

switch an inch or two to the left or to the right, may depend the whole character of your future career. And realizing as we do the grave issues dependent on the bias given at this critical stage, I congratulate you, as I congratulate this university, on the successful organization of our Young Men's Christian Association, with its efficiently equipped buildings on the college grounds, and its healthful, moral and religious influences permeating our whole academic life. I have found its operations most helpful to myself in the work of the college, and I cannot doubt that many will, in later years, revert to its timely influence as having helped to arm them with the courage which sustained them in nobility of aim and purity of life.

If we take a just pride in the honours won by our alumni we feel no less keenly any case of moral failure. Let the thought be both a stimulus and a warning to every undergraduate that as the successful student, who wins distinctions for himself, reflects honour on his alma mater, so the idler who neglects his opportunities and squanders the irrevocable hours of undergraduate life in folly or dissipation does a wrong to his fellow-students and brings discredit on his university. On the use made by you of the priceless advantages here placed within your reach will largely depend your power to avail yourselves of future opportunities as they arise. This is a theme that is ever new, as we welcome fresh entrants to replace the graduating class that now goes forth with our best wishes. But also each year brings to the front some novel aspect claiming special attention, and by its very novelty furnishing evidence not only of vitality but of progress.

At our last anniversary I was able to congratulate the friends of higher education on provisions in the University Federation Act which opened

the way for a more comprehensive union of the intellectual and educational forces in Ontario in the promotion of a common aim. I rejoice that now the governing body of Victoria University has definitely accepted federation, and we only wait the completion of their building to welcome her as a member of the National University. I rejoice in it above all, from the assurance that when this federal union is fully effected the cordial welcome that Victoria will receive and the free exercise of every privilege and function of an independent college of this university, which will be frankly recognized as her right, will remove all apprehension and doubt from the minds of her graduates. Were we disposed in any degree to yield to a not unreasonable impatience we might have complained of the operation of an Act which has practically abolished the Council of University College, and yet withholds the authoritative organization of the University Council to which the future discipline and government is assigned. But we have been willing to wait in the full assurance that when federation is fully effected its beneficial results will commend it to all. We have already welcomed those provisions of the Act brought into immediate operation, which restored to us the exercise of important rights and privileges conferred by royal charter sixty years before. The revived medical faculty has been brought into effective operation, and notwithstanding the unavoidable impediments incident to the resumption of such comprehensive work with inadequate accommodation and imperfect facilities, the results have so far surpassed our most sanguine expectations.

Early in the present year the necessary steps were taken for the erection of a building designed, when completed, to accommodate the science departments, with adequate labora-