

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

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The Convocation was an occasion of very great interest. There was as usual a grand rally of the loyal alumni of the university. We know of no college where the *esprit de corps* and loyalty of its sons is so great. The Rev. Dr. W. J. Hunter preached with characteristic ability the baccalaureate sermon. The Rev. Dr. Eby gave the annual lecture before the Theological Union. It was a powerful and eloquent plea for a reform in the policy of the Church with regard to missionary enterprise. It evoked great enthusiasm, and the union have resolved to give it the widest circulation possible. C. A. Maston, B.A., delivered the annual lecture on the introduction of a department of social science. The lecture is highly commended by those who heard it. The Rev. B. F. Austin, M.A., Principal of Alma College, St. Thomas, gave the President's address of the Alumni Association. It was an excellent one, and in the course of which he made some telling remarks in favour of the establishment of a chair of missions somewhat after the model of such chairs in the universities of the Old World.

Convocation was opened by prayer offered by Rev. Dr. Sutherland. The valedictory oration was then delivered by Mr. E. H. Koyle. It was patriotic and eloquent. Over a hundred degrees were conferred. Among them that of D.D. on the Revs. W. Briggs, Toronto; C. S. Eby, Tokio, Japan; J. S. Evans, Hamilton; S. J. Hunter, Hamilton. We congratulate these brethren on the well-merited honours conferred upon them. Rev. Chancellor Nelles, in a speech of great power, eloquently combated the idea that there was a growing tendency to secularize education in this country. He contended that no higher

standard of learning could be found than that which existed in Canadian colleges, and said he would never give any kind of adhesion to a scheme that would abolish the autonomy of Queen's or Trinity or Victoria. Victoria University has had a larger attendance of undergraduates than during any term since her foundation. There are 170 undergraduates in the faculty of Arts alone. The total number of students enrolled exceeds 700. Miss Willoughby, who received the bachelor's degree in Arts, is the daughter of the Rev. N. R. Willoughby, of Whitby. The conversation was a brilliant social event.

The closing exercises of the Montreal Theological College were very successful. The college had a very prosperous year. Its handsome and well appointed college building gives it a great advantage, and adds much to the *prestige* of Montreal Methodism, which will be still further enhanced by the magnificent new church for the St. James Street congregation, soon to be erected on one of the most central and eligible squares in the city.

Of the exercises at Sackville, N.B., we have not at the time of writing received a report.

We are indebted to the Rev. S. G. Stone, D.D., Associate Editor of the *Christian Guardian*, for the following valuable statistics: The censuses of Canada are taken at intervals of ten years, the last of which was in 1881. Six years previous, the three leading denominations stood as follows in the whole Dominion: Methodists, 549,499; Presbyterians, 544,998; Church of England, 494,049. In the census for 1881 the numbers are as follows: Methodists, 742,981; Presbyterians, 676,155; Church of England, 574,818. In the Province of Ontario for the same periods the relative num-