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Toronto, May 7, 1896.

Closing at Queen's.

IT was a pleasant and interesting ceremony, the closing exercises at Queen's University last week. It might be said, in the words of a graduate of the University, that "these annual gatherings at dear old Queen's are always an inspiration." The college commencement or convocation undoubtedly is a rallying point at which the Alumni derive strength and encouragement from their mutual intercourse and return to their duties refreshed and with their love and ardor for the Alma Mater quickened into new life.

There were several interesting features of the proceedings at Queen's worthy of remark. The Chancellor, Dr. Sandford Fleming, delivered an admirable address, although mainly of pathetic interest on account of the notice which had to be taken of the distinguished dead of the past year, among whose names are numbered those of three trustees, Dr. Boulter, Dr. Laidlaw and Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, B.D., of three professors, Rev. Dr. Williamson, Dr. Fenwick and Dr. Saunders, and of some brilliant students of the University; the lessons of whose loss the Chancellor summed up in these direct and touching terms:—"The records of death to which I have referred, include the names of men who have endeared themselves to all by every noble quality. Our lives are richer and better from having such men amongst us, and for having had them so long we are profoundly thankful. The influence their lives have exercised on generations of graduates, cannot die. In men so influenced we may have implicit trust, and I cannot but think that the honor of the University, and its continued usefulness, is safe in their hands."

The unveiling of the portraits of the late Hon. Wm. Morris, and the late medical professors, Drs. Fenwick and Saunders was fraught with tender memories and devout acknowledgements. It was Mr. Morris who, in 1842, secured the charter for the University, with the privilege to name the institution "Queen's" after Her Majesty, and his other services held in special remembrance added to the appropriateness of the gift of his portrait at this time. Then there was the programme of development in contemplation, the hopeful consummation of which affords much satisfaction. It is in the direction of the establishment of a law school, a lectureship in music, and a Professor Williamson Scholarship, for the latter of which a strong committee will undertake a vigorous canvas for \$5,000. Added to these features was the conferring of the higher honorary degrees. That in divinity, namely the degree of doctor was appropriately and deservedly conferred on the venerable patriarch Rev. Angus McColl, Chatham, Ont., one of the first students at Queen's on its opening day, March 7th, 1842. He is now seventy-eight years of age, and, we believe, has labored at Chatham since 1848. He is known as a clergyman of varied attainments, and

a most estimable man. His confrere in honors was Rev. W. P. Begg, of Kenterville, N.S., a clergyman of Scottish birth, who has resided in Canada since 1871 and has been known for years as a learned writer and lecturer on theological subjects.

At a meeting of the trustees Rev. Professor MacNaughton was appointed lecturer on Church History for the ensuing session. It was decided that this lectureship shall be known as the "Hugh Waddell" lectureship, a donation of \$5,000 having been made to the theological department of the University by that gentleman.

It is evident that Queen's is rapidly forging ahead.

Roman Catholics In Britain.

For years there have been controversies as to the growth of the Roman Catholic Church in Great Britain, especially in England itself, some maintaining that the growth has been phenomenal and that the reconquest of England by the Church of Rome is only a question of time, while others declare that in reality the Catholic Church is making no progress at all on the British Isles. The discussion has recently been renewed on account of the statement published by the highest Catholic authority in England, Cardinal Vaughan, the Archbishop of Westminster, who declared at the Catholic convention at Bristol that "the Catholic Church each year was receiving into her fold thousands from all the leading classes of English society." This statement is controverted by the *Germania*, of Milwaukee, which appeals to authentic sources. It says substantially this:

The Archbishop has unfortunately failed to give us the statistics in the case. Possibly it was his intention not to depart from what seems to be everywhere in England the policy of the Catholic Church, namely, to keep silent as to the exact numerical strength. The actual fact is that we now here find accurate statistics, not even in authoritative Catholic publications. The statistical year-book of Whitaker, rich in contents and recognized as an authority, in its issue for the current year simply says that the membership of the Catholic Church in all the parts of Great Britain can be estimated at about two million. The other year-book, that of Hazell, figures up the total at 1,865,000. Very remarkable in this connection is the fact that Whitaker twenty-three years ago, in the issue for 1872, gives exactly the same estimate, saying that a trustworthy summary will place the Catholics of England at two millions at least.

According to this, then, the Church of Rome has not increased at all in England during a period of nearly a quarter of a century. But as Cardinal Vaughan claims that there has been a great increase we must conclude that the exact figures are kept a secret. It is a lesson taught by history that the English already, from political reason, are very suspicious of the claims of the papal authorities. Then, too, there are a number of societies in England very alert and watchful, both within the Established and in the non-conformist churches, noting carefully the growth of Rome and of Romeward tendencies, and at the smallest provocation ready to raise the No-Popery cry. It is accordingly in the interests of the Roman Catholic Church not to publish its exact statistics and thus provoke opposition and hostility. On the other hand it is confidently maintained that the Catholic Church in England has really no increase to report, and if this is the case it is also good policy on the part of the church to keep silent about the matter. For it is known that the Catholic