

23rd, 30th. Rain, 4th, 6th, 10th, 14th, 22nd, 23rd, 27th, 30th.

SIMCOE.—Lightning and thunder, with rain, 4th, 23rd, 29th. Wind storm 19th. Rain, 4th, 5th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 29th, 30th. Month on the whole pleasant. Rain in cataracts, 24th and 29th.

WINDSOR.—Lightning, 13th, 14th, 25th, 26th, 30th. Thunder, with rain, 10th. Lightning and thunder, with rain, 4th, 14th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 29th. Rain, 4th, 6th, 10th, 14th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 29th, 30th. Meteor 16th in Z. towards N., and 18th in E. towards N., 20th in E. towards N.E., on 30th in S. towards H.

VIII. Biographical Sketches.

THE HON. W. B. ROBINSON.

William Benjamin Robinson was born at Kingston, 22nd December, 1797, the youngest son of Christopher Robinson, and brother of the late Sir John Beverley Robinson and Peter Robinson. He was married on 5th May, 1822, to Eliza Ann Jarvis, daughter of Secretary Jarvis. She died on 20th February, 1865, leaving no children. Mr. William Robinson entered Parliament in 1830, and continuously represented the County of Simcoe for a quarter of a century, from 1830 to 1857, with the exception of two sessions. He was Inspector-General in 1854-5; but resigned, feeling compelled to vote against his colleagues on the University Bill. In 1846-7 he was Commissioner of Public Works. In 1850 he concluded a treaty for the Baldwin Government, by which the surrender of the Indian lands on the north shores of lakes Huron and Superior was carried out. In 1852 he was appointed a Commissioner of the Canada Company, and on Mr. Widder's death, in 1864, succeeded to the Senior Commissionership, Senator Allan being thenceforth associated with him in the management. But possibly of all the public capacities in which the late respected gentleman figured, that which will most appeal to the interest of the present generation, is his introduction of the Act for the first macadamising of the York Roads—i.e., Yonge Street, Dundas Street, and the Kingston Road. This Act was passed on 13th February, 1833, and it recites that the inhabitants of the town of York and of the Home District will be much benefited by the contemplated improvement. A loan of ten thousand pounds to be secured on the tolls was arranged, of which £4,000 were at once to be expended on Yonge Street, £1,500 on Dundas Street, and £2,000 on the Kingston Road. On the 20th April, 1836, the Act 6 William IV., Cap. 30, was passed, reciting the thorough success of the previous expenditure, and empowering a further loan of £3,500; and the next year a third Act was passed providing for the expenditure of £100,000 on these roads. In 1837 Mr. Robinson went to St. Catharines, where he resided till 1844, busied with the superintendence of work in connection with the Welland Canal. He had for many years lived at Newmarket, where he owned the mills and stores once the property of Mr. Elisha Beaman, who, if we mistake not, had married the widow of Mr. Christopher Robinson. Says Dr. Scadding in his book, "Toronto of Old": "Most gentlemen travelling north or north-west brought with them, from friends in New York, a note of commendation to Mr. Robinson, whose friendly and hospitable disposition was well known:

'Fast by the road his ever-open door,
Obliged the wealthy and relieved the poor,'

Governors, Commodores, and Commanders-in-Chief were glad to find a momentary resting-place at a refined domestic fireside. Here Sir John Franklin was entertained for some days in 1835, and at other periods the Arctic travellers Sir John Ross and Capt. Back."

In private life Mr. Robinson was the incarnation of the fine old English gentleman. Possessed of rare humour and wonderful geniality, a joke ever came ready to his lips. He was kind, thoughtful, and remarkable for an urbanity and politeness of address but too seldom seen. Only a few years ago—in 1867—he paid his first visit to Europe, and enjoyed the sights of all that had by hearsay been familiar to him for half a century, with the zest of a youth on his come-of-age travels. It was, in fact, his extraordinary youthfulness in thought as well as movements, that made him one of the most delightful companions that old or young could desire. His familiar figure will be missed, and his kindly voice lamented in a large circle of friends and relatives.—*Mail*.

