

### THE PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS.

In beginning his address the Principal stated that as he would frequently throughout the session appear before the students on Sunday afternoons he would be very brief on this occasion. He then feelingly referred to the death of the late Professor Williamson and recommended the Chancellor's circular, regarding a memorial, to the immediate attention and consideration of all. Continuing he said:

"We sustained a loss of a different kind—for that is not lost which a friend gets—when Professor Fletcher accepted the offer of the professorship of Latin in the University of Toronto. We have become so accustomed to our professors refusing brilliant offers from other seats of learning that some of our men actually experienced a shock when they heard that a professor of Queen's could be induced to go anywhere else, but they recovered at once on reflecting that no one ever refuses to go to his own *Alma Mater*. We follow Professor Fletcher to his new sphere with warmest wishes for his welfare, and with assurances to his new colleagues and students that if they do not get on well with him the fault will be theirs. Here, he has given many years of the best kind of service, which we are not likely to forget. He was one of that type of men who do their duty with an unconsciousness which shows that they could not do anything else. Lightening the load of others, without obtrusion of self, he never seemed to think of recognition or to look for reward save that which comes to every man from seeing his work well done.

Turning to the progress made since the spring convocation, I desire to call attention to the success which attended our summer school for teachers and specialists, in July and August, and to announce that this new departure has come to stay. Different subjects will be taken up each year, according to a well defined plan and to the demands of summer students. The same may be said of the field work in August and September, for students of geology and mineralogy.

As to additions to the staff, class rooms, laboratories and libraries, you have only to go through the University, the Science Hall, the Medical College and the Hospital buildings to see that we have been carrying out our old motto of "*nulla dies sine linea*" since last May.

The Registrar informs me that, even as regards numbers, the upward and onward movement of the last twenty-five years continues, and that both in arts and in medicine more students have registered than at this date last session. This is a feature to which we attach comparatively little importance, as it is a mistake for young men to leave a good high

school or collegiate institute too soon. They can prepare for the advanced study there far better than in the crowded junior classes of a university. What we regard as of much more consequence is the increasing number who come to us for post graduate work. That is the test of intelligent esteem for professors and love of learning for its own sake.

I desire to express publicly my regret that, owing to the necessity of being with you to-day, I could not accept the invitation of the Western University, to be present at the inauguration of its arts faculty. Some people fancy that there is no necessity for a teaching university in London, now that Toronto has three or four universities and that a railway ticket can be bought so cheaply. But any one who appreciates the vigorous civic life of our western capital and the character of the surrounding country will rejoice at another centre of light being established in the province, and will extend cordial sympathy to the men who must bear the heavy burden of making it a brilliant success. This is another nail in the coffin of the University Confederation policy of 1887, the aim of which was to consolidate all the higher education of the province within one city and in connection with one institution. Such a policy is adapted for a small province, but when the province has the boundaries and the population of a nation, the true policy is to have as many centres of learning as there are important and well defined divisions of country. We shall thus have different types of universities, which surely ought to be able to treat one another with courtesy and even with affection. All are engaged in the same work, and the country is the richer for having several, provided always that each is well equipped and that full freedom is the undoubted charter of every professor. There is no need even of speaking of those which are situated elsewhere than in Toronto as "outlying." Those in Toronto are outlying, with respect to Kingston, but we shall always speak of them simply as sister universities. When a university has on its rolls 533 students, as we had last session, and sends out into the world, in one year, 101 graduates, 67 of them in arts, its necessity to the higher life of the country may well be admitted, and when all this educational development is the outgrowth of steadily increasing popular interest, it is a gratifying sign of popular intelligence wisely directed, which all lovers of the country must hail with joy and with well grounded hope for the future. It is quite true that Queen's is sadly hampered for lack of funds. Every corner in every one of our buildings is now utilized, and I do not see how we can get along without another building; but the money for this and other requisities will come, I feel persuaded, in due time, from those who understand how in-