

Convocation.

Convocation is the degree conferring and consulting body of the University. The members are of two classes,

- (1) Full members, viz., Masters of Arts, and Graduates in Medicine, Law, or Divinity.
- (2) Associate Members, viz., all others who are friends of the University.

The fee is in all cases \$5.00 per annum (except in the case of Clergy who may wish to become Associate Members, when it is \$2.00.)

The resolutions of Convocation are laid before the College Council with a view to influencing its decisions. Thus Convocation helps to direct the government of the University.

There are at present over four hundred Members and Associate Members, and it is hoped that every layman and laywoman whose eye this meets will at once take advantage of this opportunity of assisting their Church University.

For full particulars and forms of application for membership, apply to the Clerk of Convocation, Trinity College.

MUSICAL DEGREES IN TRINITY UNIVERSITY.

THE question of Trinity's Musical Degrees still continues to provoke much discussion in the English papers, although a good deal of it is of a character generally regarded as un-English. Up to the present time Trinity has had little or no opportunity of defending herself, nor have the English Memorialists so much as sent a copy of the Memorial to the authorities. The Committee, appointed by the Corporation to take such steps as might seem desirable, have been very active, and we may soon hope to reap some fruits of their labours. The Memorial drawn up in reply to the English Memorial, is a lengthy document, covering some fifteen octavo pages, and setting forth Trinity's case with remarkable force. The Committee after due consideration came to the conclusion that it was for many reasons desirable that the Provost should present it to Lord Knutsford in person. By dint of great exertions he was ready, and sailed from New York by the *Elbe*, on Saturday, April 5th, taking a copy of the Memorial with him, whilst another copy was despatched to His Excellency the Governor-General, who has most kindly consented to forward it with a letter to Lord Knutsford.

The action of the English universities, especially of Oxford and Cambridge, in signing a document of so misleading a character as the English Memorial, without holding any communication with a sister institution, has excited no little surprise; and it has been thought desirable to memorialize these institutions, respectfully remonstrating against this somewhat hasty and ill-considered course. There is, however, some reason to suppose that Oxford at least did not *qua* University sign the memorial, and it is probable that some surprises are in store, to be revealed when the Provost arrives in England. A significant passage in one of the English musical journals, seems to indicate that the agitation can be traced to a Musical Institution in England, whose own proceedings are not altogether beyond question.

Prior to the departure of the Provost, a letter was forwarded to the editors of some of the leading English journals, including *The Times*, *The Standard*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Daily News*, *St. James Gazette*, *The Globe*, *The Athenæum*, *The Guardian*, *The Scotchman*, *The Manchester Guardian* and others, which we think will be of sufficient interest to our readers to publish in *Extenso*. It runs as follows:—

SIR,—The memorial presented on behalf of the several English universities and musical colleges to Lord Knutsford, against the action of Trinity University, Toronto, in

opening its examination in the Faculty of Music to English candidates, has just reached me. The statements of the Memorial and the speeches by which it was supported, are in important respects so inaccurate, whilst they appear to have attracted so much public attention, that I am constrained to trespass on your columns with a short communication in reference thereto.

1. The statement implied in the Memorial as reported and emphasized by three several representatives in answer to Lord Knutsford, that "no musical examinations were conducted at Toronto," is altogether erroneous. Fifty Canadian candidates are taking the examinations in Toronto, the next. The Toronto Conservatory of Music, which has entered one thousand pupils the last two years, is in affiliation with this University, and a complete course of instruction, both in theoretical and practical music, is given in this affiliated college.

2. Our curriculum in the Faculty of Music, which includes three annual examinations for the Degree of Mus. Bac., and is practically identical with the musical requirements of the English universities, was drawn up independently for our Canadian needs in 1883.

3. The extension of the examinations to England was the result of the action of the English Musical Press, unknown to, and unsought by us. *The Musical Standard*, in 1885, reprinted from an American journal,—the *key Note*,—our curriculum and examination papers in full. As a result of this we were urged by a large number of English musicians of high standing to extend our examinations to English candidates. Under no other circumstances would we have entertained the idea of taking any part in English educational work.

4. Amongst those who most warmly welcomed our actions were the authorities of Trinity College, London, and the late Sir G. A. Macfarren, Professor of Music, at Cambridge, the official representatives of two of the bodies who have now memorialized the Colonial Office. Trinity College, London, was admitted to affiliation with this University, and protested strongly when, in consequence of advice from high musical authorities, we decided it was better for us, in order to secure the perfect independence of our examinations, to give no such special privilege to any one English Musical College. This College appears now as one of the chief memorialists, if not the principal mover in the matter. The statement that "the procedure with regard to Musical Degrees takes place entirely in England" is untrue.

5. Every degree in music has regularly passed our Convocation in Toronto, and has been granted there by the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor of the University.

6. With regard to our standard, in the last three years fifty-two per cent. of the candidates for the final Mus. Bac. examinations alone have been rejected by the Examiners.

7. Trinity University, Toronto, courts and demands the fullest inquiry into the whole matter. I cannot but think that the authorities of the great English universities will regret that they have been induced to lend the weight of their influence and prestige in support of such culpably inaccurate statements with regard to a sister institution, which had no chance of defending itself, when the smallest modicum of trouble would at least have put them in possession of the facts of the case. Instead of taking this course, not one of the institutions represented did us the simple courtesy of intimating to us, in any way whatsoever, their dissatisfaction, or intended action. The free and easy way in which the rights and reputation of colonial institutions, have been treated in our case, will be rightly regarded as a most unexpected injustice and wrong by many of our supporters, who have taken no inconsiderable part in loyally upholding the connection of Canada with Great Britain.