

tatives of the leading denominations. To-day we welcome those whose presence in our Convocation gives the assurance that this exception is no longer to exist. To the representatives of Victoria College, accordingly, we tender to-day our cordial fraternal greetings. We are prepared to welcome the transfer of Victoria College to Toronto with as full an equipment in the faculty of Arts as experience shall prove to be desirable. We have no wish to hamper them in their desire to exercise every function of an independent affiliated college, in the same way as is already fully accorded to Woodstock and St. Michael's Colleges. We only need the completion of this union in the same spirit as has characterized previous steps, to present to the younger provinces of Canada, and to the world at large, a national university system of which Ontario may well be proud. Whether, henceforth, the teaching staff maintained by national endowment be designated a university or a college professoriate, the entire compass of its instruction must be equally accessible to all who are willing to avail themselves of it; and the interests of the whole people require that it shall be sustained in thorough efficiency in every department of a liberal education. There are no such things as denominational diversities in classics or mathematics, in the modern languages or the natural sciences. Now as heretofore, this institution—under whatever name—must be able to place the highest educational advantages within reach of all, whether as students or instructors, without distinction of party, race or creed. But along with this the religious convictions of a Christian people receive their just recognition, in the part assigned to the representatives of denominational colleges in the University Senate. Questions of creed or church government, on which they

differ, can play no part in our deliberations. But we are at one in recognizing that without moral culture mental breadth is unattainable, and intellectual acquirements are of little avail. Still more, we unite in the conviction that the one standard of moral excellence worth aiming at is that which we owe to the Great Teacher, even Christ. These are no novel features in the system of national education which this college represents; nor has it failed to commend itself to the people of Canada. It has already stood the test of time sufficiently to prove that it is no failure. The sons of our first graduates have followed their father's steps. I have witnessed the best of all evidence of practical approval of the work done in this college, by seeing two generations, in ever increasing numbers, enter and proceed to their degree. In that period we have advanced in all ways, in healthful progress and in increasing efficiency. We have been met with bitter opposition, and assailed in forms best calculated to enlist the blind forces of unreasoning prejudice against us. Yet to-day we welcome the largest number of new entrants ever admitted to this college; while our influence has been owned in the elevation of the whole standard of higher education, not in this Province only, but throughout the Dominion; and while we have resolutely maintained its strictly national and unsectarian system, we rejoice to find it more than ever recognized as one in which the largest and most influential bodies of Christians can heartily cooperate. To visitors from other provinces and from foreign lands, I am accustomed to point with pride to the affiliated colleges and theological schools of different denominations that surround the university park; and I shall look with no less cordial feelings on the stately building which the friends of Victoria College pro-