

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF
THE GRADUATING CLASS AT THE
TWELFTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION
OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF BISHOP'S COLLEGE,
HELD IN MONTREAL, APRIL 3RD, 1884.

Delivered by Dr. W. D. DRUMMOND.

The valedictory—if we consider its annual occurrence and the invariable similarity of symptoms it offers—may now be most reasonably ranged in the category of chronic afflictions. In fact a careful and elaborate diagnosis of every farewell address will disclose three distinct characteristics—warning, eulogy and sorrow. The natural consequence of this is, that no matter how sincere his feelings, how earnest his speech, the valedictorian of to-day is at a disadvantage. The field where he looks for information has been so effectively exhausted by his merciless predecessors that he can find very little which may prove novel or pleasing. He must therefore place implicit confidence in the good-will, patience and indulgence of his audience. You will kindly understand this little insinuation. Convocation day marks the last official act of this scholastic year: by your presence here you desire to manifest your friendliness toward the University of Bishop's College, and to testify to the high esteem and respect in which our professors are so worthily and universally held. You are here to witness the graduates receive their diplomas, and the students those rewards and prizes which have been the source of valuable as well as remunerative competition, and to which they have been entitled by their long, serious, and fruitful labor. Parents there are likewise here, I have no doubt whose good, kind hearts are filled with such honest gratitude to the men who have with such commendable zeal watched over the interests of their sons, and with real magnanimity sacrificed on no few occasions their personal comfort rather than allow their students to suffer in any respect; parents who, with immeasurable joy, view to-day the satisfactory results of the efforts cheerfully made to give their sons a golden opportunity of playing an honorable and successful part in the great contest of life. We are delighted to see before us many of our most prominent citizens, the men whose genius helps to build their country and causes it to be respected abroad;—men who, by their ability, perseverance and success, whether in professional

spheres or commercial pursuits, have secured the confidence of the community; men who not only highly honor us but, let me humbly say, add lasting and brilliant lustre to their record by the deep interest they take in all matters affecting the different branches of higher education! Unfortunately, my knowledge of the graceful rules of Rhetoric is now very indistinct. Would that I were able to convey in delicate and pleasing sentence the indisputable fact that our hearts are most particularly gladdened by the presence of so many of this noble and beautiful city's still nobler and more beautiful daughters. Since the days of Mother Eve, woman has been often, alas, too often, calumniated; but never has there been an authentic instance recorded wherein she has thus been offended by a medical student!! At all events, ladies, you may ever consider us amongst your foremost champions and warmest admirers. In a moment of astounding enthusiasm, several students made a supreme effort to disculpate fair Eve from all blame: if, in that most praiseworthy attempt they did not meet with the success which their admiration suggested, they triumphantly established that human frailty is extraordinary when temptation is great, and especially that Mother Eve was not a native of Montreal! You will not, you cannot, exact greater proof of their devotion. If my memory serve, me rightly my gifted friend and fellow-student who at our last annual dinner responded to the toast of the Freshman hazarded the statement that the ladies considered his class their favorite one, and the very handsomest that ever entered the college. I know not in what light we poor graduates are viewed; but ladies take cognisance of this—that we have always looked upon you—that we do now and ever will consider you *our* favorite class! It is therefore with undoubted pleasure we see you all here to-day. And still within us arises a feeling of earnest sadness when we consider that this convocation is the last we shall attend, and that we must now bid adieu to the University, our professors and fellow-students. Let us dwell for a few moments on those happy hours which have rolled by like the free current of a melodious stream! How many there are who only see in our station of life trouble, trial and the periodical dread of examinations; they erroneously imagine we are constantly aspiring after liberty. Why, we have never been deprived of our liberty? The laws governing the Institution are in keeping with the