

by senate), 1; Minister of Education, 1; President of University College, 1; elected representatives of Law Society, Toronto School of Medicine, Trinity College School of Medicine, Albert College, Belleville, Woodstock Literary Institute, High School Masters,—for each constituency one representative,—6; Principal of Upper Canada College, 1; representatives elected by University College Council, 2; representatives elected by the convocation of graduates, 15; ex-Chancellor, 1; ex-Vice-Chancellors, 4; nominated by Lieutenant-Governor, 9. Total, 42. The convocation of graduates is convenable by the Senate; but, on the requisition of twenty-five members, convocation has an independent power of assembling, and of discussing the special question for which the meeting was called. The graduates assembled in convocation enjoy the following among other powers, which are specially designated in the Act: “(2) the power of discussing any matter whatsoever relating to the University, and of declaring the opinion of convocation in any such matter; (3) the power of taking into consideration all questions affecting the well-being and prosperity of the University, and of making representations from time to time on such questions to the Senate of the said University, who shall consider the same and return to convocation their conclusions thereon; (4) the power of discussing, upon such terms as the Senate shall propose, the affiliation of any college or school with the said University.” Now here were salutary provisions for keeping currents of fresh thought and intellectual activity constantly flowing through the Senate, and for the healthy agitation of its surface by breezes of academic opinion. Let us see how far the spirit of these reforms has been observed. The minutes of the University Senate for 1877 and 1878 were last session called

for by the House of Assembly, and were brought down. From the minutes it is learned that the Senate of the Provincial University does not usually assemble in the Senate Chamber of the University, but at Upper Canada College. During the two years, 1877 and 1878, only one meeting is designated in the minutes as having been convened at the official place of assembly. The usual hour of meeting is eight p.m.,—only two deviations from this practice being recorded. Twenty-three meetings transacted business in 1877, with an average attendance of twelve members at each meeting. In 1878, the number of meetings fell to one-half; the average attendance of members declined to ten; and, on two occasions, there was but the bare quorum of five members present. At these two meetings, nevertheless, the results of two matriculation examinations were received and finally determined. As the University of Toronto is, by its legal definition, an exclusively examining corporation, it may be inferred how the active interest of the Senate has declined in the discharge of even its chief functions. The same occurred in 1877. At a meeting of five members the examiners’ report on the matriculation candidates was considered, and apparently disposed of. It will be remembered that the Senate consists of forty-two members. The largest attendance on any occasion during the two years was on Tuesday, 5th June, 1877, when nineteen members assembled to handle the heated question of medical affiliation. On this occasion there evidently was a real field-night, and a heavy artillery duel all along the whole line. These minutes of Senate, though not exalting literature, afford much tempting material for criticism. I shall, however, confine myself to a brief notice of the important business that was *expedited* on the four nights, the