

incumbency, not a single pupil had a view, either to preaching or teaching. Mr. G. concluded by expressing his unfeigned gratitude to the Supreme Dispenser of life and death, Who had recently, in his inscrutable and mysterious Providence, visited him for the second time with a very sore bereavement, sent, undoubtedly for wise ends, known only to Him who knows the end from the beginning, for having so upheld him under it—that he has been enabled to overtake the discharge of his public duties, although in the language of the poet Virgil,

*Jam jam hæc me cura remordit.*

The Rector again rose to mention that the same honour having been this year conferred upon Mr. Rodger, the boys of the school had determined to present him with a gown. The High School enjoyed some reputation for the proficiency of its pupils in mathematics, of which he mentioned several instances; several pupils from the High School were earning high honors in other institutions. We did not catch the details here, except that one of these gentlemen, Mr. Stephenson, a son of the late Dr. Stephenson of Montreal, was now at Cambridge, and likely to take the place, if not of senior wrangler, at least a very high position. He then called upon the Dux to present the gown.

Mr. Charles Henry then read the following address to Mr. Rodger:— I think myself fortunate, my dear Sir, that being Dux of the School for the year, it has fallen to me to express to you on this occasion, the common feeling of the School towards you. As the University of McGill College, not indiscriminate in the bestowal of its honours, has shown by conferring on you the honorary degree of M. A., the estimation in which it holds your scholarship, it is unnecessary for us and it would be presumption in us to compliment you on that head. But we think that, being your pupils we are quite able, and have some right to express to you the value that we put upon your abilities as an instructor of which the sure evidence to us is, that we feel you have given us a power over the subjects which you have taught us and thus made learning pleasant to us. The patient care which you took in leading us to comprehend one step after another in Arithmetic, Algebra, and Euclid, imbued us with those clear ideas of numbers and space, and that right perception of geometrical reasoning, without which the subsequent study of Mathematics in the senior class of the school would have been tedious and fruitless. We are grateful to you for the discipline that you have always maintained among us—strict but kind and just, and marked by a readiness to believe our word, which has made us feel that it would be a shame to deceive you or wilfully annoy you. The elder boys of the School who are either leaving it or passing from under your instruction, in looking back will always enjoy a grateful pleasure in associating your name with the past. We beg your acceptance of this Robe of your Degree as a mark of our love and respect for you.

Mr. Rodger returned thanks to the University for the degree. Though he should never forget the eminent men from whom he had learned what he knew, at Edinburgh, he felt that it would be his duty thereafter to uphold the interests of McGill College. To the young gentlemen his thanks were also due. Their gift was gratifying both on account of the mutual esteem which it indicated, and as an acknowledgment that his labours had not been without success. He assured the friends and governors of the Institution that it was his most earnest desire fitly to discharge the duties which came before him, and to maintain that discipline without which the progress of the boys in their studies could hardly be beneficial, that respect for order and regularity and that subjection to control, which should always be the accompaniment of the intercourse with boys of parents and teachers. He received the present also as a proof, that if the discipline of his classes had been sometimes severe, it had always been carried on in the spirit of justice and impartiality on the part of the teacher and of respect on the part of the pupils. He then reminded the young gentlemen that they had themselves an important part to play. It was the business of the teacher to lay the foundation and that of the scholars to rear the structure. It was the desire of his colleagues and of himself that what was learned at the school should not only lead to success in the walks of life, but what was still better, should make them good and wise men, taking care to keep as the safest and only guide the dictates of religious truth. He expressed his satisfaction at learning that the balance of the subscription raised to purchase his gown had been made over for the relief of the sufferers on board the *Montreal*. He once more thanked the young gentlemen and assured them that he valued their gift, elegant and costly as it was, less than the sentiments which had prompted its presentation.

