

— **QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON.**—A meeting of the Convocation of the University of Queen's College was held recently for the purpose of conferring prizes and degrees upon students in the faculties of Arts and Theology. The Rev. Dr. Snodgrass, the Principal, occupied the chair. Proceedings were opened with prayer by the Principal, after which the college class prizes were awarded by the professors of the respective departments. Degrees were then conferred in the usual form upon the following gentlemen:—*Bachelors of Arts*—James Frazer, of Quebec, with second-class honors in Classics and Metaphysics; George Malloch, Ottawa; John McAllister, Kingston; Alexander George McBain, Lancaster, with first-class honors in Classics, History, and Natural Sciences, and second-class honors in Natural Philosophy; Donald McKay, Kingston, with first-class honors in Natural Sciences, and second-class honors in Natural Philosophy, Metaphysics, and History; Samuel McMorine, Ramsay, with first-class honors in Natural Sciences; John Shortt Muckleston, Kingston; James B. Muir, Lindsay; Robert S. O'Loughlin, Kingston, with first-class honors in History; John Roddick Thompson, Prince Edward Island, with first-class honors in History and Natural Sciences, and second-class honors in Metaphysics. *Masters of Arts*—Charles Y. Cameron, M.A., Drummondville; Silas Minor, M.A. Mirickville; James Arthur Hope, B.A., Kingston; William Baldwin Thibodo, B.A., Kingston; John Bell, B.A., Kingston; James Pennington Macpherson, B.A., Ottawa. *Bachelor of Divinity*—John McMillan, B.A., Pictou, N.S. The Principal then addressed the newly made graduates as follows: Gentlemen, while congratulating you upon the result of your industry, I take the opportunity of reminding you of a circumstance which is apt to be forgotten, but which, in my judgment, forms, nevertheless, an important contribution to any satisfaction you may feel, and a stimulant of no inconsiderable force among the influences which should encourage you to further conquests in literary and scientific pursuits. The anxiety to which I have referred has not been all your own. Others have felt the strain and the excitement of it as well as you; and, with a much livelier interest than is generally supposed, have scrutinized and calculated the evidence of your scholarship. I refer, of course, to the Professors who have superintended your studies and watched your career, from the first day you entered college until the present time. Yours has been the anxiety of competing for honours; to the concern of the professors, respecting your success, must be added the responsibility of both guarding the goal of your ambition against too easy an approach, and of obstructing the way to it by the interposition of needless difficulties. Yours has been the part of earnest combatants; theirs the duty of planning every trial, and describing every condition of the contest. With mingled feelings of confidence and self-distrust, hope and fear, you have appeared in the arena of competition; with an experience characterized by constant fluctuations of joy and regret, they have received your daily contributions to the aggregate determining result. In this way we gather proofs of something like a common cause between a professor and his students, and, at the same time, abounding evidence of a sympathy on the part of the former, buoyant with pleasure, or laden with bitterness. Some of you intend returning to this university to enter upon another department of study than that to which you have hitherto been specially devoting yourselves. Others take leave of these halls to enter upon those public vocations into which the call of duty or the force of inclination leads. To either class I cannot bid God speed, without reminding you of the grave responsibility which devolves equally upon every one of you, to occupy with all diligence the talents which are intrusted to your keeping, and to cultivate that humility which, while it ranks with the first of Christian graces, is the most appropriate adornment of those who, at every point of elevation which they reach in the rank of knowledge and refinement, become more thoroughly convinced that they have not yet crossed the threshold of the storehouse in which, for the benefit of his intelligent creation, the Almighty has arranged the treasures of wisdom, and, in consequence, are contented to maintain a reverential attitude, as they feebly attempt to realize some faint conception of the immensity of things. You have already gained some honor, and there is honor, sufficient to satisfy the most ambitious, yet before you. But it is heaven's irreversible law, for the conduct of the better orders of men, "Before honor is humility." The appointment by which day follows night in perpetual succession, is not more stable than this moral ordinance, and there is as much truth in saying that humility is a help to the attainment of honor, as in affirming that it precedes honor. If we can be sure of any one that he is diligently cultivating the spirit and maintaining the sentiments of true humility, we may conclude that he is on the right path, not only to

