

by the University professoriate; as regards the exalted mission to be accomplished by the reconstituted and enlarged senate, for the cause of higher education, in the common interest of the various faculties of arts, medicine and law, in completion of the educational work of University and Victoria federated colleges, and in furtherance of the interests of those numerous affiliated institutions which now cluster round this centre—as to the execution of that work, and the accomplishment of that mission, I confront the future, not indeed without some feelings of anxiety, but yet with a comfortable sense of confidence and hope. It is true that the senate is not now an almost homogeneous body, of moderate size, practically representing one single interest, uncomplicated by possibly conflicting claims, and pursuing undisturbed one single end. It has become a large, and, comparatively speaking, perhaps, an unwieldy assemblage, drawn from many different local centres, each with special interests of its own. What then is to be done? Necessarily meeting but seldom, and for a few hours only at a time, its more important and difficult business must be largely prepared by painstaking committees, sometimes circulating in advance carefully framed printed reports, which may thus receive, before action, the consideration of individual senators. The duties of its executive and presiding officers and of its leading members, which in my judgment include the obligation, so far as in them lies, to secure to the senate the opportunity of fairly considering, fully debating, and intelligently deciding on all questions of University policy within its rightful sphere of action or advice, have obviously become even more onerous and responsible than formerly. It may be feared in some quarters that mature deliberation, stable action and orderly progress are impossible under our new conditions; it may be suggested that to avoid factious courses or opposition, to accomplish with rapidity desired ends, or to escape from apprehended difficulties, it is necessary to limit in practice the effective powers of the senate, or to proceed by some crooked or covered way, rather than by the straight and public road. Not thus can we hope to reach a satisfactory issue! Better far to move even slowly by the one path than quickly by the other! But I do not share these apprehensions. I have ever believed, and experience has confirmed the view, that to confidence freely given, to conclusions fully thought out, frankly presented and fairly argued, the senate will accord a just and even a generous consideration and response, and that truth and reason will there as elsewhere in due time prevail. One thing is needful; that we should meet and act in a spirit of fervent and ever-increasing loyalty to the great University, and of earnest and ever-growing determination to guard her interests and maintain her cause; that the steady, constant and centripetal forces of love and zeal for the University should prove stronger than the partial, fluctuating and centrifugal movements of local or personal interest and affection; that we should rise to the height of the great place we fill, and serve to the uttermost the noble cause we represent. To that end I plead for harmony and good-will, for cordial concert and co-operation between our several related faculties and institutions and our various bodies of graduates and undergraduates. Each duly maintaining the special interests of which it feels itself the guardian, let each give generous consideration to the claims of others; above all let each remember that it is a part of a whole, that the whole is greater than the part, and that the general interest should in all things prevail. Animated by this spirit we may, aye and we shall, overcome all difficulties, remove all defects, dissipate all doubts, and cause an honourable and worthy past to culminate in a yet more glorious and transcendent future. May these things be!