

## THE MEETING OF CONVOCATION.

A meeting of Convocation was held Friday night in the lecture room of the Canadian Institute for the express purpose of considering the proposed scheme of university confederation. The meeting was smaller than it should have been, but it was fairly representative of both Toronto and the Province at large, as well as of the various faculties of the University. Amongst those present were David Blain, LL.D., who in the absence of the Chairman, Chancellor Boyd, was chosen to preside over the meeting; Prof. Loudon, Dr. Ellis, A. Marling, LL.B., Dr. Buchan, W. Dale, M.A., Dr. Kelly, A. Baker, B.A., W. H. Vandersmissen, M.A., E. B. Edwards, M.A., C. R. W. Biggar, M.A., A. McNabb, M.A., E. R. Cameron, M.A., W. Fitzgerald, M.A., T. C. L. Armstrong, M.A., R. E. Kingsford, M.A., J. H. Hunter, M.A., John King, M.A., W. Houston, M.A., T. Macbeth, M.A., etc., etc.

Mr. Biggar moved the first resolution, and supported it with a few practical and congratulatory remarks. The scheme proposed, though not all he would like to see it, is the best yet suggested, and marks a great advance in the history of higher education in the Province. The resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Edwards, is as follows:

Convocation approves of a federal union of colleges with one common university, as embodied in the memorandum of the Hon. the Minister of Education; provided that the legislature to that end shall secure the permanent maintenance of Toronto University and University College, as non-denominational state institutions, in a condition of efficiency commensurate with the growing needs of the country.

Mr. Edwards in his address commented on some features of the scheme which appeared to him most worthy of approval, and on some others which were of the nature of defects, his conclusion being that on the whole it was worthy of the support of Convocation.

Prof. Loudon explained that the scheme involves an annual expenditure, in addition to the present revenue of the Provincial University and College, of at least \$40,000. He explained further that the scheme would increase rather than impair the efficiency of University College, that the faculty of the College and the University professoriate would be presided over by the same person, the President of University College, and that the College would continue to occupy its present building. In answer to a number of questions from various members of Convocation, Mr. Loudon gave other explanations which in the aggregate threw a great deal of light on its various provisions.

Mr. Houston gave a few figures to show that if Toronto University and Victoria University were to unite, the confederated institution would have at the outset 75 per cent. of the head-masterships of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes in the hands of its graduates.

Dr. Ellis thought there need be no more friction between the faculty of the University College and the faculty of the University professoriate than there is now between the faculty of the College and that of the School of Practical Science.

After some further discussion the resolution was carried unanimously.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to watch the progress of any legislation to give effect to the scheme, five to form a quorum: Chancellor Boyd, Prof. Loudon, Dr. Blain, Dr. Kennedy, Messrs. E. R. Cameron, Biggar, Kingsford, Edwards, Houston, Delamere, King, Maclean, Creelman, Paterson, and Dr. Kelly.

The retiring members of the Executive Committee were unanimously re-elected. The meeting then adjourned.

## MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

At the regular meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society held on Tuesday evening, the President, Professor Galbraith, read a paper on Elementary Dynamical Principles, giving prominence to Newton's Laws of Motion, and shewing that D'Alembert's principle is included in the Third Law.

Mr. W. J. Loudon, B.A., shewed, by means of the Drummond light, some photographs of the solar spectrum, exhibiting Fraunhofer's lines. Problems were solved by Messrs. Bowerman and Loudon.

S. K. Martin was elected Corresponding Secretary, that office being vacated by Mr. Allison's absence from College.

## NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting of the Association was held in the School of Practical Science on Tuesday evening, the President, Prof. R. Ramsay Wright, in the chair.

Mr. T. H. Lennox read a paper entitled "Selachians in the Corniferous," which, after giving a brief outline of the fossils of the Devonian Formation, dealt more especially with the teeth and fin-rays of fossil sharks. The author exhibited a spine of *Machaeracanthus Sulcatus* procured by him from the outcrop of the corniferous strata at St. Marys.

"Chemia" was the title of a highly interesting and historical essay on the derivation of the word chemistry, read by Mr. F. J. Roche. It

gave a clear and succinct account of the various arguments *pro* and *con*. brought forward in favor of the different views held on this subject.

The President exhibited to the Association some specimens of Blind Fishes which had recently arrived from the Mammoth Cave.

It is to be much regretted that the attendance at the last two meetings has been so small.

Besides the great benefit to be derived by Science men from hearing such instructive papers read, it is not encouraging, to say the least, to those who prepare papers for the Society to meet such small audiences.

Every undergraduate in the Science course ought to show his interest in the Association, as well by his attendance at meetings as by his contributions to its literary programme, and it is only by so doing that the Society will become the real help to the present Science students which it has been to those of the past.

## THE FORUM.

This Society met again last Saturday night in Wolsely Hall, corner Yonge and Gerrard streets. Although the number present was not large, the meeting was most successful, many speakers coming forward for the first time. Messrs. Stewart, Ferguson, Buckingham, Boulbee, Nicholson, Jones, Grant, Bradley, McMillan, Hull, Witton and Stone all took part in the Debate upon the Address, but none of the Reform majority could be persuaded to alter their opinions.

The next meeting will be held next Saturday, the 14th. The Government will bring in a Prohibition Bill.

## MCMASTER HALL NOTES.

Mr. F. T. Tapscott, we regret to say, sprained his ankle while playing football on Wednesday afternoon.

The *Cos Ingeniorum* Literary Society met as usual on Friday evening and discussed the relative merits of ancient and modern orators.

Miss Churchill entertained the students of this College on Wednesday evening, giving a number of practical hints on the subject of elocution, and reciting several selections to illustrate the point which she wished to make.

There are those who relate, we almost think speaking in joke, that not many days ago two youths, inhabitants of this place, rose very early in the morning in order that they might amuse themselves by skating on a sheet of ice not far off by very much, and that they were obliged to return sooner than they had anticipated, although not being willing to go away. The authors of this tale likewise say that the youths have since spoken very harsh things concerning land having been divided, and men possessing it for themselves alone. As to these things, whether the matter has itself thus or not, we are unable to say.

## Editor's Table.

The proverb that "a prophet is not without honour save, &c.," seems to meet with exceptions, at least as far as we are concerned. In confirmation of our opinion, we refer the reader to the notice which the *Dalhousie Gazette* gave of our Christmas number, and to the following, which we take from the January *Acta Victoriana*:

"Of all our exchanges, THE VARSITY is to be complimented on its Christmas number. It contains the productions of several able writers, among others, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Hodgins. Its best articles are, 'College Chums and Friendships,' 'American Poetical Literature,' 'The Place of Political Science,' a poem on 'The Happy Family,' and a lengthy criticism on 'Joaquin Miller' and his writings."

Mr. Labouchere, editor of *London Truth*, and M. P. for Northampton, is very fond of poking fun at the proverbial ignorance of London editors in matters colonial. *Truth* recently printed an account of the discomfiture of a spiritualist "at Ontario, in Canada"! But apparently English editors are not the only ones who are not familiar with the geography of our Dominion. Our esteemed contemporary, the *New York Independent*, in referring in its last issue to the proposed University confederation, speaks of the "Province of Toronto!"

One of the books recently come to our table is "Lorenzo, and other Poems." As the work, we believe, of a Toronto graduate and a Canadian, we naturally looked upon it at first with considerable sympathy. There is so little actual Canadian literature that almost every attempt