honor, but even to immortality. No skilful adaptation of means by the Allwise One, for the attainment of a particular end, is more reliable than this; no ground of legitimate expectancy among men is more to be depended upon. If the racer who distances all his competitors may count upon the garland encircling his brow; if the warrior, who, by his tactics and bravery, succeeds in destroying a powerful and dangerous enemy, may hear, by anticipation, the admiring plaudits of his grateful countrymen; if the toiling student, who finds difficulty after difficulty disappearing before his determined application, may hope to work out the most complicated problems; so may all who are truly humble in their hearts, rest with assured confidence in God's promise to exalt them. In the strength of a firm resolution to obey this law, go forward, gentlemen, in your career, and you shall avert from you many of the disappointments to which other men are subjected.—Mr. John McMillan, B.A., B.D., was then called upon to deliver a valedictory, in which the Principal and Professors were thanked and complimented, and his fellow-students addressed in a style of affectionate farewell.—The Principal next announced the conferring of honorary degrees, that of Doctor of Divinity, upon the four gentlemen whose names are appended: Rev. James Bayne, Pictou, N.S.; Rev. Samuel B. Bergne, London, England; Rev. Henry Gill, London, England; Rev. John McMorine, Ramsay.—The Principal stated that the honors had been conferred upon the Rev. Mr. Baine on account of professional attainments, and as a recognition of his labors in the cause of education in Nova Scotia, and in furthering the South Sea missions; the Rev. John McMorine, on account of professional attainments, as the minister of a large parish, and for unwearied interest as a trustee in the affairs of the University; the Rev. Mr. Bergne, as being identified with the British and Foreign Bible Society, as its secretary, for labours in the translation department of the Society, and for being the first to suggest a deputation to British North America; and the Rev. Mr. Gill as a recognition of his services in the translation department of the Bible Society, and of his labours as assistant secretary, also on the ground of distinguished authorship, and in return for the Christian work he has performed in Newfoundland, Canada, and the other colonies, as a deputation from the Bible Society.—The Rev. Dr. Gill was introduced to the assemblage by the Principal, who delivered an address.—The Principal announced two new prizes in addition to the Carruthers prize, for an essay on Petroleum, and the Kingston prize for an essay on Metastasis, previously announced, viz.: the Ottawa prize of \$40, for the best essay on "The advantages and responsibilities of our connection with the parent country;" and the Montreal prize of \$40, for the best essay on "The didactic in relation to the devotional element in the Lord's Prayer." After this the Rev. Professor Mowat delivered a portion only of a farewell address to the students which he had prepared, at the close of which the general audience dispersed, while the members of the Convocation proceeded to the election of Fellows. The following were elected to represent the different faculties: *Arts*—Thomas F. Harkness, B.A., formerly of Kingston, now of East India Civil Service; *Theology*—John McMillan, B.A., B.D.; *Law*—The Hon. John A. McDonald, LL.D., Attorney General West. The proceedings terminated with the benediction, pronounced by the Principal.—*News.*

XIII. Departmental Notices.

PROVINCIAL CERTIFICATES GRANTED BY THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

The Chief Superintendent of Education, on the recommendation of the masters of the Normal School, and under the authority of the following section of the Upper Canada Consolidated Common School Act, 22 Victoria, chap. 64, has granted to the undermentioned Students of the Normal School, Provincial Certificates of Qualification as Common School Teachers in any part of Upper Canada:

"107. The Chief Superintendent of Education, on the recommendation of the Teachers in the Normal School, may give to any Teacher of Common Schools a Certificate of Qualification, which shall be valid in any part of Upper Canada, until revoked; but no such certificate shall be given to any person who has not been a Student in the Normal School."

The certificates are divided into classes, in harmony with the general programme, according to which all teachers in Upper Canada are required to be examined and classified, and are valid until revoked, or until the expiration of the time mentioned in the certificate.