

Our College Column.

Quiet now reigns supreme in the College halls. Hard work is over for a time. Our students are scattered over the length and breadth of the Dominion. Some are down by the sea, some in the bustle of the city, and some in the quiet of country homes. All are alike eager to be at the work to which they have devoted their lives. We ask the members of their churches to inspire and encourage them, by opening wide to them the doors of their homes and hearts. Some will never return as students. The class of '90 has crossed the line which separates the student from the graduate. We shall miss their faces. We wish them every success in their life-work. It would perhaps ill besem us to expatiate on their worth; yet we must state our conviction, that we have no fears for the work of Christ nor the future of our principles, so long as our College continues to turn out such men. We return thanks to the Great Head of the church for the success and profit which we have received during the past session, under the guidance of our beloved Principal, and his learned associates.

A Sunday or two ago, the writer occupied the pulpit of one of our country churches. He learned that considerably over \$100 had just been raised by them for the College. It was cheering news. Considering the circumstances of the church, it was a grand effort. Would that the spirit animating this people were more widespread! There would be then no difficulty in procuring the funds necessary to put our College on a solid footing, as a seat of liberal Christian education.

As ever, our students have carried off their share of honor in McGill University. The following gentlemen passed for the degree of B.A.: Mr. W. F. Colclough, in first rank honors in Classics; Messrs. J. T. Daley, S. W. Mack, I. J. Swanson, in the B.A. ordinary. In the 3rd year, Mr. W. T. Gunn passed with first rank general standing, being second in his year. In the intermediate B.A. examination, Mr. R. O. Ross likewise passed with first rank general standing, and prize in Hebrew. It is worthy of note, that in both the intermediate and final B.A. examination, Messrs. Daley, Swanson and Ross, take the lead of the classes in Hebrew.

McGill's great convocation of this year marks an epoch in her history. The scenes of the 30th of April will long be vivid in the memories of those present. It is estimated that two thousand persons were present, and that between three and four hundred were turned away. The need of a more commodious Convocation Hall was commented upon. A note of congratulation and satisfaction pervaded all the addresses. Frequent re-

ference was made to the recent benefactions of the McDonalds, Redpaths, and Workmans. The plans of the McDonald Technical Building, which will occupy the same relation to the central college buildings on the east, that the Redpath Museum does on the west, may already be seen.

Our own Dr. Cornish was chosen by the University to deliver the address to the graduates of all faculties. He dealt with the importance of education and intelligence to the maintenance of government, terming anarchy and despotism "the legitimate offspring of national ignorance." Speaking of the recent benefactors of the University, he said, "They contribute to the true greatness of our common country, more even than he who wins new territory by the sword; for they are laying the foundation of a power, greater and more enduring in its results, than that of the sword: I mean the power of knowledge and of intellectual culture." The Doctor concluded with a feeling reference to the loss sustained by learning in the destruction of Toronto University. The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon Lord Stanley. Our College owes much to the fostering care of McGill, and as her sons we are proud of our *Alma Mater*. We rejoice in her good fortune, and pray that God will grant her long life and prosperity.

We are glad to be able to publish another interesting letter from the Rev. Hilton Pedley, B.A., containing the promised account of his field and work in Japan:

NIGATA, March 18, 1890.

To the Editor of the College Column, Congregational College, Montreal, Canada.

DEAR EDITOR,—In my last letter to the "column" I had brought myself in safety to Niigata; and now I shall write a few lines descriptive of the place, and the missionary work. The first thing that impressed me very much was the resemblance between this place and Montreal. At the back of the city stretches a long range of high land that will do for a miniature Mount Royal. Between this and the large river running parallel with the range, is the city, with its 50,000 inhabitants, its numerous one-storied houses, its few foreign houses, and its imposing Buddhist temples. Across the river is built one of the largest wooden bridges in the country, and when my eye rests upon it, I think of old Victoria with its arched floor and massive piers. Beyond the level plain which extends for miles on the other side of the river huge mountains rise that might well make Beluil hide its diminished head.

In the city one sees on all sides signs of foreign influence. The common schools, the Normal Schools, Court House, Parliament Buildings, and last, but not least, our Christian Schools, are all built in the foreign style. Even the prison testifies to the presence of the Westerner. I never go in the street without seeing somebody wearing foreign clothes, even if they are not cut in the latest fashion. The streets of the city are narrow, hard and barren of sidewalks. Rich and poor, alike, walk in the middle of the King's highway, whether it rains or shines; and don't seem to mind it either! The people are dressed in flowing robes of black, or dark blue, and as a rule regard hats and shoes as hindrances rather than