

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

### QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON.

(LETTER FROM OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

It had for some time been known to many that the Governor-General and the Princess would visit Kingston for the purpose of laying two corner-stones in the new buildings of Queen's University. Friday, the 30th of May, being the appointed time for this interesting ceremony, the people of Kingston awoke suddenly to a sense of their responsibility in connection with it. For days suitable preparations were being made on all hands. With all the hard work and deep anxiety which had marked the period of anticipation, the Marquis and his royal wife arrived on the afternoon of the 29th, while yet there was much requiring to be done for the morrow. While this was especially true of the work needed on the College grounds and buildings and in other portions of the city, the inhabitants for the most part, were ready for the afternoon procession and the evening entertainment. Beautiful arches of evergreen, bearing inscriptions of welcome both in Gaelic and English, spanned the thoroughfares on which the cortege had to pass; while flags of every nationality, and waving banners with every conceivable device floated from the public buildings and from every store and dwelling house. Nature seemed to respond to the emblems of loyal welcome which were thus displayed by enriching the trees and grass and flowers with her most beautiful colours.

"The summer dawn's reflected hue  
To purple changed Ontario blue,  
Mildly and soft the western breeze,  
Just kissed the lake, just stirred the trees,  
And the pleas'd lake, like maiden coy  
Trembled, but dimpled not, for joy."

About four o'clock the boom of cannon announced the arrival of the illustrious visitors. The Marquis and the Princess were received at the City Hall, and to them appropriate addresses were tendered, which elicited words of warm appreciation from the former. The service of song rendered by an immense number of rosy and neatly dressed children was exceedingly beautiful. The procession, after this welcome, was formed. As it advanced along the appointed thoroughfares ringing cheers were heartily given by the thronging crowds. At length it reached the mansion of Mr. Kirkpatrick, M. P., who had generously offered to entertain the distinguished visitors. Here, after seeing the party retire, the procession broke up; and now busy preparations were resumed for the evening. As we sauntered along between the hours of eight and nine, the illumination was complete. The moon and stars seemingly envious of the unusual display of fire, shone out with more than their wonted brilliancy. The lights from above and those from beneath appeared in friendly emulation as to which would best do honour to the night. The combination of the natural and the artificial light was a beautiful spectacle to behold; while the latter at length, satisfied with her triumphant success in the unequal contest, began to flicker and pale before the orb of night, and yielding reluctantly, there was seen nothing but the glory of the moon and star-lit firmament above. Meanwhile the streets were thronged with gay equipages conveying to the City Hall those who were bound to honour the reception of the Princess; while many otherwise minded walked to the place of rendezvous. This building proving well adapted for the purpose, there was between nine and half-past ten as gay and instructive a scene as well could be imagined. The Princess and her noble husband were dressed with exquisite taste, that was a living protest against every form of shoddiness. They stood on a raised platform on which poured light from a star centre in the ceiling. As the names were announced, each lady or gentleman saluted the illustrious couple in turn and passed on. The hall was thus gradually filled with a large company in full dress amongst whom could be seen many leading citizens throughout the Dominion. Every one was drawn to the Queen's daughter and son-in-law. The Princess drew forth many admiring compliments, which she well deserved. There was in her a look of calm confidence combined with that of retiring modesty. The face was thoughtful while beautiful; reminding one of the handsome and wise features of Prince Albert. On the other hand, all were more than satisfied with the Marquis, as he has the bearing of a healthy, educated and in-

tellectual gentleman. The youthful couple, occupying the highest place in the Dominion, and representing that royalty, upon whose possessions the sun never sets, and also one of the most ancient and honoured of Scottish houses, was a spectacle calculated to set the mind off in several channels of reflection. The history of Canada from its humble beginnings to this proud day, when she stands before the world a prosperous and educated nation, was written upon that living tableau of the Queen's children and of the ladies and gentlemen who stood behind and beside them.

There was many a heart that Thursday night fluttering with intense anxiety in the thought of what the morrow would bring forth. To the joy of all, it was more than Queen's weather on Friday. The thirtieth was more favourable for the purpose than even the Thursday would have been; for the bright heat, as of a July day, was tempered by a delightful breeze from the lake. Very little more and the breeze would have become a storm. But as it was, by the hour appointed for the arrival of the party upon the College grounds, the heat and the cool winds commingling produced the most desirable result of the best day possible for such an occasion. We found the masonry of the new building advanced all round to the first floor, and the joints being laid, and the entire surface temporarily covered with planks, there was accommodation for a large gathering. The whole space was quickly occupied with ladies and gentlemen eagerly bent upon seeing and hearing all they could. From time to time the National Anthem was played by the band, and at length the arrival of the Marquis and Princess was announced by the firing of guns and the plaudits of the thousands assembled on the grounds. When the military were all in place, the illustrious visitors were received under a canopied structure of flowers and evergreens and an address of welcome read and answered. The procession headed by Chancellor Cook and Principal Grant, in academic dress slowly advanced to the tower entrance. As the noble and royal guests passed up the flight of stairs, they were greeted with thrilling cheers. They reached a platform extemporized for the occasion, which was shaded by a covering of canvas, and upon which a dais was erected. The Professors, Alumni, Students and distinguished visitors came on, two by two, until every inch of the reserved space was occupied. There was now only a sea of heads to be observed, which hid from view the rising walls and the surrounding grounds. The temporary archway crossing the main entrance by which the procession had come, covered with bunting and underlined with many trowels stuck into the wood, was significant of the work of the mason that was going on. Flags attached to long poles floated in the air. The ceremony of conferring the degree of Doctor of Laws was then conducted. It was very solemn and impressive. The Marquis, at its close, delivered an address, whose expression and thoughtfulness amply justified the College authorities in placing his name upon their honoured roll of Doctors. The company then descended to the doorway, and the Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, dedicated the building by appropriate prayer. The stone to be first laid was then raised, and having been presented by Dr. Cook with a massive silver trowel, the Marquis amused all who were near enough to witness the scene, by going at his task in workmanlike style. There was no fear of scratching the silver with him. He laid the lime on as one skilled in the art. Having applied the plumb line, and with ringing touches of the trowel at the four corners, the stone was declared duly laid. The band having played the National Anthem, it was now the turn of the Princess to whom Dr. Grant presented another silver trowel with suitable inscription. She went at her work with great spirit, the ladies exclaiming "see her taking another trowelful of lime." It was not a mock ceremony with her Highness. The stone was at length lowered, and having been tested and touched in similar manner with the first, the Princess declared it duly laid. The party having returned to the platform, the Marquis delivered an address worthy of Lord Dufferin himself, in which he spoke of the higher learning, the necessity of the country keeping pace by her education and science with her material prosperity, of the ability and character of Principal Grant, whom he had known in Scotland, and of the skill of the architect. It was a racy, humorous speech, and made a good impression upon all who heard it. After

