

discussing this question I shall not stop to enquire into the justice of the opinion held by some few, that no rewards should be instituted, but that our youth should be taught to discharge duty without any other incentive than the knowledge that it was duty. Of this it will be sufficient to say, that this theory is contradicted by the experience of almost every one practically conversant with education, and is in direct opposition to the usages of almost all educational institutions in every age. Assuming, then, that it is expedient that scholarships and prizes should be established, and bearing in mind, also, the circumstances of this young country, in which the taste for learning requires to be fostered and encouraged, and in which many of those who devote themselves to its pursuit want not merely honour but aid, let us consider whether this statement as to unprecedented number is borne out by a reference to facts. In the University of Toronto the number of scholarships originally instituted was 90; they have lately been reduced to 61, as the funds were required for the buildings at present in progress. Well, what has been the state of affairs in the mother country in this respect? In answering this question, I shall not refer to the ancient establishments of the United Kingdom, with their long and noble array of professorships, fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, exhibitions, sizarships and prizes, for I might be told, and told truly, that these are the accumulation during ages of public liberality and of private bounty.

I shall limit myself to the same establishment to which I have already referred, as the most recent in our parent isles—the Queen's University, Ireland, an establishment supported by public funds. The functions of that University are similar to those of the University of London, in England, and of the University of Toronto, in this country. With it are connected three Colleges—one in Belfast, one in Cork, and one in Galway. Their functions are similar to those of this College, but there is this point of difference between the arrangements of the University and Colleges there, and those of the University and College here—that whereas with us the Scholarships are attached to the University, with them they are attached to the Colleges. Remember what I have already stated—that the whole number of scholarships with us is 61; and what we are now inquiring is, what is the number in the Queen's Colleges, Ireland? In each of these three institutions there are 55, making a total of 165, a little short of three times the number that we have here; and this, too, be it remembered, in a country where there are many more able to bear the expense of providing their sons with education of a high order than there are, or could be, in this newly-settled land, and where, besides, there flourishes an ancient and wealthy establishment, offering rewards of unusual value and number, with between 20 and 30 professorships, 35 fellowships, 70 scholarships, between 70 and 80 exhibitions, and 30 sizarships. (Applause.) With reference to the number of prizes in the College, I think it a sufficient answer to the objection to state the principles on which they are awarded. In each department, two prizes are annually offered for competition—one amongst the Undergraduates, the other amongst the Occasional Students of each year. These prizes are awarded after the comparison of the results of the two Terminal Examinations in the Academic year, a standard of merit having been previously fixed, regulating the admission into the Classes of Honour, the result of which is, as I have already mentioned, that our prizes are given, not for comparative, but for positive merit. These arrangements relative to the prizes seem to me to be, on the whole, the best which could have been adopted, keeping in view the advantage of encouraging proficiency in each department, and the importance of securing to the students fair and even competition. I may also remark that such arrangements are rendered almost unavoidable by the adoption of the system of options. Another important characteristic of our Institution must also be borne in mind—that we have not here that class of students so common at home; I mean, of those who pass through an academic course, regarding such training merely as a recognised essential of the education of a gentleman—without any care for distinction—without any effort for honors—without any intention of using the knowledge which they have the opportunity of acquiring, in the practical duties of professional life. Here, on the other hand, we have not one who is not desirous of distinction—not one who does not aspire to honors in some department or other—not one who does not feel that, while engaged in academic study he is qualifying himself for the more efficient discharge of the duties of that station in which he may hereafter be placed, and from which he expects to derive his maintenance. But it is unnecessary to pursue the subject further. Let me, however, state, before I pass on, that the expense of all our prizes does not amount to the sum expended on the same object in each of the three Queen's Colleges, and that, too, although each of them has in addition 55 scholarships at its disposal.

