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## SOME THOUGHTS ON THE IDEAL OF OUR NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON. S. H. BLAKE, Q.C., BEFORE THE POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB, NOVEMBER 22, 1900.

I have reason to quarrel with your Honorary President. When he asked me to address your Club, I told him that the title, "Some thoughts on the Ideal of our National University," was too pretentious and that he had better change it to, "A talk on our National University." He has, however, allowed the title to stand and I must make the best of it.

My remarks are naturally fragmentary and merely suggestive but are presented in the very earnest hope that the matter may be taken up and earnestly pressed by the members of your Club as one, than which nothing more vital to your interests can be discussed. In our Province, while we have not the old associations that gather round the splendid places of learning that are the honor and pride of Great Britain, we have this advantage; that with us our Educational system is in a formative process and we can easily mold and make it as, with all the light of the past centuries and the present, seems for the best. It is therefore of very vital moment to us that we should have an ideal, that we should make this a very high ideal; and that we should determine that this ideal we are bound to reach.

And, first,—Should not a National University be open to all? Free to all—young men and maidens—the pride of our Province, standing for all that is best and truest in the moral and intellectual life of our land—furnishing the needed salt to purify and keep pure; so that wealth, luxury, and selfishness may not eat into and cause decay in our commonwealth. In our perfect satisfaction with what we are pleased to think our wonderful and enlightened progress in the way of co-education we are apt to overlook what has been done in the past on these lines. Of the many instances the one that now comes to my mind is the celebrated University at Alcalá, the pride of Cardinal Ximenes, where there was not only this system over four hundred years ago, but the Professor of Latin was a learned woman to whom the boys of that day gave, as would the boys of today in their love of a good nickname, the epithet of *La Latina*.

Our National University must be an institution which will furnish the means of keeping high the standard of our learned professions of Theology, Law, and Medicine; an institution which breeds men broad, generous and tolerant; seeking to find out and willing to recognize fully the good in others, that know no narrow, sectarian, or sectional feeling; but so love the great institution they make their Alma Mater, as to resolve that naught must interfere with its most full development—a University, round which clusters our affiliated Colleges, each acknow-

ledging the others as having full rights; and as being necessary to the complete whole. So far as possible, a common meeting ground; common rooms for education; common clubs and associations; common play-grounds. Every opportunity given to show the good that there is in all. A place for the rounding off of angles, and, as iron sharpeneth iron, so the mind becomes tempered and prepared by constant attrition to perform its duty in the great battle of life in whatever sphere that may be fought. Perhaps some of you from actual sight will have the picture that is still before me. If not, no doubt your History will give it to you: although not in so pleasing a form as, when at the City of Geneva, near one of the beautiful bridges that span the Rhone, you view the National Monument. There stands before you the splendid bronze figures of two robed females, the one much larger than the other, encircling and



HON. S. H. BLAKE, Q. C.

supporting one another. Thus is represented the union of Geneva to the Swiss Confederacy. For years she struggled against this Union, fearing that her position and place would be lost amidst the large number of other Cantons. This Monument was erected to commemorate the thought on which the union was ultimately based, and underneath we find the appropriate motto:—"Un pour tous; tous pour un"; "Each for the whole—the whole for each." Let us join together in this same spirit, and, thus united, let us determine to make our University a power and a strength in our land.

In a National University there should be no discrimina-