

MANITOBA.

AN ADDRESS BY MR DUNCAN MACARTHUR OF WINNIPEG,
DELIVERED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NAIRN LITERARY
INSTITUTE, IN THE PUBLIC HALL, ON THE 29TH AUGUST,
1889.

MR CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

Although I am not a public speaker, I have much pleasure in responding to the desire of the Literary Institute to deliver an address on the Province of Manitoba, where I have lived for many years, and about which I may be supposed to possess some accurate information.

Before doing so, however, I would express a sense of the great pleasure I feel in being once more, after so long an absence in my native County and amongst my own people. I see many changes in Nairn, both in the place and in the people. The town has been improved almost beyond recognition, and it well merits the title of "The Brighton of the North," and I am glad to find that the spirit of progress is still unabated, and that it promises to bear as much fruit in the future as it has done in the past. With regard to the people, the changes are even greater still. A large number of strangers have come to reside in the town. A new generation has sprang up since I first left, now nearly twenty-five years ago. The boys and girls whom I knew, have grown into middle-aged men and women, and, alas, the majority of those who in my time were in the prime of manhood and womanhood, have passed away to that silent land, "from whose bourne no traveller returns." As the poet says:—

"Gone are the heads with the silvery hair,
And the young that were have brows of care."

Without being invidious, there is one honoured name to which I must make some reference on this occasion, namely, that of Dr Grigor, who was a life-long friend, I may almost say of every family in this town, and who was perhaps the truest and most constant friend the town ever had; and I am sure his memory will be embalmed in the minds of the people, and that his public spirit and his enlightened policy in public matters will exercise a beneficial effect in Nairn for generations to come.

Now, Mr Chairman, I have already said that I am not a public speaker, and I am here to-night almost by accident, having come to my native land not to lecture, but partly in obedience to the inexorable demands of business, and partly to seek recreation after a long spell of hard work, and to spend a short time amongst