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UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION.

Addresses Delivered by the
Chancellor, Rev. Dr. King, and
Rev. Father Drummond.

The Convocation of the University of Manitoba was held in the Legislative Chamber, on last Friday, 7th June. At three o'clock the members of the Council of the University entered the chamber, robed and hooded in their University garb, followed by the Chancellor, who took his place in the speaker's chair. Among the members of the Council we noticed: His Grace The Archbishop of Rupert's Land, Chancellor; The Hon. Judge Dubuc, Vice-Chancellor; Rev. Father Drummond, S.J., Rev. Dr. King, Rev. Dr. Sparling, Very Rev. Dean Grisdale, Rev. Fathers Cherrier and Cloutier, Rev. Dr. Bryce, Rev. Canons O'Meara and Matheson, Dr. J. K. Barrett, J. B. Somers, Esq., Ven. Archdeacon Fortin, Prof. Kendrick, James Fisher, M.P.P., Dr. Laird, Dr. Jones, Dr. McDiarmid; Rev. Prof. Hart, Rev. Dr. Duval and Mr. F. W. Russell.

Both the floor of the House and the galleries were uncomfortably crowded with a most orderly and appreciative audience of the best people in Winnipeg.

The Chancellor, the Archbishop of Rupert's Land, opened Convocation with the following remarks:—

Members of the University, I welcome those of you who have assembled at the close of another most prosperous year of the University. On former occasions I had noticed the very rapid growth of the University; and more especially the abnormal number of students for the population of the Province, and the Northwest Territories from which we now receive a small but increasing number of students. This growth, I am happy to say, has continued during the past year. We now have centres in several places for holding preliminary examinations; and I find that last year 257 students took the examinations in arts in Winnipeg, and in all the centres, including Winnipeg, 288. In the present year 287 students took papers in Winnipeg; in all the centres, including Winnipeg, 325. (Applause.) The growth of the medical school of the University has been equally marked; I believe 118 students attended the medical classes of the university during the past session. And, members of the university, I am very happy to say that the progress of the university is not at all confined to an increase in the number of students. No doubt a good number of the students failed in the late examinations in meeting the requirements of the examiners in some subject or another; but still I think the university is to be congratulated on a very material improvement in the work shown in the examinations. Of course, I could speak more confidently with regard to that department of the work that comes under my own personal observation; I mean mathematics; but I believe the improvement is general. Still, while I gladly recognize this improvement, I desire to say personally that from my experience of various kinds I feel doubtful as to the wisdom of the course pursued in this university, and I believe in most Canadian universities, in requiring the passing of examinations in so many subjects in the early part of the course. I mean to say I question the effect, both as regards allowing adequate preparation for exact scholarship in the future, and also for what I believe to be of first importance, the supply of what I call educating power. The object of the entrance examination should be the compelling of students to secure a sound foundation for a coherent superstructure afterwards. Education should have in view, not so much the amount of things known, in various branches, or even their intrinsic importance, as increasing the capacity of the scholars for acquiring, retaining and assimilating things worth knowing. There has been nothing eventful in the history of the university during the past year. The expense of the tuition falls entirely on the colleges; but yet, on account of some criticisms made in the legislative assembly, I wish to say that the grant we receive from the legislature, though not equal to our needs, has proved invaluable to us. The withdrawal of that grant, or even its reduction, would almost prevent, in the present condition of the university, the carrying on of the necessary examination. Some changes have been made in the studies of the university during the past year, chiefly the medical studies. An arrangement has been made extending the period of study and raising the standing both for entrance on medical studies, and also with respect to the examinations on these studies themselves. I am very sorry that our Visitor is not able to be

with us to-day; he does not feel so well, and a letter will be read from him later. I would wish on the part of the university, to express congratulation on the mark of distinction lately conferred on him by Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. (Applause.) In spite, as we all know, of very much weakness of health, he has unceasingly, in every way, drawn attention to the capabilities of the Northwest. No man has done more to advance the interests of our common country. As Visitor he has been ready at all times to support and counsel in every effort to improve the status and work of the university. And now we shall proceed with the business of the day. We no longer read the class list; the university has outgrown that; but we have the pleasant duty of conferring the degrees upon those who have been found worthy of that distinction; also of announcing the honors given by the university to the successful students in medals and scholarships, and of welcoming those students who are present.

