

there was a large attendance of those interested. The Rev. Dr. Cook, as Principal, closed the proceedings of the day and of the session, with an able address. The Senatus conferred the degree of A.M. on Robert Campbell, Drummond, C.W., and the honor of B.A. on Daniel J. MacDonnell, with honors in all classes; Archibald Currie, James Douglas, Edmund J. Hooper, and Joshua Fraser.

The Degree of M.D. was conferred upon the following gentlemen:—John R. Benson, B.A., Alexander Bethune, R. H. Davis, Henry Evans, William W. Elmer, Joseph Hackett, Donald Henderson, William Mostyn, George Smith, John Sweetland, and Michael Sullivan.

— COLLEGE RETURNS.—It gives us much pleasure to find, from returns lately laid before Parliament, that the following Institutions are in a highly prosperous condition; and that they received such large additions to the number of students during the past year. From the Report of the Senate of the University, and other information, we find the numbers were as follows:—

University of Toronto	113
University College (nearly)	200

Of this large number, about 50 or 60, whose names appear as students in the Faculty of Arts in the University, attended University College, making the actual number of students attending the different departments of the University, including Upper Canada College, over 500.

The several faculties were thus represented in the University:—

	Matric.	Other years.	Total.
Law	24	12	36
Medicine	4	9	13
Arts (and Agric.)	33	31	64
Total	61	52	113

Of the Faculties, University College only gives instruction in one—the Faculty of Arts—and in that Institution the numbers are:—

	Matric.	Stud.	Occ.	Stud.	Total.
Arts	60	50	90 (nearly)		200

While on this subject we may mention that by our late English papers, an order of the Queen in Council has been passed, conferring great and important privileges on the graduates of the University of Sydney, Australia, which, we trust, will also be extended to those of our national University. The published notice is as follows, dated:—

Downing Street, March 1: "The Queen has been graciously pleased to direct that letters patent be passed under the Great Seal, granting and declaring that the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Laws, Doctor of Laws, Bachelor of Medicine, and Doctor of Medicine, already granted or conferred, or hereafter to be granted or conferred, by the Senate of the University of Sydney, in the colony of New South Wales, shall be recognised as academic distinctions and rewards of merit, and be entitled to rank, precedence, and consideration in the United Kingdom, and in the colonies and possessions of the Crown throughout the world, as fully as if the said degrees had been granted by any University of the United Kingdom."

We are aware that a movement originated last year among the graduates of the University of Toronto, for the recognition of their degrees and certificates in the Royal Charter, about to be granted to the University of London, and that application was made to the Imperial Government through the Governor General for that purpose. The privileges conferred by the above order in Council, are, however, more extensive, and apply to all the Universities and learned professions in the United Kingdom and Colonies.

The Canada Official Gazette contains a notice from Lord Stanley, the Colonial Secretary for England, stating that "directions have been given by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for the University of Toronto to be named among the affiliated institutions in the new charter now in preparation for the University of London." The despatch is dated 31st March.

From the Returns made by other collegiate institutions, under a recent statute, we find the following numbers:—

	Under 16 years.		Over 16 years.		Total.
Victoria.....	39	..	248	..	287
Queen's.....	5	..	102	..	107
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	44		350		394
	Arts.		Theology.	Medicine.	Total.
Victoria College	not given		0	50	
Queen's.....	37	..	10	60	107

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

— UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—Before the late Ministry went out of office the new royal charter of the University of London was issued. All graduates of a certain standing will be incorporated in the university, and summoned at least once a year to meet in Convocation. The chief powers of Convocation will be to discuss and declare its opinion upon any matter relating to the university. The Senate will continue, as hitherto, the governing body, though subject to the influence of the expressed opinion of the Convocation. In future no new charter can be accepted, nor can any charter be surrendered by the university without the consent of the Convocation. It is understood that in any forthcoming Parliamentary Reform Bill the university will be admitted to the elective franchise.

— ENDOWED SCHOOLS OF IRELAND.—The Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Endowed Schools in Ireland have reported. Three of them recommend that the diocesan schools and free schools, together with a great number of other lesser foundations, be all placed under a general board, which is to replace the present Education Board; that the grammar schools and higher class schools constitute, in connection with the primary schools, now under the Board, a series of progressive schools for united secular education; and that the exhibitions in connection with Trinity College, now given to pupils of the royal schools, be increased and opened to all classes. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Stephens do not concur in the report.

— IRISH SCHOOL SYSTEM TO BE MAINTAINED.—On Friday, 19th of March, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Derby stated, in reply to an enquiry, that government would not be parties to any measure which would impair the efficiency of the system of education established for quarter of a century in Ireland. He said:—I think that the noble marquis must be under a misapprehension with regard to the observations of one of the members of the Government on this subject, because most certainly no such determination as that which he supposes to have been intimated has been come to on the part of Her Majesty's Government. I believe that, whatever differences there have been with regard to the merits or defects of the system of national education established in Ireland for the last quarter of a century, there is not, even among those who have been its most determined opponents, any one who does not admit that in its practical working it has very materially increased, and moreover improved, the character of education in Ireland. (Cheers.) I admit, for my own part, that I very much regret, first of all, that the system of united education, which was intended to be national, has to a very considerable extent failed to realize the expectations of its promoters. Next, I regret very much that, in consequence of scruples (which I respect, although I do not share in them), the clergymen of the church of England and Ireland have not taken that part in support of the system which I think they might have taken with great advantage to those under their spiritual care. (Cheers.) I regret also that in so large a portion of the schools support has been given to the arguments of those who are opposed to them, and that, in fact, in the great bulk of the schools, contrary to the intention of those who originally proposed the system, not only is no religious education given, but no facilities even are given for separate religious instruction by the ministers of different persuasions out of the school hours. A great handle has thus been given to those who are opposed to the national system of education in Ireland. Nevertheless, with all its defects I think it is most important that that system should be adhered to, and Her Majesty's Government will not be a party to anything which in their judgment would have the effect of impairing or endangering the continuance of it. I have at the same time to observe that I do not altogether concur with the noble Marquis in saying that that determination wholly excludes from the consideration of the Government the question whether it may be possible, consistently with the present system, to afford any assistance on the part of the State to schools founded on a different principle, even though to a certain extent that support might be in violation of the principle of the existing system. (Cheers.) I think that we are agreed upon that point. A committee sat upon the subject some few years ago, and although they very carefully considered it, yet, I very much regret to say, no report was made by them. They, however, I think, assented to the principle of giving some state assistance to schools of a different character, and carried on upon different principles; and I think I may say that even my noble friend, the then head of the Privy Council, was not unfavorable to that principle. But I am prepared distinctly to say this—that Her Majesty's Government have come to no decision upon that subject (hear, hear); that they are determined to do nothing which in their judgment may imperil the existing