

ORATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP, AND GENTLEMEN,

ENCÆNIA were Festivals or Public Acts established by the Classic Nations of antiquity, in commemoration of the foundation of Cities and the like: The word is of Greek origin, and was used in much the same sense as the English word Festival or *Anniversary*.

In every point of view the opening of a great Provincial Institution like this of King's College, is worthy of an encænal celebration.

The solemn opening of the College, and the inauguration of His Excellency Sir Howard Douglas, as Chancellor, actually took place on the 1st of January, 1829, and was spoken of as beyond all question one of the most imposing and impressive ceremonies ever witnessed in New Brunswick.

By Statute, however, the last Thursday in June, being the last day of Trinity Term, has been fixed upon as the most proper day whereon the Public Academical Act should be held.

By the same authority it has been likewise ordained that an Oration shall be then delivered by one of the Professors in praise of the Founders and Benefactors of the Institution, and of its objects.

It may be well imagined that it is a difficult thing for me, in the twentieth year of the existence of the College, and under all the circumstances of the case, to say anything new or striking upon these points; and for the necessity under which I am placed, I pray your kind consideration; and the more, as the concluding days of Term, during which the necessity has arisen, are always those on which there is, on other accounts, most to occupy and harass the minds of those who are engaged in instruction here.