

THE VALEDICTORIES.

ARTS—W. J. PATTERSON.

Mr. Chancellor, Gentlemen of Convocation, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In harmony with a time-honored custom, the members of the graduating class of '88 present their farewell address. Scarcely four years have elapsed since first we trod the friendly halls of Queen's. But these have been years fraught with important events, not alone to ourselves and to this university, but to our native land, to the empire to which we are proud to belong, and to the world at large. Princes have been deposed and governments overturned; rulers of empires have gone to their rest, and new rulers have taken their places, Mutual strifes and jealousies have endangered the peace of Europe. While the dark continent of the West has been resisting the advances of civilization, the empires of the East have been opening their doors more or less widely to welcome the onward march of progress. Our nation has enjoyed external peace, and has been slowly, yet surely, attaining to a more complete emancipation. Within the past year our beloved sovereign has attained the jubilee anniversary of her wise and beneficent reign. The great and good of the earth have been passing away, and yet the world wags on. Within our own land these years have witnessed changes of momentous importance. We have had cause for sorrow and cause for rejoicing. Memory still dwells with sadness on the scenes of the Northwest rebellion, even while the heart rejoices at the measure of present prosperity our land enjoys, and anticipates its future glory. Our great national highway has been successfully completed. The East has shaken hands with the West, and continents have been brought into neighborhood. Such stupendous achievements of our race—achievements that eclipse, in their far-reaching consequences, the greatest works of ancient empires—warrant the prophecy that within these walls some future valedictorian will chronicle the completion of a trans-Asiatic highway, when the teeming millions of China and the wild inhabitants of Thibet and Tartary shall be awakened by the screech of the steam siren to the consciousness of a world beyond their own, and when the nations that dwell in darkness, already united by the silken cords of commerce, shall attain to that greater and more glorious unity of common humanity and common brotherhood in Christ.

Nor have these years been barren of progress in our university. Nowhere has progress been more manifest. We were privileged to witness the inception of the great University Federation scheme, and to watch with anxious eyes its later developments. We have throughout heartily endorsed the attitude of our university authorities toward that scheme. We were deeply interested spectators of the proceedings of last convocation, when our jubilee scheme was launched. With our able and in-

domitable Principal at the helm, and so ably seconded by his colleagues, we felt that, if success lay in the region of the attainable, success would be attained. As fort after fort was stormed and captured—or rather, we should say, opened wide its gates to the champions of our university and her honor—and the tidings went abroad, no hearts beat more warmly than ours to hail the success of that scheme; and to-day we heartily join in the universal regret that such arduous labor has compelled our Principal to be absent from this convocation. But faith, hope and charity are characteristics of the sons of Queen's as well as of her fathers. We hope to meet again. To-day we rejoice in the success of that scheme; we rejoice in the prosperity of our university; we hail with thankful hearts her career of increased usefulness. We commend her to those who shall follow us, that they may use well her increased facilities for the acquisition of knowledge, greet with many hearts and true her new professors, and love her to the end. We are proud to receive our degrees from such a university. To-day our earnest desire and hope is that, going forth, as many of us are, into the wider university of life, we may wear worthily her name, guard sacredly her honor, be true to ourselves, true to our God, and thus be true to all mankind.

Memory loves to dwell on the scenes of childhood's days; so ours goes back to the childhood days of our college career, and flits lightly over the years that have since intervened. Gathered from the four winds of the earth (*i.e.*, Canada, of course), what a motley crew we were! There were wise men from the east and staid farmers' sons from the west; there were the favorites on the campus and the favorites in the drawing-room. We combined the wisdom of age with the vigor and agility of youth. As has been well said by a wise senior, we were unique. But despite the heterogeneous character of our composition, we soon were, and remain to this day, a unit, knit together in the bonds of a friendship that has endured the storms of adversity and still remains unimpaired. As a class we were neither a mollusk nor a jelly-fish, but belonged to that important class scientists call erect vertebrata. From our infancy we were able to stand alone. We have boldly reconstructed the *Concursus Iniquitatis et Virtutis*, and extended the franchise in that venerable institution. Side by side we have borne the toils of the class-room, or struggled manfully for victory on the campus. Side by side and shoulder to shoulder we have run the gauntlet of the exams., together have shared their toils and triumphs, together tasted the bitterness of defeat and the sweets of victory. Nor has our class lacked its quota of the fair sex. Tho' not distinguished for number or quantity, the quality is unsurpassed, and we can assure the fair ladies of this ancient city that their sisters are no mean competitors in the race for academic honors.

No greater mistake can be made than to suppose a college course an unbroken flood of sunshine and pleasing