

## 6. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD.

Those who have traversed the plains of Mexico have seen the cactaceæ family. The cactus has an ungainly leaf, fat and thick, and full of thorns, so that when men see it growing they say, "It is a clumsy and hateful thing, that is ugly to look upon, and that pierces you when you touch it." Wait! When at last that plant, which grows in arid places, where hardly any weed will grow, with thick and succulent leaves, and a tough skin, which stands almost without root through the whole year—when at last, it has come to the point where it is developed, is there in the whole kingdom of beauty a blossom that is for exquisiteness of form and tint equal to the cactus blossom? It is the very perfection of beauty growing out of the very emblem of homeliness. As it is with the vegetable kingdom, so it is with many developments of the divine kingdom. God's providence looks like a cactus leaf—like an arid plant growing uselessly in the wilderness. But wait till it blossoms, and see how glorious is its beauty. The Lord himself has been declared to be a root out of dry ground, in whom was no form or comeliness; and yet, out of this has blossomed the infinite glory of the Saviour and Brother which makes us children of the common Father. The glory of the world, and the wealth and beauty of it, are not enough to illustrate the fulness of the meaning of that one word which the Lord's prayer begins with, and which every man on earth may utter—"Our Father."

## VIII. Educational Intelligence.

—VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.—The exercises in connection with the close of the late session of the University of Victoria College have taken place during the past week. *The Examinations*.—The examinations in connection with the University and Grammar School classes were exceedingly satisfactory. So close, also, had been the competition between two members of the Freshman Class for the "Alumni Scholarship" of \$50, that extra written and oral examinations were ordered, still farther to test the abilities of the contestants. It was finally decided to give \$30 to A. L. Russell, and \$20 to W. Kingston, the two rivals who stood so nearly together. In law, we have been informed by one of the examiners, that the answers of Mr. W. H. Lowe, B.A., of Bowmanville, were exceedingly creditable. On Sabbath evening, the Baccalaureate Discourse to the members of the Graduating Class was delivered by the President, the Rev. S. Nelles, D.D. The Rev. gentleman took as his text, II Corinthians, x. 4 and 5,—more especially the last clause of the 5th verse, "Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." The closing remarks to the Graduating Class were at once affectionate and solemn. The subject was presented to them as a class, and their great work in regard to the union of reason and faith, as they entered upon the more active duties of life, plainly pointed out. It was the parting advice of the chief officer of the University to those about to be sent forth from its walls, and was exceedingly faithful and appropriate. The sermon was listened to throughout with marked attention. *Lecture on Italy*.—On Monday evening the Rev. Robert Ferrier, M.A., of Montreal, delivered a lecture on Italy. The lecture consisted of reminiscences from personal recollections, and was exceedingly interesting. *Alumni Association*.—On Tuesday evening, Byron Britton, Esq., B.A., delivered the annual lecture before the Alumni Association, of the members of which we were pleased to see a considerable number. The subject chosen was "Success," and the lecturer handled it in such a manner as to give great satisfaction to his attentive audience. The annual meeting of the Alumni Association took place immediately after the lecture, at University Hall. After the transaction of some other matters of business, the following members were appointed office-bearers for the current year:—President, C. C. Cameron, B.A., M.D., Port Hope; 1st Vice President, A. R. Bain, B.A., Cobourg; 2nd Vice President, Rev. D. G. Sutherland, B.A., Oakville; Secretary, H. Hough, B.A., Cobourg; Treasurer, D. W. Dumble, B.A., Peterborough; Managing Committee, the Graduates residing at Cobourg, Mr. J. W. Kerr, B.A., being convener. Rev. N. Burwash, B.A., Hamilton, was appointed Lecturer for 1867. On Wednesday afternoon the annual Convocation was held at Victoria Hall. The large hall was, as is usual on such occasions, literally crowded, a very large number being obliged to stand. The Rev. Dr. Nelles, the President, took the chair at half-past 2 o'clock, and upon the platform were seated the members of the Faculty of Arts, and representatives from the Faculties of Law and Medicine. The meeting was opened by prayer by Rev. R. Jones, after which the following orations were delivered, and degrees conferred:—Latin Oration, J. H. Rogers; Greek Oration, C. W. Stickle; Valedictory

