

AT a recent meeting of the Alma Mater Society a subject of much interest was discussed, namely, whether the vacant Chair of Classics in Queen's should be filled by a Canadian or old country graduate. It was urged strongly and, we think, conclusively that the nationality of the candidates should be overlooked and attention given only to the comparative merits of the two classes of men. The point at issue is not whether a graduate of Queen's, or any Canadian graduate, can be got who will perform the duties passably. Doubtless very good men may be had from among the graduates of Queen's who would fill the Chair in a highly creditable manner. But the question before the authorities of Queen's is, where can the *best* man be obtained for the salary they offer. We deny that a slur is cast upon those worthy sons of Queen's by seeking an occupant for the Classical Chair in an English, Scottish, or even an Irish University—for the alumni of T. C. D. are famed for high scholarship. In doing so Canadians are only making the candid admission that the culture of a young country is not so high as that of an old one, that the accretions of intellectual wealth from half a century are not so great as those from several centuries, facts which it were absurd to deny.

We are aware that the excellence of any one's scholarship depends very much upon the qualities of the individual—his industry, his intellectual power and his natural aptitude for special branches of study. But surely, if over and above these, the student derives any benefit from superior teaching facilities, the old country student of Classics has immeasurably the advantage of his Canadian fellow. Thus in all the colleges in Ontario there is but one professor in the department of Classics—taking both Latin and Greek,—in Oxford there are, besides tutors innumerable, no less than five, all men

of pre-eminent ability. Among these, occupying the Chair of Philology, is Professor Max Muller, whom no national antipathy, no fond conceit of her own superiority prevented Oxford University drawing to herself and receiving the reflected lustre of his great learning.

It is contended that an essential qualification of a Canadian professor is an intimate acquaintance with life in this country, and with the *morale* of its youth. There would be some force in this if urged against the appointment of an old country graduate to be supreme governing head of a college. But qualities requisite in a commander-in-chief may be entirely dispensed with in a subaltern officer. So in a teacher of Classics the desideratum is rather a thorough knowledge of the social life of the ancients, their customs and manners, the outcome of their peculiar civilization than an acquaintance with the idiosyncrasies of the Canadian student.

THE CLOSING CEREMONIES.

IT is eminently proper that the close of the most eventful session of Queen's College should be celebrated with extraordinary proceedings. The Senate has prepared a programme which is both extensive and excellent, though it is still open to change and amplification at the suggestion of graduates and students. The order of proceedings as it stands at present is as follows:—

Sunday, April 24th.—Baccalaureate sermon by the Rev. Vice-Principal, in Convocation Hall, at 3 p.m.

Monday, April 25th.—The annual scientific lecture given by Professor Dupuis, at 8 p.m. Subject—The approaching transit of Venus.

Tuesday, April 26th.—Tree planting by graduating classes and graduates from a distance, in the forenoon. (2) Special Convocation at 3 p.m. Exercises—Recital of the Prize Poem by the author; delivery of Valedictory Addresses by representatives from the graduating classes in Arts, Divinity, and Medicine; Glee by the Q. C. Glee Club. (3) Banquet at 7:30 p.m. Open to the Senate, Trustees, Graduates, Students and (if they so desire) their friends, male or female.

Wednesday, April 27th.—Closing Convocation at 3 p.m., for distributing prizes, laureating graduates, announcing honors, &c.