

of the enduring and ever increasing success of your handiwork.

To you, Messrs. Principal and Professors, it must be no less gratifying to find yourselves again in the act of sending forth a *brigade* of young men into society, upon whose well-being, their training and instruction under you is sure to tell with an effect proportional to their numbers. I say *brigade*, because, although by their avocations they must necessarily be separated, their influence, inspired from one common source, must unceasingly operate upon society, just the same as if it were that of a united band engaged in the battle of life.

I ought, perhaps, also to congratulate the other members of Convocation upon what is here passing to-day. You, gentlemen, having already experienced the value to you of University training and culture, cannot but rejoice in seeing that your ranks and force in the community, and especially in the several professions, are about to be recruited and extended by the allies you will presently have in the younger men, who, this day, receive their academical degrees and honours. But I must forbear to dwell on these points, that there may be time left for uttering a few words of encouragement to those young men themselves, as well as to those who, now in the position of alumni, are following in their footsteps. May you all prosper in the new life you are about to enter; and, in order that you may do so, I am confident that your success will mainly depend upon your faithful observance of the precepts and example of the men whose paternal charge you are about to leave. Whatever your respective attainments may be, and that they are in many cases worthy of admiration, witness the honors which have been showered on you this day—do not leave these academical precincts under the impression that you have little or nothing more to acquire in the way of learning. You will have done well, if among your attainments, the principal one be an aptitude for practising the best and most certain methods of increasing a given stock of knowledge upon any subject to which you may hereafter chose to devote your attention.

And to you, young gentlemen, who are Alumni, I would say that I heartily congratulate you upon the advent of your holidays. The members of convocation, and your learned Preceptors, will, I hope, excuse my seizing upon such a sentiment as grounds upon which to express congratulation. The oldest among us were once young, and neither can nor do forget that the commencement of the long vacation was always, after all, the most joyous epoch of academical life.

I ought, perhaps, before closing my remarks, to advert more particularly to the *advantages* of university education and to express my views thereon with special reference to the future of our young country—to cast an eye forward to the time which *must* eventually come, when, in the interest of our community, there ought not to be found wanting the services of men of the highest culture and not inferior, in any respect, to the most accomplished men of other countries—to refer to the necessity of maintaining a high standard in our highest seats of learning in order to enhance to the utmost, the character of our professions, the qualifications of our teachers of all grades, the efficiency of our schools. Nor do I make the allusions with the idea that anything. I could say would be of a nature to afford instruction to the members of this learned body, but merely to hint that I am in sympathy with you as regards all such topics, I can only say, in conclusion, that I wish all success to McGill University, and I beg of the Convocation to accept my assurance that in what ever respect,

in the position which I have the honor to occupy in connection with public education in this Province, my cooperation can be made useful, I shall always be ready and most happy to exert it.

The Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, ex-Superintendent of Education, next spoke. He referred with gratification to the association he had formerly had with McGill University. He admired the spirit of enterprise and earnestness with which the Governors of this University had devoted themselves to the cultivation of knowledge in so many different branches. Reference had been made to sectarian Universities; he was a member of three Universities, two of which were sectarian, and of one of these he then wore the costume. Sectarian institutions were not of choice but of necessity. Although a Professor of Roman Law, he had found that necessity knows no law. He did not object to institutions disagreeing so long as they agreed to disagree for the purpose of agreeing. The speaker created a good deal of amusement by saying, that, as his successor in office (Mr. Ouimet) had spoken so eloquently in French and Latin, there was nothing left for him to do by way of originality than to come out with the only verses in German that had ever succeeded in mastering. [Laughter.] He proceeded to read the quotation, and was greeted with much applause on resuming his seat.

The Vice-Chancellor read his report of the past session, referring particularly to the improvements made, and to which reference will hereafter be made.

Tho Rev. J. F. Stevenson, L. L. B., closed the meeting by pronouncing the Benediction.

THE DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Graduates' Society, a custom that is followed out in all well-established Universities in other countries, is one that is carried out to the fullest extent by the passed men of old McGill. Certainly, our University cannot as yet boast of its own dining hall, wherein might be held the annual dinner, as those of Oxford or Cambridge, but, if the hall is wanting, the goodfellowship that exists among the members of McGill is as strong and hearty as ever existed among those who hail as their *Alma Mater* the Universities of the Motherland.

The McGill dinner this year was, perhaps, possessed of more importance than former ones. Among the guests were many of the most eminent men of the Dominion and the United States. About eight o'clock some 100 or 120 gentlemen were seated round the table in the ladies' dining room of the Windsor. The scene was a pleasant one. Gray-headed *savants* were chatting and joking as lively as the beardless young graduate who had had the good fortune not to get "ploughed." It was, certainly, in every sense of the word, a friendly brotherhood of scholars. There were there men who had passed the best years of their life in spreading knowledge, and who had the satisfaction of seeing round them their pupils, one and all standing high in the ranks of the several professions, and doing honour to their *Alma Mater*.

We are very sorry that want of space precludes our giving more than a brief notice of the many eloquent speeches that were made during the evening, both in English and French. Many of the younger graduates, in their remarks, displayed high oratorical abilities that bids fair to some day place them in very high positions in the councils of the country.

Mr. J. J. Maclaren, Q. C., President of the Graduates' Society, acted as Chairman, having on his right Prin-