

Education.

KING'S COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT — ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE CHANCELLOR.

(Reported for the *Globe*.)

Thursday was the day appointed for the annual convocation of King's College, Toronto, for the purpose of conferring degrees, &c.; and the occasion was looked forward to with peculiar interest, from the fact that his Excellency the Governor-General was to be present in his capacity of Chancellor of the University, to take part in the ceremonies of the day.

About noon, his Excellency, accompanied by the Hon. Colonel Bruce, arrived at the Yonge-street wharf, from Drummondville, on board H. M. steamship *Cherokee*, and was received by the Rev. Dr. McCaul, Vice-Chancellor of the University. A guard of honour of the Rule Brigade was in attendance, and the band struck up "God save the Queen" as his Excellency landed. His Excellency immediately entered an open carriage that was in waiting, with the Rev. Dr. McCaul, and drove rapidly off along Front-street, towards Ellah's Hotel, amidst the respectful salutations of the spectators.

The convocation was held, as usual, in the chamber of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament Buildings, and shortly after the doors were thrown open—at half-past one o'clock—every inch of the space allotted to visitors was densely crowded. We observed a very large number of ladies present, who appeared to watch the proceedings with lively interest.

Shortly before three o'clock, his Excellency the Chancellor, accompanied by the officers and professors of the University, and the graduates and under-graduates, together with the masters of Upper Canada College, entered the hall and took their respective stations.

His Excellency, who looked remarkably well, wore the handsome costume of Chancellor of the University, viz., robes of purple velvet with gold border, and cap with gold tassel; his Lordship also wore the star and ribbon of the Order of the Thistle.

After the presentation of a Latin address to the Chancellor, to which his Excellency replied in Latin, the business of the day commenced.

The recitations were highly creditable to all concerned in them, especially an original English poem on Sir Robt. Sale, by T. A. Hudspeth, B.A., which elicited very great applause. The certificates of honour and medals were presented to the successful competitors by his Excellency the Chancellor, who accompanied them with an appropriate address. The prizes were presented in like manner by the respective professors, who complimented the students very highly on their proficiency and application.

At the close of the proceedings, which were throughout of a very interesting and imposing character, his Excellency the Chancellor rose and addressed the audience in a clear and distinct voice. He said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am informed by the Rev. Vice-Chancellor, that it is customary on these occasions for the person who has discharged the functions of Chancellor, to address a few observations to the audience, with a view of communicating such information as he may be able to furnish, with respect to the state and condition of the University. I feel, ladies and gentlemen, that I shall discharge this office very imperfectly; for, although on the occasions of my brief visits to Toronto, I have devoted as much time as I could spare to the University, to which institution I have always been drawn by a very strong attraction; and although while at a distance from Toronto, I have endeavoured by all the means in my power to keep myself acquainted with its current affairs, I must still confess that I feel that I have accomplished this object less fully than I should have desired; and I

cannot conceal from you my opinion, that so long as the seat of government was at a distance from Toronto, it was not in the power of the Governor-General to discharge the duties of Chancellor of the University in a manner altogether satisfactory to himself or beneficial to the institution. (Loud cheers.) I am very glad, ladies and gentlemen, that it is in my power to make this avowal on the present occasion, in the presence of the learned professors, and of other gentlemen who are interested in the welfare of the institution; because I can most conscientiously affirm, that no one of them either feels more acutely, or more unfeignedly regrets the deficiency with which I may be chargeable in this respect, than I do myself. I am indebted to the Vice-Chancellor for some information which I shall be happy to give you.

It appears that since the year 1843, when this institution was opened, two hundred and fifty students have been entered upon the books, that seventy degrees have been conferred, that there have been fifteen medalists and four Wellington scholars; and no one that has had the opportunity that I have had, of forming an opinion with respect to the quality of the education which is given here, can doubt that this institution has already conferred vast benefits upon Canada. (Great cheering.) And let me observe, ladies and gentlemen, that very peculiar importance attaches to the cause of education here among us at present. I speak now not principally of the general or common school education in which the masses of the community may participate, but of education in its highest branches—of education of that quality which requires such a sacrifice of time and of labour, as few only of the members of the community can afford to give. It appears from statistics which may be depended upon, that the population of Western Canada has during the last thirty or forty years doubled itself in each decennial period; and other statistics, no less reliable, and indeed the observation of any person who has travelled through the country and seen the excellent houses, the well-cultivated farms, and other indications of comfort and prosperity to be met with on every side, show that individual comfort and well-being has been advancing amongst us with equal strides. (Cheers.) Now, surely under these circumstances, it is incumbent upon us to use every exertion, lest the material progress of the country should outstrip its intellectual progress—lest wealth and luxury, increasing without a corresponding increase in those tastes and habits which accompany a high state of civilization, should, like rank and noisome weeds, spread over the surface of our society. (Loud cheering.) Let me assure you that the apprehension which I have now expressed, is by no means chimerical; for we live in an age and in a condition of society, more favourable to the growth of what may be called the acquisitive propensities—to the exclusive growth of the commercial spirit, than any which has existed before in the history of the world. And what, ladies and gentlemen, does that history tell us, with respect to the fate of those communities in which that spirit has inordinately and disproportionately grown and developed itself? Even now, we linger with fond affection among the ruins which were adorned by the generous art of Phidias, among groves and temples which have echoed the profound teachings of Aristotle, the transcendent philosophy of Plato, the brilliant and persuasive eloquence of Demosthenes, the fervid lays of Æschylus and Pindar, and the chaste measures of Sophocles and Euripides. Nay, more than this—a lurid grandeur hangs like a halo over the memory of those rude and gallant people, whose deeds of war and chivalry were tempered by a reverence for the beautiful and good, and by a generous spirit of self-sacrifice. But we pass by the monuments of such cities as Carthage and Tyre, and what do we find written upon them, except the solemn warning, "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity"? (Loud cheering.) There are