Father Drummond presented a candidate from St. Boniface College; Canon O'Meara eight candidates from St. John's College; Rev. Principal King fifteen from Manitoba College; and Reverend Principal Sparling twelve from Wesley College, and the chancellor conferred upon these the degree of B. A.

The registrar read the names of one candidate for C. M., two candidates for LL. B., and five for M. A. The last mentioned went forward, and were presented by the registrar to the chancellor. The ad eundem gradum degrees, four B. A. and two M. A., were next announced.

Several large and handsome bouquets were handed to the lady graduates.

The presentation of the fourteen medals, about thirty scholarships and nine bachelors degrees followed; and at the close the chancellor heartily congratulated the winners on their success, and expressed the hope that it would be a great encouragement for them in the future.

A letter was then read from the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Schultz, expressing regret that he was unable to attend, and adding that this regret had been very much increased since he had seen the long list of those who had done so much credit to themselves. Expressing his pride and sincere good wishes, he said he did not wish to confine these to the young men. His wife joined him in all praise to the young ladies for what they had accomplished, and in good wishes for the future.

Reverend Principal King said he felt proud of the University; yet all felt that, while it was necessary to the colleges and a bond of union among them, the colleges were necessary to the University. He extended his congratulations to the students who had won distinctions. No doubt they represented more than a fair share of ability; but they had manifested also a good deal of patient, persistent application. This power of exerting application would be far more valuable in after life than distinctions won. There was a peculiar sweetness and satisfaction in connection with the first success in university work; he trusted that such successes were harbingers of future ones, but none would afford more genuine pleasure than the first one. To those who have been less successful he said that to bear defeat with grace, to look upon the success of others without envy was a far greater triumph. Far more important than knowledge were love of truth and ability to exercise one's mind in the investigation and discovery of truth. The benefits of university degrees were not exclusively intellectual. In the University of Edinburgh the classes in Latin and Greek were named "humanity classes." University training was meant to make broader men, with loftier conceptions and wider sympathies; to make them ladies and gentlemen, with gentle, kindly and sympathetic hearts. He congratulated the chancellor on the progress of the university over which he presided from the first and over which it was the feeling of every member of the council that he should long be spared to preside. Referring to the union in the university of men representing different races, languages and creeds, Dr. King said that here in Manitoba, higher education is a factor, not of division, but of real and true union. The university was young, but depreciatory comparisons with other universities should not be made.

He felt that, speaking before Father Drummond, he was acting as a foil to his eloquent friend; but he trusted the audience would take his own remarks in good part as the expression of his homely Scotch common sense. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

The chancellor then briefly introduced Father Drummond, who spoke pretty much as follows:

Mr. Chancellor, Members of the University, Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will have observed that my learned friend Dr. King has, in his great charity, inadvertently implied that I am devoid of common sense. (Laughter.) To this point I will return presently; just now I wish to express my feelings on this occasion. While not altogether unaccustomed to public speaking (laughter), I am now in a state of trepidation, for I am about to address the new graduates, who, as you are aware, know everything. (Laughter.) Had I to deal only with the Chancellor or with the older members of the University, I should look for indulgence at their hands; but in the presence of the graduates I am filled with diffidence and trepidation. A couple of days ago the Registrar showed me a caricature which has been taken from some American paper and represented Uncle Sam with his head in his hands and his elbows on his knees in great distress, over the tariff, the income tax and other burning questions, when there comes running up to him a newly fledged graduate, his pockets stuffed with essays on, precisely, the tariff, the income tax, bimetallicism and all such knotty points, and this fledgling exclaims: "Brace up, old man; I know you have been waiting for me; now I am ready to give you the benefit of my knowledge." (Laughter.) This being the typical graduate's usual frame of mind, you can understand how ticklish my position is, when venturing to make some humble suggestions as to the future of these learned young ladies and gentlemen. However I trust they will patiently bear with me while I hesitatingly and with great diffidence impart a little advice which is the fruit of more than twenty-five years experience since I graduated from college.

