

which added greatly to the interest and *eclat* of the occasion. The utterances of Chancellor Blake and of President Nelles were particularly striking and noteworthy. In his speech, Hon. Mr. Blake made reference to the often discussed question of "University Consolidation." He said:—

"It is obviously impossible that the educational interests of this could not be met by one institution in one place. Therefore it was not only desirable but necessary that other institutions should grow in different parts of the country. As to the degree granting power, he would say here, as he had said elsewhere, that the day may come, if now afar, when it may be centred in one institution, say the Provincial University. He did not believe that this would alter the position of the teaching staff, as each would have to stand upon its own footing. The stamp of the degree would be higher if it were conferred by one university alone. The first step towards that consummation was always apparent, in his judgment, when he saw the university increasing in its strength. The stronger the endowment, the better its staff; the more it flourished, less difficulties were in the way of the ultimate union of the graduating power."

On this subject Rev. President Nelles differed with Chancellor Blake, and was especially outspoken and emphatic in his utterances. He said:

"As to collegiate consolidation, which Dr. Grant deprecated, he could see great benefit in it. The difficulty would be in the moving of the colleges which were already established. If this could be accomplished none would rejoice more than he did, for the longer he lived the more he hated sectarianism and bigotry, and the consolidation of the colleges would break down these. As to university consolidation, the time for that had gone by. Many years ago Queen's and Victoria Colleges had urged it, and the late Principal Leitch and himself had laboured hard in that direction. The views of these colleges were in the records of University College. The failure to unite was not because of narrowness on their part, but on that of University College. As to University College, he drew an opposite conclusion from the Hon. Mr. Blake, that the stronger the universities became the more willing they would be to amalgamate. When the universities were weak they were anxious to amalgamate. But now that both Queen's and Victoria had made progress so rapidly, and had added to their buildings and teaching staffs, this put the idea of university consolidation, in his opinion, beyond the range of probability."

Want of space compels us, with regret, to omit reference to the special features of other excellent addresses delivered on this interesting occasion.

#### THE INCORRIGIBLES.

A reaction in favor of King Solomon's theories as to juvenile discipline seems to be setting in, at least in England, with regard to boy criminals. The rapid increase in this class is exciting attention, for its repression seems utterly inadequate. The comic journals, *Punch* and *Fun*, propose Lynch Law, and a supple or reliable rattan. Imprisonment in a common gaol, besides the danger of corrupting those not utterly depraved, is an unequal punishment. To one class of boys it is an ineffaceable degradation, while to the hardened gaol-bird it is only a species of uncomfortable hotel. Therefore, Sir William Harcourt, the Home Secretary, expressed the general sense of the community when he refused to sanction the imprisonment of boys or girls in a common gaol. The *Saturday Review*, the *London Times*, and other leading journals, advocate a sufficient but not severe whipping as, on the whole, the most equal punishment.

A similar difficulty meets us in Canada. "What to do with the Juvenile Criminal" is a question debated by several of our exchanges in all parts of the Dominion. But three weeks have passed since the Montreal papers recorded the robbery of large sums, over \$700, from one person alone, by a gang of boy-thieves, "truants" escaped from St. Laurent College. The police records of London, Hamilton, and Toronto, show that such cases do not stand alone. We believe that our contemporaries are right in suggesting corporal punishment as the most equal, and, at the same time, the most efficacious in such cases. But the remedy should be deeper—should meet the source rather than the consequences of the evil. That source he believed to be twofold: in the first place, TRUANTISM; in the second place, the free circulation of literary garbage, not exactly indecent, but sensational, vulgar, slangy, holding up the worst and most degraded examples, and treating with coarse jest, devoid of wit as of truth, all that young people ought to be taught to honor.

The best remedy for the former of these evils we believe to be that proposed by School Inspector Hughes to the Toronto School Board—the establishment of a school expressly for the class of truants.

For the second evil we claim that it is the duty of the Minister of Education to take measures by obtaining the consent of the Legislature for the establishment of a censorship of juvenile literature. It may be said that it is impossible altogether to suppress the sensational dime novel. It is true that those who have imbibed a morbid taste for such things, can perhaps always get at them, just as those who crave for the filth of the *Police Gazette* and other literature of the cesspool can always procure what they want. But we speak in the interest of the great number of children who know nothing of such things till they are tempted by the flaming broad-sheet that fills every print-shop window. There never was a time when good juvenile literature was so abundant as now. Let a little prompt action on the part of the Education Department make a clean sweep of "Mr. Jack Harkaway," of the "Boy Pirate," and all such poisonous trash, the mischief done by which to mind and morals is simply incalculable.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

The recent gathering at the Installation ceremony must have been a subject of pride to all who take interest in that great system of public education in Canada of which the National University is the apex and crown. With full and fitting honors to the retiring President, his successor, Professor Wilson, assumed his official place. The Minister of Education deserves the thanks of all interested in the University of Toronto for his choice of one whose services as Professor have been given for a period of twenty-seven years, whose public-spirited sense of duty has during that period made him foremost in all good works for the benefit of education and morals, and whose published writings, to the honor of Canada, have long taken a foremost place in the literature of the world.

President Wilson's address exhibited a gratifying view of the great advance made by the University during the twenty-seven