

highly gifted, popular lecturer.—And Dr. McLetchie, Minister of High Church, Edinburgh, writing from Edinburgh in January last, thus says:—From his talents, his acquirements, his earnestness of purpose, his vigour of perseverance, and his high conscientiousness, I am persuaded he will earn a reputation for zeal and efficiency in any situation to which he may be appointed.—We congratulate the country generally, and Queen's College in particular, on the acquisition of the talents, the attainments, and the energies of such a man.

—UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA COLLEGE.—The President of this University, the Rev. S. S. Nelles, M.A., and the Agent, the Rev. W. H. Poole, with other gentlemen, have recently been holding a series of meetings in various parts of the Province in behalf of the University. The object has been to raise a sufficient fund to endow the College, and thus to place it upon an efficient footing. Their success has been very satisfactory, considering the present financial pressure; and the meetings have excited a good deal of interest in favor of the University. The *Hamilton Times* thus refers to one of the faculties of the Institution:—"The Medical Department of this University, commonly known as 'Rolph's School of Medicine,' which is conducted at Toronto, under the able management of the Hon. John Rolph, M.D., Dean of the Faculty, has entered upon the session of '58 and '59 in a most auspicious manner. The Introductorics of the various Professors closed last week. That of the time-honored Dean was a master-piece of sound and elegant composition, most eloquently and effectively delivered. Quite a number of the citizens, as well as the students, were present; and, as his voice trembled in eloquent pathos, whilst picturing to the students the responsibilities of a physician's life, there was not a heart present but was deeply moved. Age, which, while it seems to have added dignity and venerableness to this father of the medical science in Canada, has in no way impaired either the vigour of his mind as a profound thinker, or the energy and pathos of his delivery as a speaker. Professor Geikie, who has charge of the anatomy and surgery, is a fluent and energetic lecturer, and, we are told, is looked upon by the students as an instructor of a very high order. The Professor of *Materia Medica*, C. Berryman, M.D., a gentleman of high attainments, impressed strongly upon the students the necessity there was of their being not only men of medical skill, but men of education in the highest sense of the word—men who are able to stand either at the bar, on the public platform, or at the bed-side, with honor to the profession and credit to themselves. The late Master of Chemistry and Mathematics in the Provincial Normal School, W. A. Watts, M.A., has been installed in the chair of Chemistry. He is—though an Englishman—a graduate of Queen's College, Galway, and is, without doubt, fast rising to an important position. This class, considering the state of the times, is a large one, numbering between sixty and seventy; they come from all parts of the Province—several from the Colleges of Lower Canada. The students of the University have every facility offered them for pursuing their studies such as is afforded by any other medical school."

—UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.—On the 25th ultimo, the annual convocation of this institution for the admission of students and the distribution of prizes, was held. Before the hour had arrived at which the proceedings were to commence, the lecture room of the old University building was crowded to excess. Shortly after two o'clock, the President, the Rev. John McCaul, LL.D., took his seat in the president's chair. On his right and left sat professors in the University. On the platform were also the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Superintendent of Education, Chief Justice Draper, and Dr. Rolph. The first thing in the order of proceedings was the admission of 26 Undergraduates. A Prize Composition was recited by W. H. C. Kerr, in Latin *alcaics*. The second was by J. A. Boyd—an English essay—subject "The last of the Constantines, A. D. 1453." The Distribution of Prizes followed, and in presenting which the President and Professors made complimentary remarks to the successful competitors, and especially to the retiring members of the College, Messrs. Moss and Rattray. In regard to Mr. Moss, the President remarked that "from the commencement of his career in this institution he had obtained the highest honors which could be conferred by it, and now he was about to close his career in it by having obtained in the University three gold medals, and in the College seven prizes. (Cheers.) He (Dr. McCaul) might apply to him the motto of the institution in which he had graduated—"Semel raptos nunquam dimittet honores." (Applause.) They sent him forth with cordial good wishes for his success and earnest prayers for his happiness not only in this world, but in that better world to which they were all hastening." (Cheers.) There were some special prizes awarded by the College Literary and Scientific Society to the following gentlemen as being

the most proficient in the three annexed branches:—Public Speaking, W. J. Rattray; Public Reading, J. Mitchell; English Essay, J. A. Boyd.

