

toast that all Canadians delight to honor. Alma Mater, The Ladies, The Sister Faculties, The Fourth Year, The Freshmen, The Committee, and The Hockey Team were all received with the enthusiasm they deserved. To particularize upon the speeches would be ungracious, but our own Freddie as he eulogized the fair creatures whose winning ways go so far to make life endurable, and even desirable, surpassed himself as an after dinner speaker.

Dinner was followed by an adjournment to the dancing hall—of course we did not dance—where Mr. F. L. Horsfall opened the proceedings with a well-chosen and well-rendered selection from *The Habitant*. Next came the cakewalk, and six manly forms supporting six dainty pieces of femininity paraded to and fro, graciously acknowledging the plaudits of their admirers and making a determined effort to win the favor of the judges. Finally Mr. Humphries and his charming partner, Miss Bishop, were awarded the cake. A boxing contest between Greig and Johnson ended in a draw, but our own Cotton proved unequal to the prowess of Walker. The Sophomores and the Freshmen gave an exhibition of football as it ought to be, and at 11.45 p.m. we all climbed once more into the sleighs, and started for town, feeling that it had been good for us to be there.

#### M'EWAN HALL.

A remarkable activity in University expansion has been going forward at Edinburgh during the past twenty-five years. In 1872, both town and gown realized that the equipment then possessed was inadequate for successful teaching, and a Provisional Committee was appointed by "citizens and others interested in the welfare of the University." The first money came as a bequest from Sir David Baxter of £20,000 for extension of the buildings. The Committee then drew up a plan of extension requiring an expenditure of £100,000, and in 1874, as a result of an influential public meeting held to discuss the project, £56,000 were subscribed. An Acting Committee was appointed to carry out the proposed additions. This Committee put all Scotland under levy through local secretaries, and thus raised the contributions to £80,000. In June, 1876, Mr. Disraeli, the prime minister, was approached for aid, and he promised to recommend a grant of £80,000 if the public subscriptions should reach £105,500. In November, 1877, a second public meeting eli-

cited subscriptions to meet the sum required. For five years the New Buildings were under construction, but difficulties arose. In 1875, the Medical school had numbered nine hundred, in 1882 it had grown to seventeen hundred. This remarkable increase upset all calculations, and to meet the new requirements it was decided to make a further appeal during 1884, the tercentenary year of Edinburgh's existence. £36,000 resulted. In 1885, a further subscription of £15,000 was raised as a finally final contribution! The New Buildings are devoted to the Medical school, while the old ones as remodeled house the faculties of Law, Arts and Divinity. In 1886, Mr. W. M. M'Ewan intimated that if a certain property could be procured as a site he was prepared to give £40,000 for the erection of an University Hall. Parliament voted £8,000 towards the site, Mr. M'Ewan contributed the balance, plans for a building to cost £62,000 were accepted, and the new work was commenced. While the construction was under way, Mr. M'Ewan sanctioned an elaborate scheme of decoration, the execution of which has occupied Mr. W. M. Palin and his assistants three years! An electric organ of the finest description by Hope-Jones has also been added, so that instead of a building of £62,000, Mr. M'Ewan has given to the University a monumental Convocation Hall, costing £115,000.

At the first public meeting of the extension movement in 1872 the Chancellor closed his speech with these words: "I cannot but think that it is beneath the dignity of a great school of learning—a something even approaching to degradation—that for the purpose of assembling its members upon a great occasion, it is reduced to the necessity of hiring a hall. I believe this to be no sentimental impression, but a movement, a suggestion in the true interests of the University. Let any man who has ever been present at a Commemoration Day at Oxford recall to his mind the scene which he then witnessed in the Sheldonian Theatre, and let him ask himself if he can doubt that the prestige, fame and vigour of that great University of Oxford is inseparably connected with what he there beheld." After the general public had done its possible, Mr. M'Ewan has been able to realise for the University this crowning wish of its original Buildings Extension Committee.

In all this recent growth at Edinburgh, one circumstance stands forth more strikingly than the others—that in Scotland, at least, it is possible to arouse general public enthusiasm in supplying