I would now, in conclusion, briefly advert to a subject which is always of paramount interest on such occasions as the present. I mean the present condition of our University and College, and their future prospects. During the past year no fewer than between 60

and 70 have been admitted to the University, in the different Faculties. This exceeds any former number. (Applause.) The scene we have witnessed this day, of eight and twenty gentlemen presenting themselves for admission into the College, as Students in Arts, is alike unprecedented in its annals. (Applause.) The number of Undergraduates in attendance on our lectures is 50. This also is in excess of any former year. Within the last ten days we have had an influx of no less than between 60 and 70 Occasional Students, so that I feel warranted in estimating the present total number of such students as little, if at all, less than double the number of our Undergraduates. (Applause.) But are there no other encouraging circumstances which present themselves on taking a retrospect of the past year? Yes, there are; and well worthy of mention too. During the past year between 2,000 and 3,000 volumes have been added to the library, and more than double that number have been ordered. (Applause.) During the past year some hundreds of additional specimens have been added to the Museum of Natural History, and we are still engaged in adding to the number. (Applause.) During the past year we have obtained what we have long wanted, a Mineralogical and Geological collection, numbering some 5,000 or 6,000 specimens, and we shall shortly have as many more. (Applause.) During the past year those buildings—to the foundation of which I referred on the last occasion on which I addressed you—have emerged to view and revealed their massive but fair proportions. (Cheers.) Yes; those rising walls, with sculptured arch, with carved capital, with chiselled shaft, with decorated doorway, with graceful tower, and what is much better, with spacious halls and commodious lecture rooms within them; and what is better yet, with provision for the residence of our students—indicate that the graceful compliment paid on a recent occasion by that accomplished scholar Lord Carlisle, when referring to a splendid addition to the architectural beauty of Dublin:—“*Dignis invitavit Pallada templis*”—may be applied with equal propriety to yonder stately pile, which, we trust, “Wisdom” may choose for her abiding home, as worthy of her presence. (Cheers.) With these facts then in view, can I be regarded as too sanguine if I look forward with confident expectation to the time when we shall have in these establishments of ours—I speak of the University and College together—for they are each the necessary supplement of the other, and must be combined to form a complete academic institution—can I be regarded as too sanguine, when I confidently look forward to the time, and that not far distant, when we shall have a Seat of Learning worthy of the growing greatness of this fair and fertile land; and worthy too of being placed on a level with those time-honoured institutions of which our mother country is so justly proud? Can I be considered too sanguine in anticipating, that some of us now engaged in the administration of the affairs of these establishments, and in the training of their students, shall see the day when our honours shall be a passport to dignity and emolument—when those whom we have prepared for the business of life shall be occupying and gracing the highest positions in the Province—when our *alumni* shall be scattered over every part of the country, each discharging the duties of that position in which it has pleased Providence to place him, with credit to himself, honour to his Alma Mater and benefit to the community—each, to borrow the language of the daily prayer of our College,—“whilst engaged in the discharge of the duties of time, ever mindful of the more important interests of Eternity”—“living in brotherly love and Christian charity towards his neighbours”—“Fearing God and Honouring the Queen.” (Loud cheers.)

Three cheers were then given for Her Majesty the Queen, and three for Dr. McCaul, and the meeting separated.—*Colonist*.

THE FUTURE OF CANADA AS PREDICTED BY A FOREIGNER.

One of the most eminent of contemporary United States politicians, Mr. Senator Seward, has just concluded a tour through the British American Provinces. Though ostensibly absent from home on a simple pleasure trip, in search of health and novelty, it was of course impossible that so observant a statesman could fail to receive impressions from what he saw abroad during the period of his wanderings. The political deductions of his late journey he has communicated to a paper published in Albany, and from which we make the following extract:—

“Hitherto, in common with most of my countrymen, as I suppose, I have thought Canada, or to speak more accurately, British America, a mere strip lying north of the United States, easily detachable from the parent state, but incapable of sustaining itself, and therefore ultimately, nay, right soon, to be *taken on* by the Federal Union, without materially changing or affecting its own condition or development. I have dropped the opinion as a national conceit. I see in British North America, stretching as it does across the continent, from the shores of Labrador and Newfoundland to the Pacific, and occupying a considerable belt of the temperate zone, traversed equally with the