Dr. McCaul then rose. He said, the usage had prevailed, in closing the proceedings on such occasions as the present, of offering a few explanatory remarks relative to the progress of the institution, during the past year, its present condition, and its future prospects. He would ask, then, in accordance with this usage, to occupy their time for a few minutes while he briefly adverted to a few of the principal points connected with those subjects. It was, he believed, generally supposed that the number of students in attendance in such an institution was the best criterion of its prosperity. He (Dr. McCaul) did not agree with that; but if they were to take the popular test as a criterion, they had reason to say that great prosperity had attended them during the past year. [Applause.] The number of students had reached nearly 200—about 40 or 50 more than the largest number that ever before attended the University or College. [Cheers.] And the increase was not confined to one class, it extended to all, occasional students, students, and undergraduates. In the latter, the increase was from 37 in the preceding, to 56 in the immediately past year. [Applause.] But there was another criterion with regard to the prosperity of the institution, viz.: the degree of proficiency attained by the students, as attested by the honors they had obtained. If they referred to the University list of last year—and he referred to it as a criterion of the positive merits of the students, and not of their comparative merits, for there were no students from other colleges who competed with them—they would find that of the 30 scholarships then given in the faculty of Arts and in the department of Agriculture, 28 were obtained by the students of University College. [Cheers.] If they now turned to the honor lists of the College during the past year they would find that of about 60 or 70 students, who had presented themselves at the Examinations, 29 had obtained first class honors in some one or other of the different departments of study. [Hear hear.] As to the present condition of the institution, he need only refer to the number of gentlemen who presented themselves to-day for matriculation, which sufficiently indicated that there would be no falling off this year. But at the same time that he regarded these as gratifying evidences of the prosperity of the institution, he might be asked, "Are you satisfied with this?" Far from it. He anticipated a much higher degree of success than they had yet attained. He would be sorry to believe that they would be limited to 200 students and 30 honor men. [Cheers.] He anticipated that they would have double the number in a few years—when they were occupying the new building now approaching completion. [Hear, hear.] At present they were cramped for room in every department: the audience before him were incommoded for want of space, whilst many were wholly excluded—their examination hall was too limited for their matriculants, their lecture rooms were too small for their students, their library could not contain their books, and their museum was inadequate for the specimens which were constantly coming in. But under the circumstances of the country, the wonder was not that they had so few students, but that they had so many. Let him for a short time advert to those circumstances which retarded and impeded their progress: First, there was the want of preparation on the part of some of those who came forward to avail themselves of the benefits of the institution. That preparation was sufficient to enable them to pass the examination for matriculation, but not to compete for honors. And what were the causes of this? They were incidental to the youth of the institutions, and the youth of the country for whose benefit they were designed. The first cause was the want of a sufficient number of qualified teachers throughout the country, more particularly in the rural districts. Now he did not desire it for one instant to be supposed that he forgot the distinctions so honorably attained by the Upper Canada College, and the Grammar Schools of Toronto, Barrie, Hamilton, Galt, and of other places at the late University Examination for Matriculation. But still the fact was undeniable that there was not a sufficient number of qualified teachers throughout the country. Another reason was that, in consequence of the lateness of the period at which the institution was established, some persons who would have availed themselves of the opportunity of preparing in their youth, had commenced when advanced in life. That was undoubtedly a great impediment. However earnest minded and diligent, they occasionally became dispirited and disheartened when they found themselves unable to keep pace with the buoyant step and elastic tread of fresh and vigorous youth. [Cheers.] But there was another reason—the want of means throughout the country. In the commercial and pecuniary troubles which have lately swept over the land, and the effects of which are still