

## Miscellaneous.

### THE SEA.

Beautiful, sublime, and glorious;  
Mild, majestic, foaming, free;  
Over time itself victorious,  
Image of eternity.

Sun and moon, and stars shine o'er thee,  
See thy surface ebb and flow;  
Yet attempts not to explore thee,  
In thy soundless depths below.

Whether morning's splendours steep thee  
With the rainbow's glorious grace,  
Tempest rouse, or navies sweep thee,  
'Tis but for a moment's space.

Earth,—her valleys, and her mountains,  
Mortal man's behests obey,  
Thy unfathomable fountains,  
Scorn his search and scorn his way.

Such art thou—stupendous Ocean?  
But if overwhelmed by thee,  
Can we think without emotion,  
What must thy Creator be?

### TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN—HISTORICAL MEMORANDA.

On the occasion of the recent elections of a new Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Provost, of this distinguished university, founded by Queen Elizabeth in 1519, we have taken the pains to compile some particulars regarding these offices. The new officers are:—Chancellor, the Right Honorable Lord John George Beresford, D.D., LL.D., Archbishop of Armagh, vice the King of Hanover, deceased—Vice Chancellor, the Right Honorable Francis Blackburn, LL.D., Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, vice Archbishop Beresford—Provost, the Rev. Richard Macdonnell, D.D., Smith's Professor of Oratory, vice the Rev. Franc Sadlier, D.D., deceased.

The last election to the High office of Chancellor was held on the 15th day of July, 1805, when his Majesty the King of Hanover (then Duke of Cumberland, LL.D.) was elected.

In the 34th of Elizabeth the "Charta, sine litteris patentes," founding "the College of the Holy and undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth, near Dublin," appoints the first Chancellor of the University, and provides for the election of his successors in the following terms:—

"*Nam Cancellarii dignitatem honoratissimo Consiliario nostro Gulielmo Cecillio Domino Baroni de Burghley, totius Angliæ Theaurario, Delegatim approbamus, et, ut posthac idoneam hujus Collegii Cancellario Præpositus et major pars Sociorum elegant, ordinamus.*"

The Provost and Senior Fellows, consequently, are—anomalous though it be—the electors. The office is tenable for life, and the Chancellor is sworn (if he be resident of Ireland) generally in the presence of two of the Senior Fellows, deputed for that purpose, before the Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, or before the Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

The office is not a mere sinecure; we find that many important duties may devolve upon its holder. In the 13th Car. I. we find he is constituted first of the visitors of the College, who form the Court of Ultimate Appeal, with very extensive jurisdiction, to use the words of the last-mentioned statute—"Omnes lites, actiones et controversias, quas Præpositus et major pars sociorum non possint componere, dirimant, et definiant et quod omnia graviora delicta ab ipso Præposito et sociis non emendata animadvertant."

The Chancellor appoints the Vice-Chancellor (who was previous to the 13th Car. I. elected by the Provost and Senior Fellows)—"Queen (*i. e.* Procancellarius,) uti sar est, a Cancellario Academicæ, cujus vicem gerit, sepe eligi volumus." And by a subsequent section of the same act, in the event of a disagreement on the co-option of a Senior Fellow, the Chancellor may appoint a fit and proper person to the vacancy."

By virtue of the letters patent, or "Grant for regulating the Observatory on the lands of Dunsink" (32 George III., AD. 1792,) the Chancellor elects the Astronomer Royal (on Provost Andrews' foundation,) in default of appointment by the Provost and Senior Fellows within six months after the occurrence of a vacancy, and by the "Act for establishing in Ireland a complete School of Physic" (25 Geo. III., cap. 42, A.D. 1785,) the application of the

surplus funds arising from Sir Patrick Dun's estates is subject to his approbation.

In the English universities the election of the Chancellors, as of all other University officers, is vested in convocation, consisting of the whole body of doctors and masters. In the Irish University the right of this election is vested in the Provost and seven senior Fellows of Trinity College. The practical difference of such opposite modes of proceeding is obvious. An election by the whole body of the higher graduates of a university may fairly be said to speak the voice of the classes it has educated. A nomination by seven gentlemen who have had the good fortune to live the longest or stick closest to their fellowships can hardly be said, except by accidental agreement, to give utterance to that opinion. The Provost and senior fellows are at the head of Trinity College—but they are not the heads of the Irish University. In the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, in each of which there are many colleges, the separate existence of the university is plain. In Dublin, however, contrary to the expressed intention of the founders, the University to this day consists of but one college: nevertheless the university and the college are perfectly distinct bodies. We have had the curiosity to look into the statutes and regulations, and in these the existence of a convocation, composed of the higher graduates, and representing the University, is unequivocally and distinctly recognized. In point of fact that convocation does not assemble twice a year under the presidency of the Chancellor or his representative, and it is by the Chancellor or his representative, or it is by the Chancellor as the head of that body, and upon a vote of convocation, that every degree is actually conferred.

The Primate of the Irish branch of the Church of England has nominally filled the place of Vice-Chancellor, but has in truth acted as Chancellor in the name of the King of Hanover. There is an obvious fitness in now conferring upon him the name of the office the functions of which he has in reality discharged.

In connexion with the recent election, the Board of Trinity College, offer a prize of £10 for the best ode, in Latin or English, in commemoration of the election of the new Chancellor to the University.

The office of Provost or President of Trinity College is in the gift of the Crown, and is worth £4,500 sterling, per annum, with other perquisites.

The new Provost, Dr. Macdonnell, entered the University over which he now presides in 1800, and at the early age of thirteen, obtained the head place. His College course was throughout distinguished, including the head scholarship in 1803, and Bishop Law's Mathematical Premium in 1808, at his first sitting for it, and on distinguished answering, though amongst his competitors were several who afterwards succeeded in becoming fellows. By a curious coincidence, he was elected on his birth day, and at the age of twenty-one; being one of the few instances of such a distinction having been obtained so early. In 1820 he was chosen Professor of Mathematics, a post which he occupied for six or seven years.

In 1828, at a time when comprehensive views were not too frequently received, he published a letter advocating the necessity of many changes in the academic system of studies. These he warmly supported, as demanded by the extraordinary advance of science in the last half century, which made old institutions in many respects unfitted for the requirements of modern knowledge. The suggestions then offered were finally adopted, and formed the basis of those great changes in the College, commencing in 1835, which have raised its character so high. The constant development of science, and the creation of new fields of study and research, make it of great importance that there should be no unwillingness in the heads of the University to meet the requirements of the age. He discharged the duties of Senior Bursar for eight or nine years, in which office his active and business-like habits were of the highest benefit in systematizing the management of the College property, and made him familiar with its nature and position.

It is understood that his political opinions have never been of an extreme nature. While a warm supporter of the Established Church of England, he advocated Catholic emancipation, and in 1813 signed, *alone* amongst the Fellows, the petition in its favour. Of the system of mixed education adopted in the National Schools he has been from the first a consistent advocate.