

larly my sense of what I owe to the Principal, to whose undeviating kindness and consideration I am more indebted than I well know how to express.

And now, Sir, I will detain you no longer, for you are expecting to listen to oratory of a very different stamp from mine. I will only add that I earnestly hope that when we meet next year, if God shall spare us to meet again, we may have a good account to give of the progress of our College, and that it may be under auspices as favourable as those under which we now meet.

The Chancellor then said, referring to Mr. McGee, who sat on his left with the Governor's suite, Would a well known friend of letters now say a word or two of encouragement to the pupils?

[The following addresses, as well as parts of what precedes, are taken principally from the *Montreal Gazette*.]

The Honorable Mr. McGee thereupon came forward and said :

Your Excellency, Mr. Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen: I must confess that when I accepted the kind invitation of the Chancellor of Bishop's College, and when yesterday I left Quebec, I had hoped that for a season at least I had left the duties of a public speaker altogether behind me. (Laughter.) Besides, Mr. Chancellor, though not wholly unaccustomed to being called to my feet at a moment's notice elsewhere,—this is an occasion and a presence in which I should shrink from any thing like unconsidered speaking. It may, perhaps be doubted, if it is ever admissable for a man to speak without some degree of preparation—unless, indeed, he is forced to speak, as he may be forced to strike, in sheer self-defence. (Cheers.) You have put me, Sir, in that attitude, but I beg you to consider at what a disadvantage. You ought to consider whether or not I had my oratorical wardrobe with me! (Laughter.) You ought to have considered that my thesis might be in my trunk in the Town of Sherbrooke. (Laughter.)

You will permit me, however, now that I have broken the ice, (a most refreshing metaphor in this sort of weather, (laughter,)) to enlarge for a moment two ideas which were referred to by His Excellency in another place, and which have been fructifying in my mind ever since. They led to two trains of thought, one of which included the consideration of the material inheritance of the young men of Canada. When I am told that this College has not yet completed its twentieth year; when I consider that it is almost within the shadow of the pines which bowed to the same blasts that impelled Cabot and Cartier on their courses,—when I reflect a moment on the riches which abound above the soil, in the soil and under the soil of Canada, I cannot but think the merely material prospects of the young men of this country are to be envied. (Cheers.) And when I consider, on the other hand, our mental inheritance,—the conquering English speech, in which a man may travel round the world, and find himself on no shore a stranger—when I think of the lived and hoarded wisdom of antiquity, made common to us all by the two magicians, the movable types and steam press; when I remember that although much has been lost, a priceless amount has been saved from the wreck of ancient schools and societies, I must again congratulate the fortunate youth of these provinces on their ample mental inheritance.

One thing, also, ought not to be omitted; It is the glorious associations connected with our own home history. Patriotism will increase in Canada as its history is read. No province of any ancient or modern power—not even Gaul when it was a Province of Rome—has had nobler Imperial names interwoven in its local events. Under the French Kings Canada was the theatre of action for a whole series of men of first rate reputations. Under our English Sovereigns—from