The Rector then thanked His Excellency for His presence on that occasion. It was not the first time he had shown his interest in the cause of education, and he spoke not only the sentiments of those present, but he believed of all the citizens of Montreal, when he said that they were gratified to find one who had gained distinction on the rough plains of battle using his high position to give sanction to those who were cultivating the more peaceful fields of education—those were aiding others to climb the steep of Parnassus. He also thanked the parents and guardians of the scholars who had attended that day, and concluded by giving the usual notice about the re-assembling of the School.

## Second Conference of Teachers at the Jacques Cartier Normal School.

This conference took place on the first of June last, under the presidency of Mr. Boudrias. The Revd. Mr. Verreau, principal of the normal school, delivered a lecture on the following subject: "The true teacher for ever a student." An interesting debate then ensued on the several articles of a code of regulations for the Association, submitted by the chairman; which was at last carried as amended on the motion of Mr. Grondin, seconded by Mr. Anger. Another lecture was then delivered by professor Devismes, on the subject of school discipline. The Superintendent of Education addressed the teachers at the close of the conference, on the benefits that are to be expected from teacher's conferences particularly in this country. On motion of Mr. Moffat, seconded by Mr. Jardin, a vote of thanks to the Superintendent, Mr. principal Verreau and professor Devismes, was carried unanimously. Messrs. Boudrias and Simays, were requested to prepare lectures for the next meeting, which is to take place on the 29th of August. The proceedings at full length containing the two lectures delivered and the code of regulations, will be found in the June number of the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique*.

## Second Conference of the Association of Teachers in connexion with the Laval Normal School.

This conference was held at Quebec, on the 29th of July. The proceedings were opened by an address from the Hon. the Superintendent of Education. About thirty teachers were present and they were busily engaged discussing the several articles of the code of regulations submitted by the chairman Mr. Juneau, from ten in the morning to one in the afternoon. The regulations adopted are the same as those of the Jacques Cartier Association with a few amendments and additions. Immediately after, the elections for the year took place. Mr. Juneau, was elected president; Mr. Marquette, vice-president; Mr. Dion, treasurer; and Mr. Lafrance, secretary. Two very able papers were read, one by professor de Fenouillet, on the study of the french grammar, and the other on school discipline, by Mr. Juneau. The Revd. Mr. Horan, principal of the normal school, and professor Doyle were also present and took a share in the proceedings.

## Public instruction all over the world.

It is evident that the subject of education is engrossing the public mind at the present moment in almost every country; and in places too where no one would look for the degree of energy displayed in that great and good cause.

A recent french periodical publishes, for instance, notes of the expedition of Prince Napoleon in Iceland, containing details shewing a high degree of intellectual culture in this almost fabulous island, and quite as astonishing as they are pleasant and consoling. The town of Reykjavich inhabited by only 600 families possesses a college, several elementary schools, a public library, three literary societies, and two newspapers.

From quite a different climate, we receive at the same time tidings of a disposition to promote public instruction and though we cannot concur in the rather despotic and unceremonious proceedings of His Majesty, the Emperor of Hayti, we are nevertheless free to admit that they are symptoms of the universal tendency of our era. By one of His imperial decrees he provides 1st that every father of a family who shall not send his children to school will immediately be enlisted as a soldier. If he is already in the service or has passed the age required for the army he shall pay a fine of one hundred dollars. 2nd., every pupil above fifteen years of age who shall leave his studies incomplete without good reasons, shall also be enlisted. 3rd., every professor or teacher guilty of laziness or of misconduct shall be fined for a first offence, and for the second offence he shall be dismissed as teacher and sent to the ranks as a private.

While Faustin is making such a desperate effort towards educating his people *volens volens*, the minister of war in France makes a report to the Emperor suggestive of measures for the civilization of the Arabs. He recommends the establishment of primary superior schools among the tribes under the name of *mdersas* to counterbalance the influence of the *zawaias*, which are kind of monasteries where the natives are trained in a rabid spirit of hostility to their conquerors; and by the erection of a great franco-arabian college in Algiers, he expects to attract, the young men of the higher classes into the whirlwind of European civilization which will