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ADDRESS OF CHANCELLOR NELLES AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION, COBOURG, MAY, 1885.

(Revised for THE MONTHLY.)

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION :—

THERE is always some difficulty in discussing educational questions from the fact that, while few persons study them, every one seems to think that he knows all about them. I notice in our country to-day three or four currents of sentiment, each of which appears to me to set in the wrong direction. First, there is the unhappy notion of those who disparage the advantages of higher learning, and who as a natural consequence are hostile, or at least apathetic, in regard to all appeals for the necessary funds, whether those appeals be made to the Legislature or to private individuals. There is, secondly, the opinion of some ill-informed people who imagine that a university can be adequately sustained upon twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars a year, and with such an endowment can successfully compete with neighbouring universities having a yearly income of five or six times that amount. Sometimes the difference in endowment is supposed to be made up by ecclesiastical influences—influences desirable enough when they secure to a seat of learning the resources requisite for efficiency, but not very desirable otherwise. Thirdly, there is the mistake of those who would give higher education an unduly practical turn, or what they erroneously consider to be practical, throwing out of doors, or at least far into the background, the ancient languages and literature, with those higher philosophical inquiries, in which the ancients were the pioneers, and are still indispensable guides. And there is lastly the error of those who, either as a matter of preference or of expediency, would restrict the work of our national university to what are called secular studies, leaving all religious teaching and discipline to the pulpit and the Sunday-school.

I shall now discuss these several views in detail, but the tenor of my

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