Here, then, is what I would say to the young men and women that are leaving the University. You are going out into the great university of the world. As you grow older and increase your store of ideas, you will come to realize the truth of that saying of Socrates: "The mere man learns the more he finds that there is a vast number of things he knows nothing about. I need hardly tell you that you may learn far more from men than from books. Books, of course you must read, not many, but the very best, and these you should read carefully and try to understand. If you are at a loss for an interesting and all-absorbing subject, take up the study of history, which affords an endless field for original research and deep reflection. Verify the quotations you meet with. How often does one find quotations wrenched from the context, which gives them quite another meaning, or references to books which, when consulted, say the very opposite of what the author who learnedly refers to them intends. In your choice of historical authorities prefer the men that have had some experience of the things of which they treat. Let me give you an example of what I mean. Francis Parkman enjoys a great reputation as a brilliant writer of historical sketches. I had occasion lately to go peritrochically into the history of the expatriation of the Acadians by Governor Lawrence, not by the Home Government—I am happy to say that a valuable work just published sets that point at rest and exonerates the Home Government—and I was surprised to find Parkman saying that the Acadians were "weak of purpose." Now it so happens that in the province of Quebec, where I was brought up, there are many Acadians; I have lived with some of them, and I can bear witness to the correctness of a proverb current in that province. When a man is stubborn and mulish, we say: "He is as hard-headed as an Acadian." Instead, therefore, of being "weak of purpose," the Acadians are exactly the reverse. What, then, am I to think of the perspicacity or the trustworthiness of a man like Parkman who accumulated most precious, unedited documents for fifty years, who displays a wealth of startling erudition, who has left to his heirs an oaken cabinet filled with original papers in which he has his ten volumes, and yet who misleads the whole world as to a fact which he might have discovered had he taken the trouble to talk to any man that had lived with Acadians?

Whatever you do, try to improve in yourself that master faculty of the human mind which we call judgment and which enables a man to see the strong point in everything. If you study the bar, watch the methods and weigh the views of the eminent members of the profession. How many lawyers are learned and painstaking, they dilate on insignificant issues and yet fail to see the point and so hardly ever win

a case. The great lawyer is the man of excellent judgment who throws into relief the strong aspects of a case and wisely overlooks irrelevant matter. Should you study medicine, form your own opinion of the mental calibre of your professors—through you need not, of course, communicate this opinion to others—and follow the guidance of those who can judge of the value of medical books; else your practice may be fatal to your patients. (Laughter.)

Though we depend so largely on the influence of other minds, we should lead rather than follow public opinion. There are two kinds of public opinion: the opinion of experts in any branch of learning may be safely followed and is deserving of all your respect; but the opinion of the ignorant rabble, never be slaves to that. In a word, be independent and yet wisely dependent in the cultivation of your judgment; and you will surely improve that power of judging which is after all the perfection of common sense. Thus I find myself in full accord, as you see, with my friend Dr. King. (Applause.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I fear I may be detaining you too long (Cries of No, no). But, you see, it requires more time to prepare an effective ten minutes speech than a discourse of half an hour; the first intimation I had of this address was two days ago, and, owing to the multiplicity of my occupations since that time, I have had really only two hours to think of it. However, I will strive to be brief in what yet remains to be said.

The formation of the judgment is not the whole of education. "You may be as clever as the fallen angels, as brilliant as the most splendid geniuses; if you have not strength and rectitude of will, you will never be able to depend upon you in the hour of their need."

Do not work by fits and starts. The steady plodder is the man that is sure to succeed, if only he plod long enough. On the other hand, who has not met with bright men who could do anything they attempted and do it remarkably well, but who could not be relied upon to do it at the right time? You remember the fable of the tortoise and the hare, how the hare, trusting to his speed, dashed by the way, while the tortoise won the race. This must be a consolation to those who are not gifted with hare-like minds. (Laughter.)

As the judging power is the master faculty of the mind, so the will is the master faculty of the whole man. Professor Huxley, in his essay "On Technical Education," says: "Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not; it is the first lesson that ought to be learned; and, however early a man's training begins, it is probably the last lesson he learns thoroughly." The attainment of such a power is a state of high perfection, which I myself do not pretend to have reached, though I am trying to get there.

