

The Varsity

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BY

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OCTOBER 6. 1891.

REPORT OF CONVOCATION.



THE Annual Convocation of the University of Toronto was held on ——— last, at 2.30. So runs the usual report—and we may adopt the time-honored formula as it stands, merely inserting the date, Monday, October 5, and the place—not the Examination Hall of the School of Science as many expected, but the room in old Varsity that once served as "Library" and is now fitted up as an Examination Hall. Beyond this point, however, there will be little need of adopting the ordinary formula. We are saved from a wearisome repetition of past experiences by an entirely new departure in the order of proceedings: there was evidently a determination on the part of the students to introduce something *novel*—and they must have succeeded beyond their wildest dreams! We have the honor of reporting something entirely novel in this line, but shall leave others to decide as to whether it should be adopted as the ordinary method of procedure. But let us explain.

As the hall is very small, it was filled long before the time at which the Exercises were announced to begin;

and those of us who were fortunate enough to obtain seats could hear indistinct murmurings from the corridor without, which seemed to betoken a very quiet time. It had been announced that all students whose presence was not required on the platform—to receive prizes, etc. (and unfortunately there are many such)—would occupy the museum (for a few hours only, be it understood!); doubtless this announcement caused great disappointment to many, who, though they might not care to admit it, would find things very slow without the presence of the students "to make things lively, you know." But there was little need for uneasiness on that score! In a few minutes there was heard a dull roar and a rush, and suddenly a *horde* (I use the term advisedly) of students were precipitated into the room, rushing pell-mell over each other, and over those who were unfortunate enough to be in the extreme rear of the hall—thereby endangering seriously, if not the *lives* of the ladies around, at least the freshness of their best bonnets! By this time the "dull roar" had increased by a rapid crescendo to a fortissimo, but this seemed to be exactly what the people had been waiting for: they arose and turned an admiring gaze on the surging mass behind them, which, flattered by the attention, continued its deafening roar.

At last we caught sight, through the crowd, of the mace, borne, as of old, by our worthy bedell, who, "such was his imperturbability," walked forward with a dignity suitable to the occasion, without appearing in the least disturbed by the confusion around him. Behind him came in procession the Faculty, headed by the Chancellor, Hon. Edward Blake, and the President, and took their places on the platform amid an increasing din from the rear. The Glee Club opened proceedings with a chorus; but, unlike the musician of the classic tale, they found it beyond their power "to charm the —," and the echo of their song was heard only at intervals above the vocal exercises at the rear.

We should honestly like to give at least some of the words of the first speaker—we saw a figure standing before the desk, and semi-occasionally turning the leaves of an address or *something*. We had certain vague ideas that if we had been within range of his voice we would have found it all very interesting, but truth compels us to admit that we heard of it all not one word; so we must refer our readers to someone, who, more fortunately situated, or more ingenious, has been able to give a satisfactory report.

The next speaker called upon was the Hon. G. W. Ross, and, fortunately for our office as reporter, there was a lull which enabled us to gain a tolerably good idea of the drift of his remarks. Mr. Ross first congratulated the University of Toronto on the great progress which had been made in building, enabling them, in so short a time after the fire, to re-assemble within the walls of the old building; he referred to the good which has come out of apparent evil in the sympathy which has been roused throughout our Province, and indeed, throughout the world by the tidings of the misfortune, and the prompt and generous offers of aid which followed. So that now it is in as prosperous a condition as before, and is far more widely known. Mr. Ross next referred in the highest terms to the prompt measures of the President, Sir Daniel Wilson, to keep things together during the trying interval.