the benediction, the procession re-formed, and on the way to the College gate the Princess and the Marquis planted each a tree in commemoration of their visit.

In the afternoon the proceedings were terminated with a lunch in the Convocation Hall, at which Principal Grant presided. There was present a large number of professors and presidents of colleges, of ministers, lawyers, physicians and merchants. After lunch toasts were proposed and responded to expressive of the feelings of all present towards the throne, the distinguished visitors, the prospects of the University and the cause of learning. It was a day which will long be remembered in Kingston. The citizens might well be proud of their enterprise, and the College authorities might well take courage and go forward. Under such auspices, the future of Queen's may easily be predicted, and if that future exceed those expectations, which are raised within our hearts by sympathy with a grand and valuable undertaking, and admiration of those who have contributed so nobly to the cause of the higher learning, we shall be only too glad to record the fact in the columns of this journal.

## OVERTURE IN REFERENCE TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SUPERIOR CHURCH JUDICATORIES.

MR. EDITOR, - You will very much oblige by inserting in your valuable paper the following Overture to the General Assembly from the Presbytery of London, and also a few explanatory remarks in support of it.

*Whereas*, - Owing to the peculiar geographical form of the Dominion of Canada, especially its great length, with which the Presbyterian Church in it is nearly co-extensive, the annual meetings of the General Assembly, and of the four Synods, occasion much fatigue, expense and loss of time to their respective members;

*Whereas*, - The necessary expenses connected with the meetings of Assembly and of Synods are very great, not including travelling expenses of members, nor expenses incurred by families that exercise hospitality to members, both of which are also very great;

*And whereas*, - While the powers of Synods are limited as at present there is so little work for the Synods to do that they can scarcely retain self-respect, and much less command the respect of the Church over which they are placed, and the General Assembly that met at Halifax refused to increase their power;

It is therefore humbly overtured to the venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, appointed to meet in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, on the second Wednesday in June, 1879, that, proceeding according to the constitution of the Church, the following changes in its superior judicatories and their powers be effected:

1. That the General Assembly, being constituted as at present, and retaining all its present powers, except such as are delegated to Synods, as herein provided for, shall meet triennially instead of annually, as heretofore.
2. That the three Synods in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec be abolished, and that one Synod be formed to be called the Synod of Ontario and Quebec, which shall consist of one-third of the ministers on the rolls of Presbyteries, with an equal number of representative elders, both to be elected by Presbyteries as the members of the General Assembly are now elected; and that the Synod of the Maritime Provinces retain its present name and constitution—thus making these two Synods numerically equal.
3. That these Synods, in addition to the powers possessed at present by Synods, shall have the entire management of Home Mission work within their respective bounds, and shall also, according to regulations made from time to time by the General Assembly, have the oversight of the colleges belonging to the Church within their respective bounds, and have also the right to receive ministers from foreign churches and to authorize Presbyteries to take students on trial for licenses.
4. That the Presbytery of Manitoba shall continue as it is, a Presbytery with such synodical powers as it has hitherto possessed.
5. That there shall be a Foreign Mission Board for the whole Church, composed of thirty members, two-fifths of whom shall be elected triennially by the General Assembly, and two-fifths shall be appointed annually by the Synod of Ontario and Quebec, and one-fifth by the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, with power to manage the Foreign Mission business of the Church, according to regulations to be made from time to time by the General Assembly.
6. That there shall be a committee appointed triennially by the General Assembly to take such oversight of missionary work in Manitoba and in the North-west Territory as is at present exercised by the Home and Foreign Mission Committee in said regions—it being understood that both Synods shall be represented in this committee, and that the General Assembly shall determine the proportion of the expenses of said missions to be borne by each of the Synods.
7. That the statistical and financial statements of the whole Church shall be published triennially by a committee appointed by every successive Assembly for this purpose, it being understood that the Synods may publish their own statistics and financial statements if they please.
8. That committees for the management of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund shall be appointed triennially by the General Assembly.

The design of the Overture is to diminish the ecclesiastical machinery employed in the management of