T. D. HARRIS, ESQ.

The deceased gentleman came to this city a great many years ago, and by his business industry and integrity he established himself as one of the foremost hardware merchants in Upper Canada. He took an active part in every public matter that had a tendency to add to the importance of Toronto, and justly gained the warm esteem of his citizens. A few years ago the deceased gentleman

retired from active business and accepted the important position of harbour-master, in the possession of which office he departed this life. His many friends will hear with deep regret of his departure from among them; because he was always found to be a true friend to those needing assistance, an obliging neighbour, and a most devoted advocate of those principles which tended to elevate humanity and foster a spirit of loyalty to his Queen and country. His end was peace; and he has been gathered to his fathers in the full hope of a bright immortality. The flag of the York Pioneers—of which the deceased gentleman was a member—was flying at half-mast yesterday, from the dome of St. Lawrence Hall, as a mark of respect to his memory.

3. BARON LIEBIG.

Baron Liebig, the great German chemist, died on Friday, at Munich, aged 69 years. His reputation as a scientific investigator dates from his twenty-first year, when he read before the French Institute at Paris a paper on the chemical composition of fulminates, which attracted the attention of Humboldt and other high authorities. His whole life was devoted to scientific researches of a practical nature, which have resulted in a vast number of discoveries tending to increase the comfort and welfare of the human race. His investigation of the subject of animal and agricultural chemistry, and of the chemistry of food, have made his name famous throughout the world.

IX. Educational Intelligence.

—MCGILL UNIVERSITY.—At two o'clock on Friday, the 2nd ult., the members of Convocation of McGill College met in the Library. The Chancellor being absent, the chair was taken by Mr. George Moffatt, Senior Governor. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Venerable Archdeacon Leach. After the Affirmation the graduating class was presented for the degree of B.A., which was conferred by the Vice-Chancellor. A well-written Valedictory was then read by Mr. D. C. McLeod. He adverted in proper language to the high literary training afforded by McGill, and exhorted his fellow-graduates to preserve a memory of their sojourn there. The graduating class of Applied Science having duly pronounced the affirmation, were presented for the conferring of the degree of Bachelor of Applied Science, which was conferred by the Vice-Chancellor, after which another Valedictory was read by Mr. J. F. Torrance, B.A. This discourse, on the advantages of scientific culture, was written with much elegance and delivered with feeling. The farewell to Professors and fellow-students was affecting. Then followed an eloquent address by Ven. Archdeacon Leach, LL.D. The prevailing idea of the speech, replete with wise counsels and erudite observations, was the gradual progress of McGill University from humble beginnings to its present high and commanding position. It stood now, by universal consent, one of the first institutions of the land. The degree of M.A. was conferred by announcement. The recipients of the honour were John Hindley, Montgomery Jones, John McIntosh. The Registrar announced that the degree of D.C.L. in course had been granted to Professor Laflamme, Professor Lafrenaye, and Professor Kerr, Q.C. After the signing of the Registration Book, the degree of D. C. L. was conferred on the two latter gentlemen, Professor Laflamme not being present to receive the degree. The Vice-Chancellor then delivered the following address:—

MR. CHANCELLOR.—The retrospect of the past year, more especially with reference to that Faculty to which this meeting of convocation properly belongs, presents a few salient and pleasing features, to which I may be excused for inviting the attention of members of convocation and our friends. One is the increased number of our students in Arts, which has in the present session risen to 112, making with those in the other faculties no less than 300 students actually in attendance on the classes of the University; and I believe when on the occasion of the recent visit of His Excellency the Governor-General we had all these men assembled in this hall, we had probably a larger number of actual students than any other University in this country has been able to boast. Further, our students are not merely residents in this city, or even in the Province of Quebec. The majority of them are from other Provinces, and some from places beyond the limits of the Dominion.

The increase in the number of our students in Arts is, it is true, partly owing to the institution of our Department of Applied Science, and partly to the connection with us of affiliated Theological Colleges whose students attend our classes as regular or partial students; but though we would desire a larger increase in the number of undergraduates in Arts, it is still true that those who take even partial courses of study derive inestimable educational advantages; and our students in Applied Science must be held to be as important to the welfare of the country as any class of men that we can train. The special feature of this meeting of convocation is, indeed, that we now confer for the first time, not only here but in Canada, the Degree of Bachelor of Applied Science. In providing for such a degree we are not only following in the wake of the greatest and most successful Universities abroad, but are doing a work specially demanded in this country at the present time. Canada has pledged itself to the world to cultivate and utilize wild regions more vast in proportion to its own means and population than those of any other country. This work cannot be done by mere traders and labourers. It requires all the resources of modern culture and science. But it requires not that culture which fits for literary leisure, but that which fits to tame the wildness, to utilize the hidden treasures of the earth, and to remove obstacles and open up channels for the current of civilization. This