

REV. DR. NISH.

The Rev. Dr. Nish said he valued the honor very highly because it had something to do with the work in which he had been engaged. He valued it because as a native of Scotland he had received the honour from a Canadian University. There were several other reasons why he valued the honor. In Australia there were several universities. It might be asked why he did not get his degree there. The reason was that the Universities in Australia had not the right to confer theological degrees. They had the University of Melbourne, which possessed the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Law, and received \$45,000 per annum from the Government; the University of New South Wales, also supported by the Government; and the University of Adelaide, which has been endowed liberally by its friends. Dr. Nish proceeded to give instances of liberality on the part of laymen of the Presbyterian Church in Melbourne to the universities. One man had given £30,000 to Melbourne University for the erection of a Convocation Hall, and had given other donations. Numerous instances of like liberality were narrated. Speaking of public libraries, he said one in Melbourne contained 120,000 volumes, at a cost \$600,000, principally raised by annual grants from Parliament. Dr. Nish then referred to the educational system in Australia. Primary education was entirely free, but secondary education was paid for. In order that the poorer classes might have the benefit of the secondary system, exhibitions were provided for, and the winners were sent to the grammar schools and university, and maintained there for five years.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S AND THE CHANCELLOR'S PRIZES.

The Vice-Chancellor then announced that H. E. the Governor General had announced a valuable prize for competition in the University in commemoration of the laying of the corner stones of the new buildings by the Princess and himself in May, 1879. This announcement was received with loud cheers from the gallery. He also announced that the Chancellor had given a gold medal for each year of his incumbency in the office. He would also give three prizes of \$50 each for essays, to be open to all students but especially to those in Arts, Medicine and Divinity.

This concluded the business of convocation and the meeting was dismissed with the benediction by the Chancellor's Chaplain, the Rev. D. M. Gordon, B.D., of Ottawa.

CONVERSAZIONE.

But the affair of the inaugural ceremonies took place on Friday evening. In honour of his election the Chancellor gave a *conversazione* in the buildings on that evening, which was one of the most brilliant affairs ever given in the city. About seven o'clock a detachment of students who had been detailed their duties by Mr. A. P. Knight, the director of ceremonies, arrived to take charge of the arrangements for the accommodation of the guests. The lighting apparatus of the building is very nearly perfect and the illumination had a most brilliant and imposing effect. The campus was also lighted with Chinese lanterns. The guests on arriving were taken in charge by ushers. These gentlemen deserve great credit for the way they did their duty and the perfect arrangements they had made must have greatly added to the comfort of the guests. The ladies were conducted to the Natural Philosophy and Senate rooms, which were used as cloak rooms. These were in charge of a number of female attendants, who thoroughly knew their duty and the facilities for obtaining wraps, &c., were most complete. The gentlemen's cloak rooms were the Philosophy and Natural Science Class rooms, and were in charge of a number of students, who saw to it that not the slightest confusion took place. As the guests went up the main stairway they were supplied with programmes and directed

to the Library, where the Chancellor held a reception. No place could possibly be more suitable for such a purpose than this room. Being semi-circular in form it admits of a continuous passage of people without their returning or backing out. The handsome appointments of the room mingling with the rich and varied dresses of the ladies, produced as pretty an effect as is ever seen. In front of the semi-circular counter facing the hall, stood the Chancellor in his robes of office, the Vice Chancellor, the Mayor of Kingston, the Professors and a number of distinguished gentlemen from a distance. The visitors handed in their cards and as they approached the names were read out distinctly by D. McIntyre, B.A., President of the Alma Mater Society. The Chancellor shook hands with and addressed a few words to everyone presented, rather a fatiguing operation considering the number of presentations that were made. After their presentation the people passed into the Reading Room, where the class photographs attracted considerable attention, especially the ladies, who endeavoured to find out the faces of friends departed. Some went up to the second tier in the Library to watch and probably criticize the ceremony of presentation, while others after promenading found their way into the Convocation Hall, where the string band of "B" Battery stationed in the gallery executed some capital music. Though this was strictly a *conversazione* and opportunities for dancing were not furnished, it is whispered that when the band would strike up a valse an empty class room was found to suit the devotees of Terpsichore admirably. At nine o'clock the presentations ceased and another part of the programme commenced. As is usual at *conversaciones* the intellectual was mingled with the social, and in pursuance of this custom *lecturette*s were given during the evening in several rooms which proved a great source of interest and amusement to the numbers of ladies and gentlemen who crowded the class rooms. In the Chemistry Class room Dr. Herbert A. Bayne, Professor of Physics in the Royal Military College of Canada, "lecturated" on "water and its constituents." This began with electrolysis, and while different odours were wafted to the audience in illustrating the properties of the gases, the effect was ludicrous. The Mathematical Class room was occupied by Mr. A. P. Knight, M.A., who exhibited a number of astronomical and geological specimens and diagrams by means of the sciopticon. This lecture proved highly interesting to an audience of mere onlookers, as well as scientifically inclined people. Mr. Max Dupuis delighted his hearers in the classical room with a "lantern trip through Europe." This was illustrated by a number of magnificent pictures.

After the conclusion of the *lecturette*s a move was made for the museum, which did duty as a refreshment room. The curator for the time being was Mr. A. W. Stephenson, who surrounded by an efficient body of waiters, was most assiduous in attending to the gastronomical wants of the guests. The appointments were a credit to the caterer. The band played during supper and the music which was of a very high order, was fully appreciated. After half an hour of promenading a general stampede was made to get seats in the hall, for the purpose of listening to the oratorical part of the programme. During the first speech some confusion prevailed, but it could not be expected that people who had been moving around so much could become composed on a moment's notice. However, owing to the efforts of the Principal quiet was obtained and further ingress or egress was refused.

The first speaker introduced was the Rev. S. S. Nelles, D.D., of '61, President of Victoria College, Cobourg. Dr. Nelles said it was with a very great deal of pleasure that he was present to witness the opening of a new building for Queen's University. The opening of a building like that in which they were assembled did not take place every day, and it was a cause of just pleasure to be able