

in a sense, the honor if not the value attached to a degree when it is conferred in the presence of great numbers, and in a hall that is historic or destined to become so. Moreover, it is proper that the patrons of the University and its many friends, whom no institution can afford to ignore, should have ready access to great events and important functions.

"Having this large Assembly Hall, the University and the Alumni Association will be able to invite distinguished men in the various walks of life to give addresses, lectures, sermons, etc., assured of audiences in an academic setting worthy of the occasion. These will, of course, have a distinct value educationally to the great student body, and prove of exceptional interest and importance. Functions of a social and other character, which tend to lighten and brighten the students' life, will also have special facilities in the Hall, whose various uses need not further be dilated upon."

#### AN EXPLANATION.

*Mr. Editor*,—In this connection a brief statement to the subscribers seems in order: The Convocation Committee have had no light task. The problem was to get the most suitable auditorium, to hold 2,000, and on the best site, without wasting money. As to the chamber itself, the aim was to secure the best results as to acoustics and ventilation, lighting and heating, ingress and egress. Much thought was given to the plans, and those by the University architects, Messrs. Darling and Pearson, were approved, with the auditorium of amphitheatrical form enabling the largest number to see and hear properly. The choice of the best available site—at the south-west limits of the University campus—was easier than securing it proved to be. Most of the ground required was held by the Dominion as part of the Observatory property. The Trustees, whose countenance and aid were, of course, necessary, offered another eligible site for a new observatory, which at any rate was required. The transfer was practically agreed upon, but was barred for a year or more partly owing to a misunderstanding which excited the hostility of the city and the Board of Trade. A solution was finally reached, and cordial assent given; and the Trustees in this way secured ample space for the Convocation Hall (and the new Physics Building). As one hundred thousand dollars had been promised ere the site was secured, the decision to proceed at once with the building naturally followed: and the corner-stone was duly laid. At that time it was thought the cost would exceed but little the amount raised. This not proving to be the case, new plans were drawn and were modified from time to time, to reduce the expense, always having in mind a Hall which would be a credit to our