

America. While he is the poet of the Mississippi as well of the St. Lawrence his muse is distinctly Canadian. So has his life-work been. He has not confined himself to verse, but devoting himself, as a politician, to blue books he took the initiative in proposing the winter navigation of the St. Lawrence, the grandest scheme that can be conceived to ensure the material well-being of Quebec. A poet must be a patriot, for the poet is the highest style of man. Frechette's patriotism is not confined within the narrow limits of race and language. It extends to all who are Canadians. Accordingly he understood at once the sentiments that animated us in offering our tribute to his genius. In answer to my communication he writes: "The Senate is giving a practical illustration of the great principle that in the republic of arts, science and literature there is no difference of creed or nationality, together with a generous example of the spirit of fraternal liberalism which ought to unite the orphans of France with the sons of Albion under our Canadian flag." May Frechette bring fresh trophies to Canada for many a year, and may all Canadians, whether of French, English, Scotch, Irish, or whatsoever descent, never forget that, to use Cartier's word, "they are before everything else Canadians."

The Chancellor expressed the gratification it gave him to receive Monsieur Frechette as a graduate.

RECEPTION TO MR. TODD.

Mr. Alpheus Todd was then presented for honours, the Principal reading the following address:

MR. CHANCELLOR — The third gentleman whom the Senate requests you to constitute a son of Queen's, by an honorary degree, is present in our Convocation, and therefore I may not speak of him with the same freedom with which I have allowed myself to speak of those who are present only in spirit. Every one who values British constitutional government, that system which better than any other guards liberty from the despotism of anarchy, which gives room for the free play of popular will within forms strengthened by age and hallowed by august associations, which prevents revolution by sanctioning constitutional development, which rejoices to see the bounds of freedom widen from age to age as

"Freedom broadens slowly down
From precedent to precedent"

while it insists upon maintaining executive authority in undiminished vigour, must welcome an authoritative interpreter of that wonderful constitution as a public benefactor. We live under that political system take a legitimate pride in the thought that Mr. Alpheus Todd, whom all the world recognizes as such an interpreter, is a Canadian. The British Constitution was Mr. Todd's first love, and his latest work shows that he is faithful to the end. More than forty years ago, before May had written his "Usage of Parliament," Mr. Todd, then a youth not 20 years of age, wrote a manual of parliamentary practice, the value of which was so generally and immediately recognized that the Legislature of United Canada, in 1841, formally adopted it for the use of members. In his greater works, published comparatively recently, entitled "Parliamentary Government in England," and "Parliamentary Government in the British Colonies," we have the ripe fruits of life long research and matured thought. Mastery of details is combined with breadth of view, appreciation of constitutional forms with political insight, legal acumen with judicial impartiality. Among other noteworthy features his vindication of the powers and functions of the Sovereign, or of the representative of the Sovereign, is valuable as against the hasty generalizations of a restless age. To him the crown is not merely ornamental. The Sovereign is the key stone of the social and political fabric, giving unity and continuity to the national life, and deter-

mining practical legislation by the subtle influences of tradition and character and the legitimate authority of a personality far removed from the strifes of the hour and and the fanaticisms of party. In conclusion I may add that every one who has had occasion to consult books in Ottawa is indebted to Mr. Todd, for to an apparently limitless knowledge of books he joins a courtesy that enhances the value of the information which he places freely at the services of inquirers.

Mr. Todd, who was warmly received, expressed his great indebtedness for the distinction so honorably and generously conferred. He regretted that his associates in this honor were not present to respond for themselves as gratefully as he was sure they would. Here he recalled a pleasant incident of his first acquaintance with Sir Wm. Young, twelve years ago, and then he said he would take the liberty of enforcing upon the large audience before him the object of his writings—the higher power of constitutional authority. He contended that there was a religion in politics that all men should recognize. The sacredness of authority should ever be highly regarded. He enlarged upon this theme and the need of a higher purity in politics.

MEDICOS' MERITS RECOGNIZED.

When the graduates in medicine were capped Dr. Fowler presented Drs. Gibson and Wallace with special honorary certificates; while Drs. Oldham and McGurn each received purses of \$75 each for acting as Demonstrators of Anatomy in the Royal College during the past session.

PRINCIPAL'S CLOSING REMARKS.

At the request of the Chancellor the Principal delivered the closing address thus:

MR. CHANCELLOR AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVOCATION—It is my duty before Convocation is dismissed to submit to you, somewhat in the form of a report, a brief sketch of the history of the past year, and our present position. Queen's has chosen for its motto the cry of Marshal Blucher. We take no step backwards. Every year we take many steps forward. Three years ago the campus consisted of six acres. Last year the six had increased to nine. At present it consists of twenty-one acres, a campus large enough for all the extensions we are likely to make in the course of the next century. A base is the first requisite in all undertakings. We have secured our base. The citizens of Kingston have given us one new building that has more lofty, well ventilated, spacious class rooms, and conveniences of all kinds for good work than I have ever seen put up anywhere for the same cost or for twice the money. You can hear the hammers of the workmen who are at this moment erecting our modest observatory in the rear. Soon I hope to see additional houses built for professors; a separate building for chemistry, natural history and studies bearing on agriculture and the mechanic arts; a ladies' college; a divinity hall; and all other buildings that should cluster round a great University. We have room for these now. Last year we had not. Every part of our new building is completed and finished except the library and museum. In order to fill the shelves in the lower half of the library we need \$2,000 a year for the next six years. If any one will make a good beginning I offer to join hands with him to close this gap. To fit up a museum is the work of many years, but we require \$1,000 at once to get the requisite shelving, cases, and additions to our stock essential for class work. The physics laboratory is in excellent condition, thanks to Dr. Williamson's untiring energy and liberality. Professor Dupuis went to New York last September to select what was immediately required for the new chemistry laboratory; and next month he proceeds to France and Germany to obtain a complete equipment. To