

THE PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS.

ON Friday evening, Oct. the 10th, as has been mentioned before, the Y.M.C.A. gave a reception to the different Freshmen classes of the University. As usual of course they had to depend almost entirely for its success upon the ladies of the town. It goes without saying that the boys had but to make known their wants when they were more than met and with such a heartiness and evident pleasure that we feel inclined to say that it is more blessed to receive than to give. The Association owe a debt of gratitude to the ladies in general for their bountiful supply of delicious edibles as well as for honoring them with their own presence, and to the Professor's ladies who kindly got the supper ready for them. After the opening remarks of Mr. Gandier the President, the Principal was called upon and delivered

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of the evening, as follows:

GENTLEMEN,—In bidding you a hearty welcome to "good old Queen's," I take off my hat, as did the wise Trebouins to his pupils, for, said he, among you there may be one to whom the world will yet delight to honor. Trebouins was right, as the 10th of November last year proved, when the whole world joined in commemorating the 400th anniversary of the birth of his pupil, the Eisleben charcoal burner's son. Who shall say that I, too, may not be equally endowed with prophetic foresight? What are your chances of becoming great men? Everything depends on God and of yourselves, and God's promise is: "Them that honor me I will honor; and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." My few words of greeting and of advice will be based on this promise:

1st. Advice as to bodily health, necessity of regular exercise, and of avoiding extreme strains, such as those demanded by competition with outside clubs. Position taken in football; he commended the game but deprecated the frequent competitions with teams all over the country, as involving excessive waste of time, money and energy. He thought that inter-collegiate contests were quite sufficient and that students should not look for a wider range of competition.

2nd. Advice as to cultivation of habits of study, based on the apothegm, "*bene orasse est bene studuisse*."

The Principal concluded with a reference to the proposal to establish a chair in Queen's to be known as "The Sir John A. Macdonald Chair," in the following language:

"The session has opened with excellent promise. The next seven months are likely to be crowded with fruitful work in every faculty and class-room, in which work you, I trust, will hold your proper place. On next Thursday (University Day) when, in accordance with our custom for well nigh half a century, our formal opening takes place, it will be my duty to report as to the present condition of the University; but at present, I cannot refrain from a reference to a proposed addition to the number of our chairs, with, however, a melancholy conviction that proposals are not chairs. I learn from the *Toronto Globe* that some one has suggested that a Chair of Political Economy should be founded in the University, bearing the name of Sir John A. Macdonald, to commemorate his forty years of public service. Such a foundation, though the idea certainly did not emanate from me, would seem a sensible way of honoring any man and at the same time of doing good to the whole country for centuries to come, and I hope that it may become the fashion in the case of all our leading public men. But the *Globe* interposes with a demurrer, in its usual genial style, to the effect that Sir John

knows nothing about political economy. In the innocence of its heart it apparently supposes that the man after whom a chair is called must fill it in person, or at any rate know a good deal about the subject. Either stipulation would kill a vast majority of the benefactions that other colleges in Canada and all the world over have received. Besides, if Sir John is so ignorant, and this ignorant country of ours has again and again made him Premier notwithstanding, all the greater is the necessity for a chair of Political Economy, especially as there is no such chair yet in any University in Canada. That is the conclusion to which the impartial minds of freshmen would come, and even the bigots of faction might be expected to rejoice that a reproach was at length to be wiped away from our universities. When I was minister in Halifax, an adherent of the church, a strong anti-Confederate told me one day that he would give up his pew if I continued to pray for the Government of the Dominion. "Why! my dear sir," I answered, "no man in Halifax knows better than you that these men need to be prayed for." The prayers were retained, and so was the pew. But though I mollified the anti-Confederate, I have no hope of mollifying the *Globe*. It would be more than willing to give Sir John a heavenly kingdom, but it grudges him even a chair on earth. Its concern for the honor of Queen's, too, is touching. Doubtless, it is persuaded that its past record entitles it to pose as the friend of Queen's. Our graduates generally will probably be wicked enough to interpret its language, whether used editorially or in the more cowardly form of anonymous and judiciously selected correspondence, as indicating that it is mortally afraid that Queen's is going to get something good that Toronto has not. It need not be alarmed. I for one have not the smallest hope of getting the chair in question. Some people talk in an airy way of founding new chairs, much as Mr. Micawber talked of giving new notes of hand, or Mr. Skimpole of buying peaches at Mr. Jarndyce's expense. An enterprising interviewer asked me the other day if I would have any new professors to report this year, in precisely the same tone in which he asked if we had added any new books to the library. Chairs do not spring into existence on suggestions from newspapers. But perhaps I should not speak so hopelessly of the prospect. After all the chair may be established. There is a chance. If only the *Globe* will go on denouncing the project it may be taken up in earnest. Men may then subscribe, not because they care much for political economy, but for other reasons that need not be specified. And if so, Queen's will at last have something to thank the *Globe* for.

Speaking more seriously, to what a pitch of Pharisaic fanaticism and factious hate have we come when a suggestion to found a chair in a university in honor of one whom the country has recognized as its leading statesman for a generation should be greeted only with vulgar insolence, directed against both statesman and university. Some of our professors are Liberals, others are Conservatives. Our trustees are equally divided. The university has no politics. I, myself, belong to neither party, for in my opinion both parties are effete. But the Liberals among us would welcome a chair named after Sir John A. Macdonald, and the Conservatives would welcome one bearing the name of Oliver Mowat. Both gentlemen are honored graduates of Queen's. Both have done us good service in the past. And as we gratefully accepted contributions and speeches from both in aid of our endowment fund, much more readily would we accept \$40,000 or \$50,000 from the friends of either for a chair which, though not necessarily connected with the ordinary curriculum, would benefit the country for all time. And when an effort is made to establish a chair in Toronto University, in honor of Chancellor Blake, I shall be happy to contribute my mite, though his views on the university question—so far