

ORATION.

MR. PRESIDENT
and Alumni of the University:

THOUGH I can claim no lineage, if such an expression may be permitted, with your Institution, yet I may truly say that ever since entering on public life I have taken a deep interest in its welfare. Eighteen years ago, on first becoming a member of the Assembly of this Province, I found the College assailed by some of the public men of the day with a bitterness which it is now difficult to realize: it was saved, but for seven long years it was nurtured in convulsion. The vigorous tree, which now gathers beneath its broad spreading branches many happy hearts, drawing vitality and strength from its precious fruits, was then torn and rent by many a ruthless hand. Dark and cheerless were its prospects: the withering blast and the blinding storm bore down upon it, but its roots were deep and strong: it withstood the tempest, and it now stands forth regenerated and revived. It is well that the trials of this Institution should be known to you. The greatest benefits a country possesses are sometimes jeopardized by those professedly acting in its interests—some from ignorance, some from causes or motives even less creditable.

The early management of this Institution, under its original Charter as King's College, is known not to have given satisfaction. It was complained, and justly, that the large annual subsidy from the public purse for its support produced no corresponding benefit; and it was proposed in the Legislature that that subsidy should be withdrawn, and the amount divided among other Institutions, or devoted to other public purposes. The intensity