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THE UNIVERSITY IN RELATION TO PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.*

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

The subject of this lecture has been selected on account of its interest and importance at a time when the educational and professional privileges hitherto possessed by the English-speaking minority in the Province of Quebec are threatened with curtailment or extinction; but I shall treat of the subject in its more general aspects as well as with reference to the present crisis.

The original relation of the universities to professional education is probably that which depends on the fact that certain professions are and have been recognized as learned professions which require for their adequate prosecution not merely an apprenticeship to a master, but also a preliminary general education and a particular education of a professional character, carried on by specialists and rising above the possibilities of a mere apprenticeship.

It is scarcely too much to say that but for the requirements of the four great professions of the Christian ministry, education, law and medicine, the older universities would not have been organized or sustained, and in modern times a variety of professions, depending for their prosecution on a training in scientific principles and processes, have been added to these, for which the university must provide. This, let it be observed, is not in the interest of the university or of the professions as such, but of the

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