

In the autumn of the year 1852, application was made to the Provincial Government to recommend to Her Majesty the granting to the College a charter for conferring degrees in the Arts and Faculties, and, as was mentioned before, with success. The Convocation * of the University of Bishop's College, was organized by the appointment of the Hon. W. Walker, of Quebec, one of the members of the Legislative Council, and of the Hon. Mr. Justice McCord, of Montreal, to the offices of Chancellor and Vice Chancellor respectively.

Under the presidency of the latter, the Convocation first met on the 7th of October, 1854, and for the public conferring of degrees, at the commencement of the midsummer vacation, 1855. On the latter occasion there were present a considerable number of members; graduates of other Universities resident in Lower Canada, having been invited to receive degrees "*ad eundem*" in order that the body from which degrees emanated here should include as far as possible the names, and profit by the experience of, those gentlemen, who had gained in other Universities such distinctive marks of learning. The honorary degree of M. A., was also conferred on the Trustees of the College, and a few other gentlemen, distinguished by their high standing in the Province, or for the interest they had taken in the cause of education.

At the close of the year 1853, the Rev. Dr. Hellmuth retired from the Professorship of Hebrew. At Midsummer 1854, Professor Chapman also retired from public duties. On his retirement it was thought advisable to separate the offices of Principal and Professor of Divinity, the duties of the latter being arduous and responsible, and seeming to require the undivided energies of any one man. Accordingly the Principal's services were transferred to the vacant Professorship of Classics, and the Rev. J. H. Thompson, M. A., of Queen's College, Cambridge, and afterwards Incumbent of Middleton, Yorkshire, succeeded to the Harrold Professorship of Divinity and Hebrew, and entered upon his office in February 1855.

* The convocation consists of the Principal and Professors of the College, and all Masters of Arts and Graduates of higher rank, who pay annually to the College for its support 20s. cy. It is presided over by a Chancellor and Vice Chancellor. Its functions are the conferring of degrees, graces, and dispensations, the prescribing of subjects and standards of examinations, the appointment of examiners, &c.

The Faculties of Law and Medicine have not yet been organized.