

To this list was appended the return of sessional examinations in the ordinary Arts course.

The prizes and honor certificates having been awarded, and the Degree of B. A., conferred on these entitled to it.

Mr. McKibbin, B. A., read the Valedictory of the Arts course, in which, after a reference to the present practice of getting up spelling matches and tracing up words to their roots, he showed the meaning of the word "valedictory" (vale-dic) to be the "saying of farewell." He also quoted from Webster to a similar effect. These separations could not be without sentiment, and he came to say "farewell" on this occasion with a full appreciation of its meaning. After speaking of the kindnesses which he and to day's graduates had received at the hands of the professors, from their fellow undergraduates, and from the citizens of Montreal, of which they would ever have the most pleasant remembrances, he proceeded to advocate a greater practice among students of athletic sports. A healthy mind in a sound body would enable them to meet their professors and examiners with honest confidence. He spoke of the advantage it would be to students if the college could be so remodelled as to provide accommodation for them. (Applause). The discomforts of boarding houses were the greatest trouble with which students had to contend. Could they be accommodated as he had suggested students would enjoy the advantages of closer association, discipline and regularity. He concluded by again repeating his expressions of thanks.

Professor Darey then delivered the valedictory address to the graduates.

PROFESSOR DAREY'S ADDRESS.

*Mr. Chancellor, Chairman, Gentlemen of the Convocation, Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

Having been appointed by the Faculty of Arts to address a few words to the graduating class in behalf of the Faculty, it is with a feeling of pleasure that I come to fulfil that duty. It is a real pleasure to me, gentlemen, to congratulate you to day on the new position you have attained, you have reached a place for which you have striven during the last four years. Some of you have distinguished yourselves by your diligence and application, and have rightly fitted yourselves to enter into higher and more difficult professional studies. Your number is small but your scholarship is of a very high order. If the people of this city and country were alive to their true interest, instead of counting our graduates by units or tens, we should count them by hundreds. Surely nothing deserves a better training than man with his lofty intellect, than man made after the image of his maker. The advantages of sound literary and scientific studies must give to every one, whether a professional or a business man, a benefit that commercial reverses can neither shake nor take away. A deep acquaintance with those treasures of thought, with those monuments of wisdom of the past ages, a love for those belles lettres, which have been so well called human, *humaniores litteræ*, will give most certainly to every man, after the labour of the day, the hurry of affairs, the purest and noblest of enjoyments. A distinguished Frenchman of the past century, Montesquieu, used to say that he never had a trouble, which an hour of reading did not dissipate. Many also of your great English statesmen of the present day, solace themselves, and rest from the arduous task of governing an empire of the magnitude of the British empire, in the pure enjoyment of classical literature, translating Homer or writing a novel. In the venerable halls of learning of Oxford or Cambridge, did they acquire those habits of study; may we not hope that it will be the same in those of McGill. We hope and trust that it will be the case, and that the opportunities afforded to the youth of this country, will be embraced with earnestness. We hope also that before long the benefit of a thorough training in the Faculty of Arts will be so well recognized, that a degree of Bachelor of Arts will be made imperative before entering upon the professional study of Medicine, Law, Theology or Science. That degree is required in my own country, France, and the reasons for that requirement, are quite as powerful here, as anywhere else in the world. I will not enumerate those reasons; they are too obvious to require any demonstration. What are we trying to do here in this Faculty? We are endeavouring to bring out, cultivate, and foster the capacities, intellectual, æsthetic and moral, with which a kind Providence has endowed the students, either in causing them to drink deeply at the fountain of science, or to take pleasant, agreeable and refresh-

ing excursions in the beautiful field of Literature, both ancient and modern, in your own powerful and expressive language, or in foreign tongues. I do not forget that there is no Royal road to learning, and that study is not altogether child's play. I do not consider that work is an evil. It is a fit preparation for greater exertions in fighting the battle of life. Besides, there are plenty of Royal roads—to riches—to position in society, etc., where only the few are admitted, and it is quite well that here in the dominion of letters or science, there is true equality, and that with patience and perseverance, in doing well the work of to-day, we can all make our lives perhaps not sublime, as the poet has it, but prepare ourselves for a life useful to our fellow-men and fit ourselves to hear the cheerful sound at last—well done. It is a praiseworthy ambition in everyone to try to excel, in every thing that one undertakes, and I wish that all of you may excel, but remember gentlemen, that we may excel in doing small things as well as in doing those which attract the attention of men which are done before the whole world. One may excel in a very humble sphere. Let it suffice you that it should be said he is an honest, modest, thorough man. Then you will not fail to get the esteem of your fellow men, and what better reward do you wish for? I know well that it is not always easy to perform small duties. But in every calling there are small duties to attend to. There is drudgery which requires to be seen at a certain distance and under a peculiar light to appear agreeable. One of the hardest things to bear that I know of is the ungratefulness of those in whom one takes an interest. But, gentlemen, if there is one single thing that I wish to impress upon your mind more than any other it is that you should prepare yourselves to meet it. Life is spoken of as a fight; therefore prepare yourselves for the battle; we have been trying to help you to furbish your weapons and be ready to enter upon the strife. Remember also as an encouragement, that goodness and truth are not less contagious than evil, and many there are who will be strengthened by your example, and will take heart again after discouragement, and play well their part in the world. You will make enemies in doing your duty in a straightforward and honorable way; never mind what the selfish, the unprincipled man may say—it is not always an honour to be praised by some men, and it is not always a compliment to be thought like every body else—no—but let your motive be honourable, your conduct correct, in a word:

"Act well your part, there the honour lies."

The present period of the world seems to require more than any other age true men, and men of sound and true learning. At this time there are those who in the name of science would try to take away from us those precious hopes which help us very often to bear the burden of life and invite us to look to a higher and better world for the recompense which has not been given us here. There are others who fly off in other directions, on superstitious ways, desirous to make us retrograde to past ages, others abandon themselves to the most wretched infidelity. And these are no ordinary thinkers—they are master minds, unfortunately going in the wrong, and I may say hopeless way. They are many of them leaders of thought of this generation. I hope gentlemen that it is not presumption on my part to think that this University may train minds which may rise to the front rank of learning, as we fortunately have a brilliant example amongst us—minds which may lead the movement of ideas and thoughts, and give them a right healthy and hopeful direction. We are living in a very active, stirring time. Do not be carried away by the current over much. Harbor not those ways of sharp dealing, those feelings of selfishness which are so frequent in our time. Set up the standard of action on the high noble ground of honor and truth. But my time is very limited and I will not trespass on your patience. One word more and I have done. I will tell you before you leave these walls, to look always on this University as your *Alma Mater*, as I hope you have found her to be so. We who remain here will take a deep interest in the course you pursue in the future. We have been interested in the highest degree in your intellectual progress for these four years past. We cannot leave aside that interest as a worn out garment. Are we justified in hoping that such a feeling will be reciprocated? May we not hope that amongst the graduates there will be a strong band standing by their *Alma Mater*, that there will be formed amongst them a powerful *esprit de corps* for good! I will not question the past, but will look hopefully