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ANNUAL CONVOCATION UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S ADDRESS.

[Revised specially for THE MONTHLY.]

WE meet to-day as a college under peculiar circumstances, with our organization already modified by recent legislation; which nevertheless still awaits the proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor before it can come into full effect. The primary object of the University Federation Act, in which we heartily sympathize, is the union of denominational universities and colleges with the national university for the furtherance of their common aims. Happily, however, the occasion has been turned to account for a revision of the university scheme in other aspects, and we welcome it as removing restrictions which had long hampered us.

This is all the more creditable to the Minister under whose special directions the measure has been framed when it is seen that the tendency of recent legislation has been largely to undo the work of older reformers and restore to the University the rights and privileges conferred on it by its Royal Charter sixty years

before. By that charter of 1827, a college was established at Toronto—or York, as our city was then called—“with the style and privileges of a university;” and it was soon after endowed by patent with a portion of the lands which the wise foresight of the pilgrim fathers of Upper Canada had set apart for higher education. The University of King's College, as it was styled, had its professors in arts, medicine and law. It had also its faculty of divinity, accompanied in the terms of the original charter with restrictions which, though modified by subsequent legislation, were a source of strife and controversy till their removal. But the changes effected in 1853 went far beyond that. Not only were the faculties of law and medicine abolished, but the university was reduced to a mere board with the control of examinations and the conferring of degrees. As to the faculty of arts, it was remodelled, with important additions, as a distinct corporation, under the