

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPLY.

After the addresses had been read the Principal replied. He began by explaining that he had intended to give an address dealing with several points that would be interesting to all who appreciated the importance of higher education, and to criticise features in our own system that he considered defective. His recent journey had enabled him to see things from new points of view. He had learned lessons in the old world, and among the new communities that are laying the foundations of empires in South Africa, New Zealand and the Australias. He had followed "the stream like wanderings of that glorious street," where more than a thousand years ago Alfred had provided, amidst the fens of Oxford, a house for scholars, and where now towers and spires, venerable with associations of piety and learning, attracted new generations of students by every influence that exalts and inspires mankind. He had witnessed with interest the efforts that the descendants of the old Dutch settlers are making in the Cape Colony to give the advantages of collegiate education to their children. He had spent hours of delight in the marvellously well equipped museums of Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington, the three principal New Zealand cities which he had visited.

With regard to Australia, he spoke with admiration of the munificent benefactions bestowed on the universities of Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, of the promise that the institutions were giving, and of the lessons which Canadians might learn from them. But while his attention had thus been drawn during his absence to educational institutions and questions, and while he was in consequence more fitted to discuss educational problems than before, he could not help feeling that the present was not an occasion on which jarring notes should be struck. He would, therefore, throw aside what he had intended to say and would confine himself to thoughts suggested by their addresses and by the progress the university had made during his absence. On a subsequent occasion, when addressing the university council, he would discuss the questions to which he referred, and would endeavour to call public attention to mistakes that were being made.

Proceeding he told his friends a secret—his former strength returned a week after he was on the ocean. What was the explanation? He had been made free from grave, moral and financial obligations in addition to heavy professional duties, and free forever. Queen's had, after eleven years, been brought up to the standard of the provincial university literally endowed with a million of dollars by the province. He was not opposed to the giving of the money to one institution, for it secured that there should be, from the outset, a reasonable university standard, and the historical development of the province would determine whether more were needed, and if so how many more. If the result proved that one was adequate to our actual necessities well and good. If other-

wise, the country would be all the richer. It would have in the end three or four universities, each as well equipped as Toronto, without any undue or unnecessary burdening of the general tax-payer.

"Well, last March," he said, "the task that had been given me was accomplished. The work, too, would abide, no matter what became of the present Principal and professors. I went on my long holiday, therefore, free from all care, because conscious that it mattered little to the country whether I lived or died, or what became of me or any one man. A work was done which, to quote the beautiful language of the city address, 'will confer blessings upon society in the distant future, when the present generation shall be forgotten, and the noise of living fame shall have died into an echo.'

"The trustees had also relieved me of all financial responsibility for the future by appointing Dr. Smith general secretary of the university. Its extension will depend upon him, or rather upon the support you give him. We all know that he is the right man in the right place. The feeling that I would be free hereafter to devote myself to higher and, as you truly express it, more congenial work, was enough almost to raise a man from the dead. Do you wonder now at my speedy recovery?

"You may ask, indeed, whether the task undertaken by me was one that should have engrossed all my strength. I think it was. There are features in connection with Queen's that convinced me that it was of special importance to the best interests of the country that it should be preserved, and in order to be preserved it had to be strengthened, at least up to the point which I have already indicated. A self-governing university has possibilities for good that are not possessed by mere denominational institutions; nor even by those specially styled "provincial," in which the whole power and patronage is in the hands of a politician, who may be a scholar or who may be the reverse, and who, at any rate, owes his place to political exigencies. This great feature of self-government Queen's had, in a measure, from its foundation. It has it now in perfection. The government of the University is in the hands of an independent board that makes every appointment and every change solely with a view to educational efficiency, and this board is practically in the hands of the alumni. Its work is for the whole country, without distinction of sect, race, or sex, and its special constituency is the body of benefactors and graduates, the men, that is, who are the fathers and children of the institution. What better constitution could be desired? Essentially it is that of all the famous universities of the old and new worlds, yet strange to say it seems not to be understood by some people, to whom every university must be either political or denominational.

"The possession of a theological faculty as an organic part of the University is also an important feature of Queen's, but perhaps that which strikes outsiders most is