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Editorial Topics.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

THE annual session of the Royal Society of Canada, was opened on the 23rd inst. Of special interest were the proceedings of the first day, embracing as they did an address to His Excellency, the Governor-General, and Dr. Bourinot's speech as President of the Society. The address to Lord Derby and his most happy reply thereto, testify to the genial sympathy with which His Excellency has always regarded the Society and its aims. There was an absence of the customary conventional phrases and platitudes which generally characterize similar occasions, and a depth of feeling in Lord Derby's graceful speech which shows how sincerely his coming departure is regretted, both by himself and the people committed to his charge. Of Dr. Bourinot's brilliant address it is sufficient to say that it was worthy of his great reputation and of his distinguished office. He took for his subject "Our Intellectual Strength and Weakness," and ably reviewed some of the more marked features of the intellectual progress of Canada since the day when she entered on her career of competition in the civilization of this continent. The French heroic period, the struggle for responsible government, the dawn of Canadian literature, science and art, the effect of the dual language, all these matters of absorbing interest and supreme importance were skilfully brought before the audience, and the lesson they are fraught with enlarged upon and elucidated. Perhaps Dr. Bourinot might be prevailed upon to deliver this address at Trinity. We hope so.

PUBLIC LECTURES.

THOUGH it may seem a little early to speak about Public Lectures for next year, we wish to anticipate any action the Faculty may take in the matter, and call their attention to the desirability of having a course of public lectures by distinguished men of learning and affairs similar to the courses for so long in vogue at Trinity, but which

gave place some two years ago to lectures of an entirely different character and purpose. It is true that Toronto University has followed our lead in the matter of public lectures as in other things, and started a course of its own for the edification of its students and friends. But this action on the part of our esteemed sister university need not interfere with the re-establishment of our public lectures. We have only to announce the fact and Convocation Hall will be filled to overflowing as usual with Trinity's many friends and admirers. There is no reason why these lectures should prevent other courses from being delivered later in the year, such as the admirable course given last Lent by Professor Rigby on English Church History. But it is a mistake to abandon the public lectures on popular subjects,—a great mistake. Let us have them again, and put Professor Rigby down for one on the English Humourists.

TRINITY'S GRADUATES.

IN a very few days a large number of Trinity's men will be writing on their final examination at this University, and we hope and fully expect that an equally large number will a few days later go up for their well-deserved Degree of Bachelor of Arts. A number of these men will abide with us yet three years more, for they are to enter the Divinity Class we are glad to say. But those who go out to return no more as Students,—is their interest in, and their zeal for, the honour and success of their Alma Mater to be suffered to cease with their student days?—We say, No, not by any means; and we believe the men will emphatically agree with us. Taking it for granted, then, that they desire that their identification with old Trinity shall continue real and lively, we wish to point out that the best, and indeed the only effective way to keep up their identification is to become members of Convocation. If every graduate of the University were to-day a member of this body, the rapid strides she has made in the past few years in public estimation and confidence, in number of students, in activity in many directions, would have been infinitely greater than they have been. The small annual fee which members of Convocation are called upon to pay would be a mere bagatelle to the vast majority of our men, and yet numbers of little sums soon make a big sum, and Trinity's annual income would be much increased and her possibilities for good greatly enlarged, were these little sums paid into her exchequer each year by the hundreds of graduates who have left her honoured halls. To many of these it is too late to appeal. Our hope lies in our coming graduates. Trinity should be the rallying ground for all her sons, who, once a year, at least, should come together to renew their old friendships and give expression to their zeal for the welfare and success of their Alma Mater. The annual meetings of Convocation give this opportunity, and a red letter day it is, too, in the year. Its privileges and pleasures though shared in by many, are yet unknown to scores of men who have graduated and are gone. There is something unnatural, something heartless in thus deserting the old home, the home to which they all owe so much, the home which the self-devotion and self-sacrifice of our fathers have given to us. It is our bounden duty and our high privilege to carry on and develop the splendid heritage received from them. We hope that no more of our graduates will ever leave Trinity without first becoming members of