

believe it was a valuable and beneficial institution, and shewed it by the number of students sent to it, that they appreciated the exertions made in it for the diffusion of academic education, and believed that the duty of its professors was faithfully and efficiently performed. On other occasions he had said—and he had no reason to believe differently now—that number was not a true criterion of the education imparted, but it was of the confidence of the public. But many perhaps would be disposed on looking at the facts to say—"You have done well, but this is nothing to what ought to have been done in a Provincial Institution, as this was destined to be by the Legislature, with a liberal endowment for the purposes of education." The answers to these were obvious. First of all, there was an absence of means. In this country, not as at home, there were many respectably off, others comfortably off, and a few very well off, but affluence was not general, and only a few could afford to send their sons to the University and maintain them there for the greater period of the year. And during the past few years this fact had been felt most sensibly, and felt with regard to the numbers sent there as well as in other respects. He need scarcely say that a few years since men's eyes were dazzled with speculative schemes of every kind which had led to distress and difficulty, from the effects of which they had hardly yet recovered. Another reason for the number being so small was the want of adequate preparation on the part of those who presented themselves for matriculation. There was a want in Canada of a sufficient number of qualified teachers and instructors, which fact might be shewn in the result of last year's examination. More than one hundred candidates for matriculation presented themselves, but from an inefficient training one-fifth of them were rejected. Another reason too for a deficiency of numbers was that there were other institutions of the same character in the country. There was Trinity College, a Church of England educational institution; Victoria College, a Methodist; and Queen's College, a Presbyterian; all of which took some students who would otherwise have attended this. They of course shared in the benefits arising from this wide spreading feeling in favor of education. Another reason besides these was to be found in the want of information in the country with regard to this institution. There was no doubt whatever that there was that want of information. Some were not acquainted with the opportunities it afforded to all alike. And there were others who thought that the only object of the College was to educate men for the learned professions. To these he would say that they had no special training for either law or medicine, but that they laid the foundation for both, and gave instruction in those subjects which became not merely the members of these professions but also the merchant and the farmer. In other words, they taught those things which it was essential that a gentleman should know. But, it might be asked, when he stated fairly the difficulties that at present embarrassed and the circumstances that diminished the number of their students, what were the prospects of the future? Most unquestionably he believed them to be good. He believed the difficulty presented by the want of means was being gradually removed. Through the bounty of the giver of all good our hills have been crowned with plenty and our valleys made to smile with rich harvests, the granaries are filled, and the farmers' hearts rejoiced and made glad. The result of such a state of things must be to place the country, and hence this institution, in a better condition. As to the want of proper teachers to discharge the duties of instructors to the youth of the land, every year that want was being diminished by the graduates sent forth from this University; and he had no doubt that with the improvements made by the Board of Public Instruction, the grammar schools would be made highly beneficial. As to the want of information, the very discussions now going on with regard to the University would be productive of good. Now, under such circumstances, believing that these difficulties he had mentioned would speedily be removed, he entertained the sanguine hope that the institution was yet destined to prosper, even in a much greater degree than had hitherto been the case. If compared with the ancient institutions of the mother country, unquestionably the infant Provincial institution presented many great differences; and it presented many points of inferiority when brought into comparison with institutions invested with the majesty of almost immemorial antiquity. With them generation after generation have enriched them by the gratitude of those who remembered what their *alma mater* had done for them. With this, but seven years had passed, and of those on whom it depended for shewing the benefit of its instruction, but few had advanced to that position in life which doubtless they were destined to attain. They were not able yet to manifest in a substantial form their gratitude, but he knew it was their earnest and dearest

desire to benefit to the extent of their power this institution. (Applause.) For his part as year after year he saw men leaving the establishment and going forth into active life to fill those positions to which it might please Providence to call them, he could not but entertain the hope, the sanguine hope, that the time would yet arise—it might not be in his time nor in that of his colleagues—for perhaps the trees of the forest might sigh over the grassy mounds that covered their bones; but still he hoped that the time would come when some son of Canada who pointed to this as his *alma mater* would present to the world an "Athenian Canadensis" in which he might record the names of those who had come here from a distant land to advance this institution and who had discharged their duties with faithfulness and efficiency, serving God, honouring the Queen, and benefitting their country. The President resumed his seat amid loud and general applause.

Three cheers having been given by the students for the Queen, three for the Professors and three for the ladies, the audience separated.

—**BARRIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.**—We learn from the *Barrie Advance* that William Irwin, Esq., M.A., Oxford University, England, has succeeded the Rev. Mr. Checkley as Principal of the Grammar School.

—**PRIZE FOR ENGLISH IN LOWER CANADA SCHOOLS.**—The Rev. Henry Hope, LL.B., better known under the name of the *Old Countryman*, recently announced his intention of giving a prize of \$20 to the best scholar in the French language at the examination of 1863 in the Upper Canada College. The reverend gentleman has also intimated to the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau his intention of giving an equal sum, in 1863, to the best scholar in the English language, in any Lower Canadian School to be chosen by Mr. Chauveau—the competitors to be of French Canadian parentage, and not more than fourteen years of age on their last birth day.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

BRITISH AND COLONIAL.

—**COST OF THE ENGLISH EDUCATION COMMISSION.**—A parliamentary return just issued shows the total cost of the Education Commission from its appointment on the 30th of June, 1858, to the conclusion of the inquiry on the 30th of June, 1861. For salaries of the establishment, the sum of £3,383 13s. 11d. was paid; for inquiry by the twelve assistant commissioners, £7,456 8s.; for statistical returns, shorthand writers' notes, stationer for copying and books, inquiry into educational endowments, travelling and hotel expenses of the commissioners, and office expenses, £1,850—in all £12,689 16s. 11d. This return is exclusive of the expenses incurred in printing and stationery. The account has been made up to the 5th July. There was a balance of cash of £145 4s. 3d. in the hands of the commissioners, which, it was stated, would be quite sufficient to cover any expense to the close of the commission on the 30th July.

—**EXPENSE OF THE INSPECTION OF THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS.**—On the 31st March last, there were employed under the Committee of Privy Council on Education thirty-six inspectors and twenty-five assistant inspectors of schools, at a total cost of £43,565 9s. 1d. Of the inspectors seventeen, and of the assistant inspectors twenty were clergymen of the Established Church. The salary, personal allowance, and travelling expenses of each inspector range from £765 to £1,017; and of the assistant inspectors, from £586 to £678 yearly.

—**CITY OF LONDON COLLEGE.**—A movement is on foot in London to systematize the education of the young engaged in business, and to afford them a place and means of instruction. The plan involves the re-constitution of evening schools on a collegiate basis. At a public meeting over which the Lord Mayor presided, it was stated that more than six thousand young men had been instructed in the evening classes for French and other continental languages in the schools started under the auspices of the Bishop of London. Only £2,500 were desired to put the college on a self-supporting basis.—Speeches were made by several distinguished gentlemen, among others the Bishop of London, who moved a series of resolutions. The Bishop expressed the highest confidence in the eagerness of the clerks of the City to attend the classes, and their ability to sustain and manage schools for their own benefit. He also recommended the work to the clergy of his diocese. Mr. Henry Cole proposed to raise double the sum named above. Subscriptions made already amounted to £1,040.

—**MIDDLE CLASS EXAMINATIONS IN IRELAND.**—Following the example of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, in this country, local examinations were held in Ireland by the authorities of Queen's University in