

Current Topics and Events.

LAYING THE CORNER-STONE OF THE NEW VICTORIA.

This interesting ceremony came off most auspiciously on the afternoon of June 15th. Substantial progress has been made with the foundation of coarse brown stone, enough to indicate how goodly a structure the New Victoria will be. Ample provision was made for a number of invited guests. The banners flaunted proudly in the breeze. The speeches were of brilliant quality, and all went merry as a marriage bell, the only inconvenience being the extremely warm reception given us by old Sol.

Rev. Dr. Potts occupied the chair with his usual ability and grace. Mrs. Cox was the recipient of a handsome silver trowel, with which she well and truly laid the corner-stone of the handsome building which is to grace the park.

The prayer by Professor Reynar was significantly appropriate, as was Dr. Burwash's address. His honour, Judge Dean, the first graduate of Victoria, presented the trowel to Mrs. Cox in a very graceful manner.

The programme was a thoroughly representative one. Rev. Dr. Dewart representing the Methodist ministry; Mr. Geo. A. Cox, the Methodist laity; Dr. Douglas, the sister Methodist institutions; Hon. G. W. Ross, the educational system of Ontario; Hon. E. Blake, the University of Toronto; Sir Daniel Wilson, the University faculties; Rev. Dr. Rand, the sister Universities; Dr. Burwash, D.Sc., the Alumni Association of Victoria; Senator Aikins and Hon. Oliver Mowat also made brief addresses.

The occasion was one of profound significance, the congratulations of the wise statesmen, the learned clergy, Professors of the sister Universities, giving a warm welcome to Toronto to the New Victoria. The bright sun shining overhead was an

augury of the brightness which we not under the divine blessing will continue to illumine this institution.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

The death of this distinguished statesman has been the occasion of profound regret, not only throughout Canada, but throughout the British Empire. He has been the foremost figure in Canadian politics for over forty years—during most of the time he has been Prime Minister of Canada. His political opponents, as well as his friends, admit the wonderful versatility of the man, his ability as a politician, and the singular fascination of his personal character. The time for a full estimate of his influence on the history of the country has not yet come. We stand too near the man, and too close to the chief events of his life to calmly measure them. He was human, and therefore had failings, but let these be forgotten. He had many noble qualities, let these be engraved in marble. He loved his country, and served his Queen loyally to the end. His greatest monument is the Confederation of the Provinces, of which he, more than any other man, was prime promoter. He was happy in this that he saw this great Dominion grow from the unstable union of two undeveloped provinces to a great nation spreading from ocean to ocean.

It is one of the noblest features of his character that, notwithstanding the opportunity from the vast transactions carried on under his administration of accumulating great wealth, he died a comparatively poor man. He was not, and comparatively few public men have been, as they ought to have been, a "nursing father" to the Church of God. Nor was he, like Clarkson, Wilberforce or Shaftesbury, distinguished for Christian statesmanship and philanthropy. These men, though greatly inferior in intellectual gifts and tactical skill to the