This supposes at the outset a strong determination to correct one's faults. For, Ladies and Gentlemen, I don't know if you if you have ever viewed the matter in this light, but the sum and substance of all education is the correction of our faults. What do we understand by a well-bred child? Is it not one whom its mother has taught not to put its knife in its mouth, not to put its fingers in the dishes, not to ask for bread and butter without saying "please"? Dear me! There are so many grown up people who never learn that much. (Laughter.) All education is merely the gradual eliminating of defects. The best educated man amongst us is he who makes the fewest and the least mistakes. If, therefore, you find a candid friend, who will frankly tell you your shortcomings, I would say to you in the words of the poet: "Grapple him to your heart with hooks of steel." And listen very willingly to him when he notices your defects; otherwise, he will refrain from healthy criticism. Judicious correction will make a man of you—or a woman, as the case may be. (Laughter.) One of my friends, who was about to make a speech, once asked me to be very severe in my remarks upon it. After it was over, I waited to be asked my opinion. Probably because the speech had not been much of a success, my friend put off asking me and finally, when he could not well shirk the ordeal altogether, he said: "If you wish to criticize my speech, please don't be severe, praise where you can." What could I do? I was disarmed. I need hardly add that my friend's speeches never improved.

Now, our graduates cannot help feeling that they have done their duty well, they are tempted to think a good

deal of their achievements; and no wonder; it is not everybody who can win a first scholarship or a medal. And then vanity is so persistent a demon of our inmost souls. A spiritual writer has wittily said that vanity leaves the soul a quarter of an hour after the soul has left the body. (Laughter.) But, it would be a priceless boon if we could, by legitimate eavesdropping, overhear others express their candid opinion of ourselves. It is such an invaluable gift "to see ourselves as others see us." I refrain from giving this quotation in Scotch dialect, lest I should seem to reflect on my friends about me here. (Laughter provoked by Fr. Drummond's position between the Chancellor on his right and Dr. King on his left, both pronounced Scotchmen.) I must, it is true, admit that my ancestors were Scotch, but pretty far off. The facial expression and tone in which this last clause was given were such as to set a ripple of laughter and applause going round and round the hall several times. It was a minute or two before the speaker himself recovered his composure.

To sum up what I have been saying: Cultivate judgment, strengthen your wills, keeping always in view the search after truth, and always being determined to accept that truth cost what it may, admiring those men who are worthy of admiration. Cultivate even hero worship for real heroes, but beware of men who advertise themselves. Seek, as Dr. King so aptly said, that which is sincere and true, not that which is only garish and brilliant on the surface. Thus will you secure the best results of the most perfect education and be an honor to the University of Manitoba. (Great applause.)

The Chancellor briefly thanked Dr. King and Father Drummond for their addresses and pronounced the Convocation closed.

"LET MANITOBA ALONE."

This is a favorite expression of the press and people in regard to the present position of the school question. Manitoba may violate the constitution; the Imperial Privy Council may say that the Catholics have a grievance which should be corrected; the Governor General in Council may direct the attention of the government to the decision of the highest Court in the Empire and order a remedy of the wrong, and the only reply is "Let Manitoba alone." Let Manitoba alone, no matter what wrong she may do! The Manitobans are supposed to be governed by a constitution which they are sworn to respect and obey; but what of that? When the young bully is called down for bad conduct, then goes up the cry "Let Manitoba alone." Here is the way the Northwest ably exposes the dishonesty of this plea of "Let Manitoba alone":

"This is still the cry of church synods and conferences when moved to consider the School question, and to do justice to their zeal in behalf of the particular form of religion they affect we are bound to say they are moved as often as the opportunity presents itself. The newspapers, too, that want to keep up the row are extremely anxious that Manitoba should not be interfered with. They are even more charitable in their Christianity than the churches. They are not influenced by religious considerations; oh dear, no; they would not for the world have it supposed that they would raise a finger in persecution of the minority; but let Manitoba alone, because it is her own affair and it would be wrong to put any pressure upon her, especially (aside as long as it is understood that she will keep the advantage she now possesses. Annoyed at being suspected of over-zealousness in meddling with Manitoba affairs, The Toronto Globe replies "so far from being meddling, the main contention of The Globe in the School matter was and is that there should be no meddling with the affairs of Manitoba." Precisely: that is the tone adopted by it and those other newspapers that want to prolong the agitation and deprive the minority of their rights.

