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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 50—TRINITY COLLEGE, TORONTO. PART II.

By THE EDITOR.

FEW things are more delightful for a University man than to visit his Alma Mater after years of absence. He sees there many things that remind him of his youth and his tug with the higher branches of learning, things also which recall pleasant scenes on cricket field and in social gatherings. He sees the room where his "grinding" was done and where often he sat looking out of the window and thinking of home, and he hears in fancy the footstep of the "gyp" or servant bringing the letters to his corridor, stopping at door after door till at last the rap is heard at his own door, and the precious letter from home,—the old home gone for ever, is eagerly clutched and devoured. Such and many others are the memories that come to him as he finds himself within the walls of the college that trained him at the time when his boyhood was rapidly passing away and manhood stealing upon him.

For an old Trinity man to visit his University now is to see many and startling improvements. The old room at the entrance, which is now but a passage, is gone,—the room where the students took their meals, with the old steward, safely ensconced behind his large tea urn beaming upon them with a feeling of satisfaction at the good things provided by him, plainly depicted upon his countenance, but not always shared in by those whose place it was to consume them. One would hardly believe that this space which is now but a hall of entrance was once the dining-room and even Convocation Hall of the University. Yet it was so. At Convocation time (which was always in the autumn) the students were perched on high seats

rising one above the other like the seats of an infant class in Sunday school. Immediately below these stair-like seats were chairs for the ladies and the *elite* of Toronto, who usually honored Trinity at such times with their presence, and at the far end was the Chancellor's throne and the seats for the members of Convocation and other functionaries. And here it was that the students sang their songs and cracked their jokes, as happy as if they were in the finest Convocation Hall in the world.

Now all that is changed. The old room is but a highway leading to the new and spacious Convocation Hall in the rear of the centre of the building, the lower part of which serves as a dining-room. Here there is space for a Convocation worthy of a University like that of Trinity. The students have their gallery, the visitors ample space in the body of the hall, and the Chancellor, Bishop and dignitaries their proper seats. On the walls, facing one another, are full-sized portraits of Bishop Strachan and Provost Whitaker,—worthy representations for such a place. This Convocation Hall was opened in 1877, upon the occasion of the inauguration of the present Chancellor of the University, the Hon. G. W. Allan, now Speaker



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of the Senate of Canada. And then the chapel. It was very cosy up-stairs as the students sat facing one another, during the morning and evening prayer, and on Sundays the surplices of the students and a little sprinkling of ladies and visitors made a change that was often refreshing.

But now this is all a thing of the past. The old chapel has been made the library, and outside, in front of the eastern corridor, is the large new chapel deemed by competent observers not unworthy to hold its place with similar buildings which are the pride of the old world universities. It was conse-