

Gleanings.

SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

At a Convocation holden on the 24th Nov., the Chancellor concluded a very eloquent speech by saying:—

“ Before I sit down I am anxious to refer to the munificent provision which has been made by the University for the promotion of literature and science, by the considerate foundation of ninety scholarships. The Senate, after the most anxious deliberation, has found itself at liberty to appropriate to this high object no less a sum than £3,000 a year. It may be thought, and, indeed, I have heard it said, that this is an extravagant expenditure of the national endowments of this national institution. I admit that it is, so far as I am aware, unprecedented. Larger funds, indeed, are devoted to this particular object in other countries, but that has been the fruit of individual munificence, accumulating through many ages. But there will not be found any instance, I believe, in which an institution of this sort has devoted so large a portion of its funds to that object. The Senate, however, felt that our social position was peculiar. Ours has not been a natural growth, in which, by a gradual and simultaneous development of all the powers, nations, like individuals, grow up to manhood. Our physical powers, if I may be permitted so to speak, have received an undue development. The avenues to wealth lie open all around us, and are everywhere coveted by men pressing onward to fortune. The national industry is stimulated, therefore, to the highest point, and the love of money, with all its kindred evils, is becoming deeply rooted in the hearts of our people, while the pleasant paths of literature are becoming deserted, and the general tendency is towards a state of mental decrepitude, destructive of all our national greatness. We have a fertile soil and a salubrious climate, and we live, by the favour of Providence, under free institutions, which secure to us that most inestimable of all privileges, civil and religious liberty; and we enjoy all under the fostering care of that mighty empire, of which it must ever remain our greatest glory that we form a part. (Great applause.) But what will any or all of these advantages avail us if our moral and intellectual faculties are suffered to lie dormant? True national greatness is not the necessary growth either of fertility of soil or salubrity of climate. Look around the globe and you will find everywhere, fertile regions once the abode of civilization and art, now sunk to the lowest point of poverty and degradation, while the barren island and pestilent marsh have become the seats of empire and wealth. Look at Holland or at Scotland—consider what these countries have been, and what they now are; and then look at the past history and present condition of Spain, or of Italy, and you will find the contrast a melancholy proof of the truth of the statement. Melancholy in truth it is, but full of instruction and full of hope, for it demonstrates with unmistakeable clearness that it is to the cultivation of the moral and intellectual faculties that man owes all his God-like pre-eminence. (Applause.) And when the faculties are suffered to lie dormant, when the human mind becomes stunted, then nations, like individuals, sink by the inevitable law of our nature to the level of the beasts that perish. If it be an object then to lay the foundation of true national greatness—if we desire to achieve for ourselves a position among the nations of the earth, like that of the glorious empire to which we belong—if we hope to stand out, even as she now stands out, pre-eminent not only in power, but in the grandeur of her intellectual being, we must imitate the example and walk in the footsteps of our forefathers. (Great Applause.) We must elevate the national mind by the careful cultivation of our moral and intellectual faculties. We must cherish the arts by which habits are formed and manners embellished. We must implant the love of truth, of beauty and renown in the hearts of our people. This is the noble object to which this University aspires, for the accomplishment of which she esteems every sacrifice small. Failing to accomplish this, she feels that all is lost. But if she is enabled to fulfil what she must believe to be her destiny, she feels she will have laid the foundation of true national greatness, and she indulges