their seats in the main portion of the hall. Messrs. G. R. Grasset and J. R. Teefy, were then called upon the platform, and read a translation of Shakspeare, Coriolanus, Act V. scene 3, into Greek Iambics. The presentation of prizes was then proceeded with, the successful students being called upon the platform by the professors who presented the prizes.

The President then said that in conformity with a custom that had prevailed he would refer for a few moments to the prospects and condition of the College, but before doing so, he wished to allude to some topics of particular interest in reference to the progress of the schools in the country. It would be observed that an unusually large number had presented themselves this year. Some, however, might not think so, and that the increase was small, but there were reasons to shew that it was the reverse. He then pointed out that the first impediment to a university course was that this country was young, and therefore comparatively speaking, few persons in it who could afford the expense of sending their sons to a University. Many years would elapse before the students could graduate, and they were during the time of study at such an expense that none but those in easy circumstances, could afford to pay. Another reason would be found in the difficulty of obtaining students in the rural parts fitted to enter the University. He did not say that to reflect upon the Grammar Schools, for there were some gentlemen at the head of those schools, that would do credit to any of the institutions of the country, and he found on reference to the printed papers that more than half of the honors bestowed by the University were taken by the grammar school scholars. (Applause). It had been stated also as an objection to sending young men to the University that the plucking process was very much in vogue, and that at the last examination thirty-two out of fifty-five had been plucked. He begged to assure the audience that there was no room for such alarm. The passage at arms was not so fierce as that for the number of dead and wounded did not amount to more than eight. There was another reason advanced why a larger number did not take advantage of a University education, and that was because many of the heads of families in this country had not had the advantage of a college education themselves and could not appreciate its value among their children. He would mention to those who brought forward such arguments that there was not one who had held high positions in the country that did not regret that they had not partaken of those advantages, nay more, he would venture to assert, there was not one of those men who would not be willing to give them to his sons. (Applause). With reference to the increasing numbers in the University, he could see in that fact the increasing prosperity of the country in its trade and manufactures. He need only allude to this city alone, and in its whole streets of houses rising up; projects for the building of railways, which would confer such a lasting benefit on this city and surrounding country, and he might venture to add the prospects of a canal which would be the means of pouring into Toronto the rich products of the West. (Applause.) The learned president then went on briefly to refer to the advantages of a University education, and to the fact that the University had already sent out some graduates, and when a generation had passed away and our young men came forward, few, then, (he predicted) would be found satisfied to allow their sons to remain without a College education. They were then celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the University College, but he looked forward to the time when the celebration would not be the twenty-fifth, but the hundredth, when other ears would be listeners and other lips would be speakers, and that the speeches would be uttered by men whose names would shine like stars in the firmament. He would venture to indulge in the hope that peradventure the orator of that day when he turned back to the history of this institution might offer some kindly allusion or reference to those who had borne the burthen and heat

of the day. Their bones would then be lying at rest, but their memories, he trusted, would be fresh and green. (Applause.) Those who laid the foundation of the broad principles of academic education on the basis of merit alone; those who marked out a course of study for the student as the best fitted for Canadian youth. (Applause.) In conclusion he had one agreeable duty to perform, which was to return their grateful thanks to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, for having honoured them with his presence on that occasion. (Applause).

The Lieut. Governor, on rising said, he begged to assure them that it afforded him the highest gratification to be present at the Convocation of University College, because he had always felt, and should continue to feel, a deep interest in the success of that noble institution, the funds for the maintenance of which were contributed and provided by the whole country. It was open free to the whole country without reference to class or creed, which he held was a correct principle, and he assured them that he should always lend his influence to aid in carrying it out to a successful issue. (Applause.) Three cheers were then given for the Queen, three for the Lieut. Governor, three for the President and Professors of the College, and three for the ladies, after which the audience dispersed.—*Leader.*

—PRESCOTT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting called at Van-kleek Hill, Rev. William Lumsden, M. A., in the Chair, It was resolved that a Teachers' Association be formed to be called the Co. Prescott Teachers' Association, and that its meetings be held quarterly. Rev. Wm. Lumsden, was chosen President, and Mr. Robert E. Hall, Secretary; further, that Teachers only shall be Members, although M.P.'s., M. P. P.'s., J. P.'s., Municipal Officers and School Trustees are to have the right of discussion.—*Communicated.*

—EDUCATION IN NOVA SCOTIA.—We have received the Report of the Superintendent of Education on the Common, Superior, Academic, Normal and Model Schools in Nova Scotia. Mr. Rand gives rather an encouraging account of educational prospects, and shows by comparative statements the great increase of scholars attending school in 1867 over 1866. From the Reports of the different County Inspectors, we should judge that the people are overcoming their objections to the new school system, of direct assessment, and that a greater interest in the cause of education is being manifested accordingly.

—HARVARD UNIVERSITY.—Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D., has resigned the position of President of Harvard College, and various names are suggested for the vacancy. One of the most honourable, a gentleman who would adorn the Chair, is Mr. J. Lothrop Motley, late Minister to Austria, and the historian of the Dutch Republic.

—OXFORD UNIVERSITY, with all its opportunities and privileges, is now open to any student upon the payment of the entrance fee of five pounds, and the yearly payment of three pounds ten. [See page 145.]

—MOUNT SINAI.—Sir Roderick Murchison, Sir John Herschel, and Sir Henry James are a Board of Trustees for a fund to survey the peninsula of Mount Sinai, to determine the true line of march to the Jews, and the true mountain of the law.

IX. Departmental Notices.

As already intimated, a department is always reserved in the *Journal of Education* for letters and inter-communications between Local Superintendents, School Trustees and Teachers, on any subject of general interest relating to education in the Province. As no personal or party discussions have, ever since the establishment of the *Journal*, appeared in its columns, no letter or communication partaking of either character can be admitted to its pages; but, within this salutary restriction, the utmost freedom is allowed. Long letters are not desirable; but terse and pointed communications of moderate length on school management, discipline, progress, teaching, or other subject of general interest are always acceptable, and may be made highly useful in promoting the great object for which this *Journal* was established.