

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY FIRE

Beyond the individual losses which Professors and Lecturers suffered by reason of the disastrous fire which, on the evening of the 14th of February, destroyed the noble University College buildings, there is reason to believe that there will be little or no difficulty in replacing all, or nearly all that has been lost. The severest loss, at least to the graduates as a body, is what might be called the delocalization of association. What *has been* for them never *can be* again. The very inaptness even of the local habitation of their *Alma Mater* to modern requirements was a charm. All that remains to them is a cherished memory of what *once was*. But, after all, though this memory is all that remains to them, it is, at least, indestructible—beyond the reach of any agency, save death, to remove. In this connection it is interesting to recall what William Black, the novelist, wrote of the buildings years ago, in his delightful "Green Pastures and Piccadilly." Mr. Black says: "There was one point about Toronto which they did most honestly and warmly admire; and that was the Norman-Gothic University. To tell the truth, we had not seen much that was striking in the way of architecture since crossing the Atlantic; but the simple grace and beauty of this grey stone building wholly charmed these careless travellers; and again and again they spoke of it in after days when our eyes could find nothing to rest upon but tawdry brick and discoloured wood. There is a high tower at this Toronto College; and we thought we might as well go up the top of it. The lieutenant, who was never at a loss for introduction, speedily procured us a key; and we began to explore many curious and puzzling labyrinths and secret passages. At last we stood on the flat top of the square tower; and all around us lay a fresh and smiling country, with the broad waters of Ontario coming close up to the busy town. We went walking quite carelessly about this small enclosed place; we were chatting with each other; and occasionally leaning on the parapet of grey stone." Let us hope that the future abode of the University will be of such a character as to justify eminent men to speak of it in even more eulogistic terms!

THE WORK OF RE-CONSTRUCTION

The work of re-construction we trust will go hand in hand with the work of restoration. The policy to be adopted in the present transitional, not to say critical, period of the history of the University, is one which