

Mr. Phelan said :

Mr. Chancellor, Your Excellency, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen :

To-day we are assembled to take part in proceedings which have a two fold aspect ; to the members of Convocation they mark the close of another successful year in the history of Bishop's College ; to the graduating class the attainment of a most coveted distinction. We, on whose account this assembly has been convened, assist with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret. It is a source of pleasure to see ourselves surrounded by fellow-students whose countenances reveal the sincere congratulations that extend to us, and by friends of the University who, carefully noting its progress, bear testimony by their presence to the tribute it deserves. The honour of the degree which has been conferred upon us would make our happiness complete were it not that in receiving it we fully realize what it is to take leave of those with whom we have been so closely associated during the last three years. The greater share of whatever success we have attained is due to our professors and lecturers. Truly their task is a noble one, and the manner in which they have fulfilled it has won a debt of gratitude which our words fail to express. It must always appear to the graduate of '99 that he was signally fortunate in being connected with the University during an era of development unequalled in her former existence. With our advent there was initiated the extension of the honour work in classics and mathematics, embracing a period of two and three years, respectively. Then it was announced that the next innovation would be the introduction of an honour course in English. Providence guiding each step has brought it to pass ; that which was the visionary is now the reality. Our history has proved that at Bishop's College every effort will be employed to put into immediate effect any movement having for its object the development of educational aims. To our University is due the credit of being the first in the Province and the second in the Dominion to introduce a special course in political science.

Continuing, the valedictorian said :

There is another branch of our work which calls for attention ; that is

natural science. At present it occupies a prominent position among other options, and never has it been more zealously pursued than during the past few years. It appears that a University which is not continuously voicing its needs is thought not to be in want. If such an impression exists about Bishop's we wish to have it effaced, and hope that the expression of our needs will be the means of obtaining the assistance we require.

Underlying the feelings of pleasure which animate us to-day, there is an element of regret caused by the absence of our beloved Principal, Dr. Adams. We hope that the vacation which now affords him a respite from his labours will restore him to health, and that shortly he will be welcomed back in his official capacity. The last few weeks of our stay in Lennoxville have been saddened by the sudden removal from our midst of our late fellow-student, Henry E. Richmond, under circumstances at once mournful and inspiring. The whole act of heroism by which he lost his life while saving that of another was characteristic of his unselfish nature.

On taking leave of Lennoxville we must acknowledge the kind hospitality that has been accorded us by its residents. The willingness with which they have assisted all our enterprises, and notably their efforts towards furnishing our common room, will always be retained in grateful remembrance. To our fellow-students who are now on the threshold of seniority, do we commend the care of maintaining the honour and reputation of the College. If a tenure was not always worthy of emulation, see that your example may be profitable to those who will be responsible to you. Of the class that now bids you farewell, all but three of the original number have graduated. We are well represented both in mathematical and classical honours, and a tendency towards specialization has manifested itself in the large percentage of our number who have graduated in the several options. When first we entered College, we looked forward to Convocations as the objective point of our horizon. To-day we have reached it, but with its attainment comes not the completion of our work, rather it has ushered in the dawn of a newer existence where our spheres of action will of necessity lead