

Principal were delivered by His Honor, Lieut.-Governor Archibald, Mr. W. J. Stairs, and Dr. Allison, Superintendent of Education. The *Herald* gives the following abstract of the remarks of the last named gentleman:—

After a humorous introduction he discussed the proposition that "knowledge is power," in relation to collegiate education, holding that much of the literary lumber stored away in the garret of the memory was powerless as anything well could be. He claimed that the alone was true knowledge by whose acquisition power generated—power to do what otherwise could not be done. To this test all our school of learning and colleges must submit. Do your graduates exhibit executive capacity of intellect, power to use their mental faculties with a readiness and vigor which testify to the training which they have received? He used the term power in no narrow physical or mechanical sense. Thought is really the highest kind of action. The age, however, was past which was satisfied to conceive of knowledge as simply a treasure stored away, to be drawn forth from its receptacle for enjoyment merely from time to time as a cow chews her cud, or a clergyman with quiet conscience smokes his pipe. Our age sets value chiefly on that knowledge which is in relation to the activities of man's nature, inspiring, directing, and controlling them. He vindicated the universities of the Middle Ages from charges sometimes brought against them. The best of them in their brightest days were not mere schools of philosophy and theology, but great seats of learning, in thorough sympathy with their age, and teaching ambitious young men whatever they required to learn to fit them for conspicuous stations. He considered at some length the Arts of our colleges, deeming that they furnish an admirable scheme of studies for generic mental culture when naturally and logically pursued. He deplored the fact that so many young men entered college in an unprepared state and therefore failed to derive real benefit from the studies pursued. He was glad that the question of higher education was being discussed among us. It was not for him to predict the issue. On so important a question it was desirable that public opinion should be well developed before educational reform should be practically attempted. Dissenting from the criticism of Mr. Blake, he thought Mr. Gladstone was quite right in considering it important to know whether a given question was or was not "within the range of practical politics." The period of discussion and formative opinion naturally precedes that of action. In conclusion, Dr. Allison exhorted the young men graduating to remember that they now belonged to the republic of letters and to take *Ne quid republica detrimenti caperet* as their motto. Let them look at the future with hope, faith, and courage.

THE NEW ROYAL ACADEMY.

The Marquis of Lorne signalized the earlier part of his *régime* here by establishing a Canadian Academy of Arts and he has just made an attempt to signalize the latter part of it by establishing a Royal Academy of Literature and Science. It remains to be seen yet whether the Academy of Art will take root in Canadian soil, fashioned, as it is, on the lines of an ancient institution in England; but it is safe to predict that the new Royal Academy will be a conspicuous failure. Such organizations cannot be called successfully into being by the fiat of any one. There must be a field and a felt want for them or they will die of inanition. We have in this country several learned associations of a voluntary character but they have each a *raison d'être* and the new Academy has none.

The first meeting took place at Ottawa a few days ago when the various sections met separately for organization, reading papers, discussions, &c. The sections are four in number as follows:—(1) French literature; (2) English literature; (3) Mathematical, Physical, and Chemical Science; and (4) Biological Science. The proceedings of the general meeting commenced with an address from His Excellency which was followed by papers from Sheriff Chauveau of Montreal and Dr. Dawson of McGill College. The following gentlemen were elected officers of the Society for the current year:—

President, J. W. Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S.; Vice-President, Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, LL.D.; Hon. Secretary, J. G. Bourinot, F.R.S.; Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Grant of Ottawa.

The next meeting of the Royal Society will be held in May 1883.

In the Biological section the following officers have been elected: President, Dr. Selwyn; Vice-President, Dr. Lawson; Secretary, J. F. Whiteaves.

In the Physical Science section:—President, Dr. Storry Hunt; Vice-President, Mr. Carpmal of Toronto Observatory; Secretary, Prof. Cherriman.

In the French section:—President J. M. Lemoine; Vice-President, Mr. Faucher de St Maurice; Secretary, Benjamin Sulte.

In the English section:—President, Dr. Wilson of Toronto; Vice-President, Goldwin Smith, M.A.; Secretary, Geo. Stewart Jr.

UNIVERSITY OF MCGILL COLLEGE.

Since the last issue of the *SCHOOL JOURNAL* the proceedings in connection with the close of the recent session of this institution have taken place. Hon. Mr. Justice McKay of Montreal, presided on the occasion and there was a large attendance of the *alumni*. Principal Dawson, LL.D., C.M.G., in his report of the session, referred to the number of degrees in the course granted at the close of this session, 75 in all, and to the attendance of students, which had been 374, independently of students of affiliated colleges. The learned principal referred to the approaching completion of the Peter Redpath museum, to be opened on the occasion of the visit of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in August. This would give the University for the first time satisfactory accommodation and means of study for its classes in natural science. It would also give the University the means of aiding the higher education of women more effectually. A less agreeable matter was the financial depression from which the University had been suffering owing to the diminution in the income from investments. This had been met by retrenchments. A public appeal for assistance had so far resulted in an addition to Mr. W. C. McDonald's munificent gift for scholarships, in a sum of about \$20,000 added to the endowment fund, and annual subscriptions to the amount of about \$5,000. The University, however, could not under present circumstances take its proper position without an addition of at least \$150,000 to its endowments. He asked that this should be given within this, the fiftieth year of the University, so that it might commence its second half century with renewed life and vigor. He closed with a few words of congratulation and advice to the new graduates and students.

ONTARIO SOCIETY OF ARTISTS.

The annual exhibition of the Ontario Society of Artists, held during the month of May, was this year fully up to the average in all the departments. This Society has, since its inauguration some sixteen or seventeen years ago, done an excellent work in this country. In reality it embraces in its membership eminent artists all over the Dominion and ought to have been a Dominion society. Had it assumed to occupy the whole field in name as well as in reality the Canadian Academy of Arts would probably never have been organized; and, on the other hand, had the Ontario Society not paved the way the other would not have been as yet a possibility.

All teachers who happen to be in a position to visit Toronto during the exhibition period would do well to call each year and see it. It is difficult to estimate the amount of art education which might in this way be diffused, for a growing acquaintance with works of art is in itself an important means of educating the observer. The School of Design, which has hitherto been carried on under the auspices of the Society is to be transferred to the Department of Education. This institution has not yet been long enough in existence to produce any marked results, but good work has been done in it for some years past, and the training thus imparted cannot fail to have a decided effect on future exhibitions as well as on the application of decorative art to manufactures.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY—COMMENCEMENT WEEK.

During the third week of May the annual commencement exercises of the University of Victoria College came off with even more than the usual *éclat* at Cobourg. These exercises are always of a varied character, Commencement being at Victoria much more of a "red-letter" season than it is in any other college in the Dominion. The inauguration of the proceedings took place on the evening of Sunday the 14th of May, when the Rev. Dr. Stevenson of Montreal preached an eloquent *baeca* laureate sermon on "The Ideal in Life," and President Nelles gave the farewell address and counsel to the graduating class. It is needless to say that both efforts were of a high order of merit both intellectually and morally. On Monday afternoon Dr. Stevenson delivered a public lecture on "John Milton" to a crowded audience in "Alumni Hall" and in the evening the Literary Society gave in the same place a varied intellectual and musical entertainment. On Tuesday afternoon there was also a meeting of the "Theological Union" at which an able paper on "The Certainties of Religion" was read by the Rev. J. A. Williams, D.D. On Wednesday afternoon the annual meeting of the Science