

a centre of commerce with the marks of refinement which wealth can purchase, and with all the accessories our modern civilization demands. The buildings of this university have sprung into existence and stand out prominently in the architecture of the city. In this hall we perpetuate in a modified form the usages and ceremonies which, year by year for many centuries, have been practised in the schools of Europe—and to-morrow we will send to the world young men of Canada distinguished by the graduate's degree, to seal them as scholars according to ancient usage.

We still observe the ancient ceremony of matriculation, by which a youth becomes affiliated to the university. Having passed the prescribed examination and successfully matriculated, the student is privileged to wear the academic gown—a distinguishing mark given to us by mediæval Europe—and in itself representative of the philosophic robe in which the student of classic antiquity was clothed. At different stages of student life the dress has been diversified to denote the rank and scholastic status of the wearer. The title of Bachelor was introduced in the 13th century by Pope Gregory IV., to denote a student who had undergone his first academical trial. At that period the Bachelor's title was not of the same value as it has since attained. It has always been the lowest step in university honours, but at first it simply implied an imperfect or incomplete graduate. The very term was held to be synonymous with scholar, and the distinction between a Bachelor and Master has been defined that "a Bachelor is a man who learns; a Master is a man who is learned."

The qualifications of a Bachelor's degree were subsequently raised. After the middle of the 13th century it became a regular academic degree, and it has always been prerequisite to

the second or higher degree of Master or Doctor. On the distinction of Bachelor becoming exclusively a university degree, the formalities of the Master's degree were multiplied by way of giving it dignity and solemnity.

The degree of Master was granted to those who had satisfactorily completed their university course and who were found capable of teaching others. A diploma or license to teach was given under express Papal privileges as a testimonial or attribute of the academical dignity. The candidate at the same time received a hat as symbolic of his admission among the graduates, and from this circumstance no doubt has sprung the ceremony of "capping" the student, observed to the present day when degrees are conferred.

The title of Doctor was held to be in no way superior to Master. However the sound may differ they were nearly synonymous. The term Doctor signified a teacher, and the degrees of Master and Doctor were conferred in the first instances only on those who were qualified by study and training, and had naturally the power of communicating knowledge. The distinction was merely in the application of the terms. Those learned men who taught theology and philosophy were commonly designated Masters, while teachers of law and medicine were styled Doctors.

It was this system of which I have attempted to draw a faint outline that has given to universities the perpetual life which they have enjoyed. The training of men qualified to teach others, the conferring on such men the degrees of Master or Doctor as a guarantee of efficiency has indeed been the means by which the institutions of learning have reproduced themselves from generation to generation as the centuries rolled on.

Although all who received degrees