Oration, S. H. James. *Degrees*: B.A.—Josiah H. Rodgers, Gold Medallist; Charles W. Stickle, Silver Medallist; Alexander Hardie, Theophilus Hartley, Simeon H. James, Harvard C. McMullen, Jonathan Pettet, Samuel Wallace. M.A.—J. J. MacLaren, B.A., Gold Medallist of 1862; N. Bigelow, B.A., W. M. Elliott, B.A., W. S. Downey, B.A., M.D., George Young, B.A., M.D.—Robert Edmundson, (*ad eundem*.) John McKeown, John Coventry, George A. McCallum, Jonathan McCully, Edward Benson, Harry Vaux, Thomas D. Keffer, C. Newland Trew, Robert B. Clark, Samuel L. Hughes, John Munson, J. Widmer Rolph, John Barr, George W. Ling, Thomas Wylie, Charles E. Bonnell, Charles A. Jones, Edward L. Atkinson, David L. Walmesley, Edward Oliver, James W. Smith, Nelson Mulloy, Milton Youmans, Peter J. Muter, Samuel McDonald, J. S. Douglas, Robert H. Biggar, Eli Y. Barrick, Edwin H. Gates, James H. McGregor, William H. Oliver, William F. Savage, Thomas W. Vardon, Samuel Moore, William S. Christoe, Josiah B. Johnson, Thomas R. Buckham, John B. Mills, D. W. McMurchy. After the conferring of the Degrees, Professor Geikin, of the Medical Faculty, delivered an interesting and impressive address to the Graduates in Medicine. The following medals and prizes were then awarded:—Prince of Wales Gold Medal, Josiah H. Rogers; Prince of Wales Silver Medal, Charles W. Stickle. The Ryerson Prize: Scripture History, George K. Creighton. The Webster Prize: First English Essay, Samuel Wallace. The Hodgins Prize: First in Metaphysics, Alexander Hardie. Literary Association's Prizes: First in Elocution, W. H. Rowsom; second, S. Wallace. Best English Essay: W. H. Rowsom; second, S. H. James. The Gold Medal was presented by the Rev. Dr. Green; the Silver Medal, (worn by a Cobourg boy,) by Dr. Beatty, Mayor. The Rev. John Laing presented the Ryerson Prize, W. Kerr, Esq., M.A., the Webster Prize, and Dr. Lavelle, the Hodgins Prize. The Rev. Dr. Nelles presented the Literary Association's Prizes in Elocution, the Rev. Dr. Madden its First Prize in English Essays, and the Rev. R. Ferrier the Second. Appropriate addresses were delivered at each presentation. At the close of the presentations, His Worship the Mayor, at the call of the Rev. President, proposed three cheers for the Queen, which were given with a hearty good will, the band playing the National Anthem. After the band had ceased playing, the Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. R. Jones, and this very interesting Convocation was thus brought to a close. In stating that the *Conversazione* on Wednesday evening was the most successful the Association has ever held, we but echo the sentiments of all whose opinions we have heard expressed. From year to year these gatherings have appeared to increase in interest; but the late one, for the perfection of its arrangements and the excellence of the various departments of the entertainment, certainly surpassed all its predecessors. Thus ended the exercises of another epoch in the history of Old Vic. Another company of young men has been sent forth, their education, as far as college life is concerned, completed, and their intellectual preparations for the more active duties of life brought to a close. We are sure we only write the pure prayer of each heart in that vast assembly on Wednesday afternoon, when we wish for them that success and happiness which the rigorous discipline to which they have been subjected, added to their own natural qualities, have fitted them to achieve and enjoy.—*World*.

—VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.—The Calendar of Victoria College, for the sessions of 1865-6, has just been issued. From this we are pleased to learn, that notwithstanding the "hardness of the times," the institution is still in a prosperous condition. There have been entered in various departments, during the session, the names of two hundred and eighty-two students. Of those 52 are Undergraduates in Arts, 83 Specialists, 61 Matriculants, 127 Students in Medicine, and 9 in Law. The University and Grammar School classes at Cobourg are now in a very efficient condition. The Matriculation and University Courses have been somewhat extended: and it is now believed that Victoria College offers advantages not surpassed by any institution in the country, while the thorough training which her students receive makes her diplomas at least of equal value with those of any other University. May she long continue to prosper in her noble work.—*World*.

—QUEENS UNIVERSITY.—There was a large attendance on Thursday afternoon at Convocation Hall, to witness the conferring of degrees and prizes upon students in the faculties of Arts and Theology. The proceedings having been opened with prayer by the Rev. Principal Snodgrass, the minutes of the last convocation meeting were read by the Registrar, Rev. Professor Murray, and confirmed. Then followed the distribution of prizes to the most successful students in the various departments of the two faculties named. A report from the Senatus was read, recommending the conferring of the degree; also a recommendation from the Law Faculty, that