Against these very zealous churchmen and newspapers is the Constitution, which expressly declares that there shall be meddling with Manitoba under certain circumstances, and the whole present trouble has arisen from the fact that those circumstances have transpired and are still in evidence. The Constitution requires that in the event of certain things happening it shall be the duty of the Governor-General in Council to interfere. No one seriously disputes that these things have actually happened yet the Globe and those very Christian synods contend that the Constitution should be ignored and the grievance which the Privy Council has found to exist should go unredressed. When it was made clear beyond all doubt by the judgment of the Privy Council that the Manitobans had been wronged in the

matter of their schools, it became imperative on the Governor-General-in-Council to signify the fact to the Manitoba Government and to point out the necessity of some measure of redress. The Constitution further provides that in case the Manitoba Government should decline or neglect this duty it would then fall to the Dominion Parliament to act. The necessary representation has been made, as directed by the Constitution; but in the opinion of the Globe and the Christian synods this is meddling with Manitoba. Of course it would be further and inexcusable meddling if the Dominion Parliament should be constrained by necessity to go a step further in obedience to the Constitution and remedy the grievance that exists. It is a curious position to take, inexplicable to those who would respect the law and who have a regard for right and justice. What it means is that we may employ the Constitution to discover whether or not there is a grievance, but having discovered it we cannot go further, because it would be meddling, and therefore the grievance must go unredressed.

Mr. Greenway is reported to be on his way home, and the Legislature will resume in a few days; we shall then know what has come of his mission to the East. The simple fact, however, that he went to confer with the Governor-General on this School question is evidence that he at least is persuaded that meddling is permissible under the Constitution; we should not be surprised if by this time he has made the discovery that it is obligatory. He has probably learned a number of things in connection with this matter, of which previously he had no conception. He and his colleagues, but in fairness it must be admitted that his colleagues more than himself, were greatly exercised not long ago over the remedial order, which it was the duty of the Governor-General-in-Council to make. They claimed that it was mandatory, in some sense outside the Constitution and as calling on them to do something very much out of reason; and they complained that the tone of it was imperious and even discourteous. If, they said, the Federal Government had presented the difficulty in a gentle way and suggested in a mild, friendly manner that the circumstances demanded for some action, they would have been disposed to give the matter their most favorable consideration. The newspapers that have been doing everything possible to aggravate the trouble listened to echo their views, and the impression was sought to be created that the Dominion Government had acted in an offensive, tyrannical, if not brutal manner. Now, the remedial order is not mandatory in the sense they conveyed; that the Constitution is mandatory, any law is mandatory, and any intimation to a transgressor that he shall have to obey. In this case it is the duty that is in calling attention to it. But the objection is so obviously silly that it would be tedious to have been dropped.

There has been just as little ground for the complaint that the Manitoba Government has been treated with any Privy Council and the remedial order. The Order is received 26th July, 1894, and is in reference to the memorial presented by the clergy of the Catholic church asking for redress. Among other things it prayed that the Federal Government should "give such direct relief of the Roman Catholics of Manitoba as Your Excellency-in-Council may see fit, with regard to the Manitoba School laws of 1890." The Committee of referred reported to Council, and the Committee having taken all these matters into consideration, have the honor to recommend that a copy of the memorial above referred to, and also of this Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, with his advisers and before the Legislature of that Province. . . . That it is a people of Canada that the laws which should not be such as to occasion classes or portions of oppression or injustice to any of the people. . . . That Your Excellency therefore jointly with the Legislature of the most earnest hope that the Legislature of Manitoba may take moment of consideration at the earliest possible moment the complaints which are set forth in this petition. . . . and may take speedy measures to give redress in well founded complaint or grievance as ascertained to exist." There is nothing has been just as little discourtesy shown towards the Manitoba Government throughout this whole very bad business.

The Constitution cannot leave Manitoba alone, for it is made for this Province as well as the others; but it would have been a great deal better for us if those meddling newspapers had let it alone—those newspapers that stick it in their noses for the purpose of making mischief.