



The Governor-General going to Prorogue Parliament, April 27th.

Photograph by Eugene Ryan.

Ottawa Carnival and Re-Union

By R. PATCHING

THE homing instinct is strong in most men, and if it be true, as history indisputably proves it is, that the Anglo-Saxon is a great coloniser, it is equally the fact that, no matter where he may wander, or to what out-of-the-way corner of the globe he may turn his steps, the longing to return to the old roof-tree will, sooner or later, bear in upon him so strongly, that every effort will be strained to visit once again, be it for ever so brief a period, the scenes of earlier days.

It is therefore not to be wondered at that the fashion, started some few years back, of organizing "Old Boys' Reunions" or "Home-Coming Weeks," has caught the popular fancy and grown in favour season by season, until each recurring summer witnesses an ever increasing number of these occasions; and not only do they grow in number but also in magnitude and in the development of their scope and ramifications. Small and insignificant indeed is the town, aye, or the village, that cannot boast of its home-comers' festival, either in retrospect or in anticipation, and heartfelt is the sympathy extended by those who have the good fortune to participate, to their unlucky comrades whose unkind fate has interdicted their corporeal presence at the merry-making.

One reason, perhaps, why Old Boys' Reunions have taken so firm and apparently lasting a hold upon public favour lies in the fact that the very nature of the occasion leaves unlimited opportunity for individual development and local colouring, not only in respect to one event as compared contrasted with another, but as regards those who participate. One man takes advantage of the redaced rates to re-visit the old town, and perchance the old folks and old comrades if happily he has not been away so long that they are all dead or he is forgotten by the survivors. Another, also attracted by the unusual facilities the Reunion offers, "takes it in" as a pleasant holiday; he has heard of the place and believes he can spend a portion of his vacation there with profit and advantage. Yet another desires a few days of "solid enjoyment" and figures out that he can get it by joining in the giddy whirl of sport and frolic; and each finds what he goes for. The tastes of all are catered to, and he who seeks a quiet holiday with the old folks enjoys his sojourn in the old home equally with him who goes along with the avowed intention of putting in a hot time with the boys.

To the returning wanderer, the old town looks her best, for to begin with he is in a humour to be pleased; he has put on his brightest spectacles and over everything and everybody is cast the warmth and sunshine of his own happiness,—if he isn't going to feel that way he has no business to go at all. To the stranger who goes along simply to take in the sights, is presented the best of everything. The town is in gala attire, and if there are any unsightly spots—and what place is without them—they are hidden beneath a lavish display of flags and mottoes. The citizens are out, too, to give everybody a good time, the latchstring is out day and night, the freedom of the burgh is presented to every arrival, be he stranger or native-born, and again let it be said, the man who under these circumstances, does not have a good time, and go away satisfied—if indeed he gets away again at all,—ought never to have ventured there; he should rather have gone off quietly by himself, and taken a course of antibilious pills.

So much for generalities—though if these remarks are generalities, they may be particularly applied to the approaching celebration in the Dominion Capital next July. Ottawa has not had an Old Boys' Reunion yet. Some people may be unkind enough to suggest that she always was slow to catch on to anything good, but if that be the deduction in this case, it may prove to be fallacious, as hastily drawn deductions often are. She has been watching events and noting developments, and now stands prepared to benefit by the experiences of others,



Ottawa University.—The part of the New Arts Building already constructed and occupied.