

## MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

Mr. Chancellor—I rise, in obedience to your injunction to do my best to fulfil the duty which falls annually upon some member of the College, to lay before the Convocation a brief statement of the progress and prospects of the Institution. I very much regret, Sir, that your choice should have fallen upon me, not only from a very sincere distrust of my own powers of oratory, but because I think that one remark which I have to make would have been more in place at a later period of the day, when the prizes are to be distributed to the pupils of the Junior Department. As I am connected with this College almost exclusively as being Rector of the School, I must ask your indulgence if I confine my observations to the Department over which I have the honour to preside.

It may be well, Sir, in the first place, as we are honoured to-day with many visitors to whom our history is unknown, to say a few words as to the origin and progress of this School. It is not, I believe, generally known that it was the original design of the venerated Founder of this University that there should be always in connection with it a Grammar School, to serve as a kind of feeder to the College properly so called. Such a School has existed, though with some interruptions, from the foundation of the College to the present day; but it seems to have experienced the fluctuations which commonly attend the career of any private School, depending for its prosperity entirely upon the ability and character of the Head for the time being. But about seven years ago, the Corporation of the College, wisely, as the event has proved, determined to strengthen and make closer the connection between the College and the School, and arranged that School and College should be henceforth under one management, and gave to the former the name of the “Junior Department” of the College, and provided that the Head Master or Rector, should rank and receive salary as a Professor of the College. The School, which had been for some time discontinued, was placed under the care of the present Bishop of Quebec, as the first Rector. He opened the School with eight pupils in a comparatively small building in the village. That was, as I said, some seven years ago. Since that time, the present large School-building has been erected, and the two Departments more thoroughly united in their working. The eight pupils have grown into, and the semi-private School into, we hope, one of the institutions of the country. It may be well for us to ask what are the causes of this rapid progress; what hopes we may reasonably entertain that our hold of public favour may be as permanent as it has been hitherto satisfactory?

On one—the most obvious and principal—cause of that progress, the presence of his Lordship the Bishop of Quebec will not allow me to speak at length. Nor indeed is it necessary to do so. Any one who knows anything of the history of this School knows well what it owes to its first Rector. And allow me, Sir, here to say once for all, that if I venture here to speak of the success and prosperity of our School, I feel that I can do so without any affectation of modesty, because the results so far are rather those of my predecessor's labours than of my own, and that the very utmost that I can be supposed to claim for myself is that I have not as yet succeeded in spoiling the Bishop of Quebec's work. It is to the energy and ability with which he ruled this Institution that we must, without question, attribute in the first place its sudden rise in popular favour. Another reason of our success lies no doubt in the beautiful and healthful position in which we are placed, which we may well rejoice that to-day's brilliant sun has exhibited to our illustrious visitors in its fairest colours.—We may, I think, feel confident that there will always be many parents who will prefer for their boys our pure air and green fields to the streets of a city, and will value for them an escape from those evil lessons which are, unhappily, only too quickly learned in our large towns.

But, Sir, apart from these considerations, there are two great reasons