

gentlemen above named, and a valedictory on behalf of that department was delivered by Mr. Charles J. Harvey.

Rev. Prof. MURRAY then addressed the graduates upon the subject of education and mental culture. The Rev. gentleman discussed at some length the respective merits of the classical and scientific systems of mental training, and offered some valuable suggestions to the graduating classes.

The Degree of M. A. in Course was then conferred by the Vice-Chancellor upon Messrs. James Cameron, John D. Clowe, William J. Dart, Duncan McGregor, Gustavus Munro, E. F. Torrance; Bachelors of Arts.

The Degree of LL. D., in course was conferred upon Mr. James Kirby, M. A., D. C. L.

The Degree of B. C. L., *ad eundem*, was conferred upon Mr. Lareau, LL. B., Victoria College.

The Chairman then addressed the convocation. He remarked that at the recent meeting of the Law and Medical Faculties, he had offered some observations upon the duty of liberality towards the University incumbent upon private individuals. He took the present opportunity to represent the need of more students. This year they had the largest graduating class in arts yet attained, but the number was only sixteen, which he thought was much below the number who, in a city of this population, and in a country like Canada, should present themselves. Every young man in this country had the opportunity of rising to the highest positions, and to enable them to make a fair start parents should afford their sons the benefit of the culture which was within their reach at this University. The learned Judge then referred to the profession of husbandry as one of vast importance. A great many people thought no preparation was required for this calling. Without claiming for agriculture an excessive share of importance, it must be remarked that it was the aggregate of the harvest of the seas, the mines, the forests, the through trade, and the improvable lands that made up the earnings of the community. There was a foolish idea prevalent that it didn't require much capital or brains for a farmer—that anybody could do work like that; but this was a great mistake. People who had money must educate their children for the pursuit of this industry before the resources of the country could be fully developed. One reason, he thought, why so many sons and grandsons of rich men descended in the social scale was because their parents brought them up to the same profession as they had themselves succeeded in. But children often had a distaste for their fathers' pursuits, or thought they had money enough without working. They might call themselves gentlemen, but gentlemen without education, gentlemen in a country like this, without some work to do, would not be gentlemen long. He condemned the crowding of large numbers into the learned professions, a proceeding which, to use a very homely expression, resulted in there being more cats than there were mice to catch. (Applause.) In conclusion, he reminded the graduates of McGill of the debt they owed their University, and hoped they would strive to discharge it to the best of their ability.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that, though he did not propose to address Convocation, he had a few statements and announcements to make. The first gold medal ever offered in this University was that founded by Henry Chapman, in 1856, and copies of which he has had annually struck from the beautiful dies executed for him by Leonard Wyon, of London. Mr. Chapman now proposes to render this gift permanent by placing the dies and a sum of money for the endowment of the medal in the hands of the Board of Governors; so that this the first gold medal of McGill College will be placed in point of perpetuity on a par with the others, and will continue to

be offered as a stimulus to the higher culture of the classical languages and literature. He had to announce with much gratification, another and most valuable gift to the College from His Excellency the Governor General, who proposes to give annually, during his residence in Canada, a gold, and a silver medal for competition in the Faculty of Arts. After careful consideration the Corporation has decided to suggest to His Excellency as the special subject for these medals a course of study in History, and that the competition should be open not only to undergraduates, but to graduates within seven years of their matriculation. Should this suggestion be adopted, the Vice Chancellor proceeded to say, the subjects appointed for study will be announced in the Calendar now forthcoming, and the first examination for the Earl of Dufferin's medals will be held in December next. There can be no doubt that these medals will rank among the most coveted distinctions that the University can offer, and it is to be hoped that there will be many competitors, and that not only will a stimulus be given to historical research, and the admirable collection of historical books placed in our Library by Mr. Peter Redpath be more fully utilized, but that the interest excited may move some of our citizens to endow a chair of History in the University. In the past session the students of the University have numbered over 300, of whom the large proportion of 118 are in the Faculty of Arts. The Degrees in course conferred at this meeting of convocation and that held in March are 77. There is reason to hope that we shall have still larger classes next year. In connection with this I would direct attention to some changes in the Calendar for next session, the earlier sheets of which are now on the table for distribution. One of these relates to the Scholarships offered in the third year and to the Scott exhibitions, the conditions of which have been so modified as to make them accessible to a larger number of competitors. Another relates to exemptions offered in the third year in favor of honour studies. Another is the appointment of an assistant to the Professor of Engineering and the institution of arrangements for field-work at an earlier period of the session than heretofore. All of these and some other changes introduced will, it is hoped, be found conducive to the advantage of our students.

The Most Rev. the Metropolitan having pronounced the Benediction, the proceedings came to a close.

At a meeting held yesterday afternoon the following representative fellows were elected:—Law, J. J. MacLaren, M. A., B. C. L.; E. Holton, B. C. L.; Medicine, J. Reddy, M. D.; G. A. Baynes, M. D.; Arts, R. A. Ramsay, M. A., B. C. L.; C. P. Davidson, M. A., B. C. L.

Convocation Season.

The first blush of spring is a fitting season for our University to send forth its noble company of *débutants* on life's stage, each perhaps animated by hopes and desires peculiar to himself, but all alike sustained and nerved for the contest by the fervor of glorious youth. They leave their academic halls with eloquent words of counsel and admonition yet sounding in their ears, and while they revere and strive to follow the advice of their late instructors, they can hardly feel themselves left without a rudder in the stream of life. Year by year addresses of marked ability are delivered at these University gatherings, and though the unusual pressure upon our space has prevented us from doing more than hint at the subject of them on the last occasion, there has been no falling off in the care and talent which they indicate, or the