

"This, however, I may say without impropriety even in his presence that he is a respected and most efficient member of a family and house, which now for nearly or quite a century has stood before the public not merely of England and America, but of all Europe and the farthest East, in a position of high responsibility and importance; exercising an influence on the commerce of the world, and contributing to the stability of its financial relations; exposed to the searching scrutiny of mankind, sharpened by the strongest inducements of public and private interests, in times of difficulty and peril; and all this without ever having the shadow of a reproach cast upon their good name!

"Of all the millions, I had almost said the uncounted millions, which have passed through their hands, not one dishonest farthing has ever stuck on the way. Through times in which the governments of Europe have been shaken to their centre—in which the dynasties, whose roots strike back to the Roman Empire, have been overturned, and Emperors and Kings have been driven into exile, the commercial house of which our friend is a member, (connected as I believe it has sometimes been with the great financial arrangements of the day to a most fearful extent,) has stood firm for a hundred years on the rock of honour and probity, beyond reproach and beyond fear."

FIRST "COMMENCEMENT" OF THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

From the proceedings at the recent "commencement" or convocation of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland, we select several of the more interesting passages from the speeches of the Vice-Chancellor and Visitor of the University. A meeting of the senate of the Queen's University in Ireland, was held on the 14th ult., at Dublin Castle, for the purpose of conferring degrees. Shortly after three o'clock, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, accompanied by the Countess of Eglinton, entered St. Patrick's Hall, where a large and brilliant array of rank and fashion had assembled to witness the proceedings.

The Vice-Chancellor having taken the chair, addressed the senate and said—I take the liberty of opening what I may call the first public general meeting of this university, by making a few observations upon the purposes and objects of the institution. The degrees we are authorized to confer are those ordinarily conferred by other colleges and universities in the united kingdom. They are well known to the world of science, and I shall only observe of them, that her Majesty in the language of our charter, has declared that all persons who shall have completed their education in any of the Queen's Colleges, and shall have obtained such degrees in any of the several faculties of arts, medicine, and law as shall be granted and conferred by the chancellor and senate of the aforesaid university, shall be fully possessed of all such rights, privileges and immunities as belong to the several degrees granted by other universities and colleges, and shall be entitled to whatever rank and precedence attaches to the possessors of similar degrees granted by other universities. In addition to those degrees, it seemed useful to the senate to constitute a second class of honour, by conferring diplomas in several departments on students deserving of them. These diplomas have been instituted in the faculty of law, and in engineering and agriculture. They are not titles which confer on the persons who obtain them any special rights of privileges in their profession, or any advancement in it. In addition to those degrees and diplomas we have established a scale of merit by the institution of exhibitions for the candidates who may succeed upon examination for honors in the several departments. These consist in pecuniary exhibitions and medals, and are designed for students, who, having passed their examination for the degree or the diploma, shall be recommended by the examiners for competition in those higher branches which they are to be examined in before they can obtain those distinctions. Having then to confer the degrees and diplomas on students from the three colleges and having to institute a competition for those honorary exhibitions, it became our duty, in the term of the charter, to appoint fit examiners whose duty it would be to report to us on the merits of the respective candidates. In fulfilling this part of our duty, we felt that it behoved us to take care in the selection of examiners that we should present to the world at large a guarantee that the students of those colleges and graduates of this university possessed acquirements commensurate to the high distinctions they had obtained. Some

were taken from the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork and Galway—some were taken from the Professors of Trinity College, Dublin, and some were selected from the general ranks of scientific and professional men. In this course of selection we have but followed the example of our Chancellor, the Earl of Clarendon, who took pains from all parts of the united kingdom to find out men of the most eminence in science, men the best qualified in literary attainments, and men of the highest professional station to undertake the duty of acting as professors in those colleges. Those institutions have been some few years in operation, and I think I may pass over this part of the subject very briefly, by saying that I think they have deserved and have received in that respect the confidence of the public. I believe that course of instruction has been laid down in them, and has been pursued under the direction of the professors, which is calculated to advance the learning, to stimulate the industry, and to develop the mental faculties of the students under their direction.

Religious Instruction.—I would also allude to that part of the arrangements of these colleges which provides not merely for the literary, scientific and professional education of the students, but for the sedulous care of their morals and religious conduct. In these institutions the students are not allowed at hazard to locate themselves where they please; in their respective cities, places of residence must be selected, and licensed by the authorities, and in addition to that, individuals must be selected from the ministers of the various religious persuasions to which the students belong, whose duty is to attend to their moral and religious care. In the statute passed for the direction of those institutions, her Majesty is authorized to appoint deans of residence who shall have the moral care and spiritual charge of their respective creeds, residing in the licensed boarding houses; and that the deans of residence shall have authority to visit the license boarding houses in which the students reside for the purpose of affording religious instruction to such students, and shall also have power to confer with their bishops, moderators, or other ecclesiastical authorities, to make regulations for the due observance of their religious duties, and to secure their regular attendance at divine worship; and those deans are directed to report annually to the heads of the colleges as to the condition of the students in those particulars.

Numbers in Attendance.—I am happy to say that the efforts which have been made have been well responded to on the part of the public, and that these colleges, although but a few years in operation, present a fair array of numbers of students frequenting their halls. I believe that prior to this examination, upwards of four hundred students were congregated in the three colleges.

Continuous Attendance Required.—In attending those colleges, among the difficulties which the students have in some instances to encounter is one which is occasioned by the peculiar nature of the institution, which requires continued residence on the part of the students. It has seemed right, for directing the course of education in those colleges, to require that the students shall attend a regular course of lectures during certain portions of the year. But the students, in their zeal and thirst for knowledge, have endured all those privations and difficulties seeking only to attain that education which it is their highest ambition to possess. And I may add, that in certain schools, of which some members of this senate have official cognizance with myself, we have had instances of the same endeavour to meet privation and difficulties in the pursuit of knowledge—we have had instances of journeys undertaken by children from considerable distances and sometimes of continued residence in the towns in which those schools are situated.

Degrees Conferred.—The Vice-Chancellor then called on seven gentlemen, whom he addressed respectively as follows:—"In virtue of my authority as Vice-Chancellor of this University, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Medicine."

The degree of Bachelor of Arts was then conferred upon twenty two candidates.

Three gentlemen received the diploma of Elementary Law.

The Vice-Chancellor next presented diplomas in Agriculture to three candidates.

The Vice-Chancellor then presented a number of medals and exhibitions of specified amounts to twenty gentlemen, which, he observed, had been awarded to them as an additional testimony to their merits.