

great drawback to its excellence was the system of Government by party which led to "blinding of the intellect, twisting of the conscience, lowering of high ideals, and gradual destruction of self-respect." Parliament is a deliberative assembly only in name, for every member is committed either to or against every proposition before discussion commences. Government by party, Dr. Grant contended, is not necessary and it is pernicious. He did not know whether a remedy was possible but thought that agitation of the question would do good. The appearance of even a few really independent men in the political arena would be a great boon and so would the establishment of some independent organs of public opinion. Meanwhile it is the duty of every man to be loyal to Canada, to be in no hurry to attach himself to any political party, to preserve a calm, unbiassed judgment with reference to all political questions, to be willing to do without the bribes that party offers to its hacks, and to count it an honour to be called on to make sacrifices for his country.

Principal Grant was frequently applauded during the delivery of his lecture. The chair was filled by Mr. Sandford Fleming, Chancellor of the University.

CONVOCATION.

On Wednesday the proceedings in connection with Convocation were held in the College Hall, the Chancellor presiding:—

After the opening services the prizes competed for during the session were distributed, each student being cheered lustily as he stepped forward to receive the awards. There was great applause as Prof. Dupuis handed the prize in chemistry to a lady, the first time such a thing had happened during his fifteen years' connection with the University. He alluded to the nature of the contest for the prize, remarking that it was "manfully" won, an observation which caused renewed cheers, continued during the time Miss Maggie M. Spooner advanced to receive the reward of her labour. In tendering the Governor-General's prize to Mr. John Hay, of Pinkerton, the Chancellor announced that His Excellency would continue in the same manner to encourage education in Queen's College. The winner of the Prince of Wales's prize was Mr. C. J. Cameron of Lachute. Mr. W. Hartly presented the gold medal donated by himself for proficiency in political economy, and promised to give similar prize in future every third year. The Chancellor's medal was given to Mr. R. Fuguson.

After the ceremony of conferring M.A., and M.D., degrees had been performed the Chancellor delivered a suggestive and practical address to the graduating class. Mr. J. R. O'Riely was elected to deliver the valedictory of the year and acquitted himself with credit.

The honorary degree of D.D., was then conferred upon the Rev. James P. Sheraton, President of the Protestant Episcopal Divinity School of Toronto, and the degree of LL.D., on George Paxton Young, M.A., who fills the chair of Mental and Moral Philosophy in University College Toronto. Dr. Williamson in presenting these two gentlemen to the Chancellor dwelt at some length on the educational work each had accomplished and the grounds on which the honour was conferred. His eulogium on Prof. Young was a very high one and that gentleman made an admirable response, incidentally avowing his opposition to university consolidation as it would tend to make examining, instead of teaching the all in all of a university education.

Principal Grant, who had been referred to by Prof. Young as in favour of consolidation, explained his position on the question, stating his belief that consolidation of colleges would be a mistake.

CONVERSAZIONE.

The evening entertainment on Wednesday was the most successful of the kind in the history of the College. The proceedings consisted of a reception by the Chancellor and Principal with Mrs. Fleming and Mrs. Grant, a musical and literary entertainment varied by addresses, and chemical and physical experiments conducted by Prof. Dupuis of Queen's and Dr. Bayne of the Royal Military College.

One of the most interesting incidents of the whole closing proceedings was a presentation to Dr. Williamson on his retirement from the chair of Physics and Mathematics which he has filled for many years. The presentation was in the form of a cheque for \$1000 subscribed by the Alumni of the University. The address accompanying it was read by James MacLennan, Q.C., and in response Prof. Williamson made a suitable reply.

TRUSTEES' MEETING.

On Thursday morning the Board of Trustees of the College held a business meeting, with the Hon. Alex. Morris in the chair. After

hearing the deputation appointed by the Council to wait upon them in connection with the raising of additional revenue, it was unanimously resolved to endeavor to raise \$7,500 a year by subscriptions payable annually during the next five years, and a Committee was appointed to carry out the Scheme. This Central Committee, composed of Principal Grant, A. Gunn, M. P., G. M. Macdonnell, and R. V. Rogers, will appoint local committees and organize the movement. The trustees accepted Dr. Williamson's resignation and assigned him the position of astronomer to the University with a salary of \$500 a year. Rev. D. Ross, B.D., of Lachine, was appointed lecturer on apologetics, and Rev. R. Campbell, of Montreal, on political economy, for the next session. The question of selecting a successor to Dr. Williamson was referred to a committee with power to deal with the matter.

Readings and Recitations.

VIA SOLITARIA.

AN UNPUBLISHED POEM, BY HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

(From the Independent.)

Now that our best and sweetest poet has left us, reading by his departure the veil of that sanctuary—his inmost life and feeling—it may not be unlawful to publish what would have been sacrilege before, the above touching poem, not written for the public eye, but simply to give utterance to heart felt crushing sorrow after the death of his wife in 1861. It was sent to me by a friend in Boston some years ago after my own great affliction, and has, therefore, a double sacredness to all who have passed through a similar sorrow. It will be read by many with tearful eyes, when they remember how long and patiently, with what brave and uncomplaining heart, he has waited at the "station," till now at last, "the parted" are "one."

H. M. GOODWIN.

Olivet College, Mich.

Alone I walk the peopled city
Where each seems happy with his own;
Oh! friends, I ask not for your pity—
I walk alone.

No more for me yon lake rejoices,
Though moved by loving airs of June,
Oh! birds, your sweet and piping voices
Are out of tune.

In vain for me the elm tree arches
Its plumes in many a feathery spray;
In vain the evening's starry marches
And sunlit day.

In vain your beauty, summer flowers,
Ye cannot greet these cordial eyes;
They gaze on other fields than ours—
On other skies.

The gold is rifled from the coffer,
The blade is stolen from the sheath;
Life has but one more boon to offer,
And that is—Death.

Yet well I know the voice of duty,
And, therefore, life and death must crave,
Though she who gave the world its beauty
Is in her grave.

I live, O lost one, for the living
Who drew their earliest life from thee,
And wait, until with glad thanksgiving
I shall be free.

For life to me is as a station
Wherein apart a traveller stands—
One absent long from home and nation,
In other lands.

And I, as he who stands and listens,
Amid the twilight's chill and gloom,
To hear approaching in the distance,
The train for home.