

THE CENTENNIAL OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY.

The centenary celebration of the founding of Georgetown University was remarkable in more ways than one. It is the oldest and most celebrated Catholic institution of learning in the United States; it was founded by Archbishop Carroll, the father of the American Hierarchy; and the one hundredth anniversary of its celebration drew together one of the most distinguished assemblies of prelates, priests and laymen in the annals of the Church on this continent. It was remarkable also, as a spontaneous testimony from men eminent in every walk of life, to the beneficence and distinction of the Society of Jesus, under whose care the University has been from the beginning; a fact which should not be without instruction to a certain element here in Canada at the present time. From personages so opposite as Cardinal Gibbons and President Cleveland, who, if any, are entitled to speak for the democracy of America, came words of the highest praise of the scholastic attainments and eminent virtues of the Jesuit Fathers. The latter in the course of a very interesting and practical address, said:

"Another thought, born, I suppose, of the solemn trust which I have held for the American people, prompts me to say a word concerning the relation which such an institution as this should bear to American citizenship. Men of learning we at all times need; but we also need good citizenship. There should not be that selfishness in education which leads its possessor to live within himself, and to hug his treasure with sordid satisfaction. The least an educated man should do is to make himself a good, true American citizen; and he fails to do his entire duty if he does not also improve the citizenship of others. His love of country should be great, his interest in public affairs should at all times be active, and his discharge of the duties of citizenship should be guided by all the intelligence he possesses, and aided by all the learning he has acquired.

"Georgetown College should be proud of the impress she has made upon the citizenship of our country. On her roll of graduates are found the names of many who have performed public duty better for her teaching, while her alumni have swollen the ranks of those who in private stations have done their duty as American citizens intelligently and well. I cannot express my friendship for your college better than to wish for her in the future, as she has had in the past, an army of alumni, learned, patriotic, and useful, cherishing the good of their country as an object of loftiest effort, and deeming their contributions to good citizenship a supremely worthy use of the education they have acquired within these walls."

It is quite evident that President Cleveland, the chosen ruler of sixty millions of people, has no sympathy with that spirit, un-Christian as it is intolerant, which would brand the Jesuits as the enemies of free institutions and good citizenship. The testimony of such a man is worth more than countless volumes of abuse from ignorant fanatics, whose highest purpose at all times is to foment discord and strife between man and man.

Another eulogy, from a man of very different stamp to the President is also worth recording. Mgr. Preston, of New York, one of the ablest and best known of the American clergy, said:

"It had been his privilege to sit at their [the Jesuits'] feet during all his Catholic life, indeed during all his intellectual life, for they had been his masters in learning before he had the happiness of entering the household of the faith. They are the vanguard of the Church, the right arm of the body of Christ, their blows are ever aimed at error with certainty and fearlessness, and their voices seem inspired by the One Whose children they are. Dignity creates responsibility, and those who have been so highly honoured by their *alma mater* are bound to labour hereafter for the glory of God and in the cause of truth. They have taken anew their oath of humble obedience to the Church of God and to the Vicar of Christ, the successor of Peter, the rock upon which the Church was built. They are soldiers engaged to battle under the great Captain of salvation in the warfare of truth against error."

The entire celebration was, in fact, what President Cleveland termed a "universal testimony of love and affection and towards Georgetown from the outside world."

One event of the Centenary was the conferring of degrees upon graduates and a few distinguished outsiders. The degrees in theology were conferred by Cardinal Gibbons; the honorary degrees by President Cleveland. Among those who received the latter were Hon. Honore Mercier, Premier of the Province of Quebec, who was made a Doctor of Laws, as a token, no doubt, of gratitude for his services to the Society of Jesus. Another event was the striking of three gold medals in honour of the centennial of the University, which were awarded as follows:

One to Dr. John Gilmary Shea, the historian of the Catholic Church in America, for his work, "The Life and Times of Archbishop Carroll;" a gold medal, struck by the Alumni Association, presented to Cardinal Gibbons, and a gold medal like the preceding to President Cleveland.

Among those from Canada who took part in the proceedings of the celebration may be mentioned, Rev. George Kenny, S.J., of St. Mary's College, Montreal, and Rev. W. J. Doherty, S.J., Rector of the Church of Our Lady, Guelph.

The celebration will rank not only as a great landmark in the history of the University of Georgetown, but in that of the American commonwealth also.

NERI.

Feb. 25th, 1889.

REMARKS.

I see that Dr. Potts has been down to Ottawa and that Sir John confided a good story to his inner ear. The ponderous doctor likes good stories and is in need of them to beguile the wealthy Methodists towards subscribing for the new Victoria College in the Queen's Park. The *London Times*, when it was more humorous and less out of joint than it is at present, used to call O'Connell the "Big Beggarman," but if Dr. Potts has half a million dollars by the first of May he might claim that distinction and the charter of Victoria might be amended to confer the degree of B.B. on him. There would be no difficulty in the Methodists getting that privilege from the Ontario Government—especially when they are to get a big grant of land in the choicest part of the Park for a college site.

When the Baptists took their slice of land in the Park and entered into some unknown relations with the University it was believed they would remain part of the confederation of colleges; but after building McMaster Hall they applied to the Government and got a charter of their own with independent university powers. It does not seem to me that paying rent for their site will re-instate them in equity, or be a fair return for what many consider a breach of faith. The Methodists have had all along University powers and the proposal is that these be held in abeyance so long as confederation will be a success. Keeping in mind the present violent opposition to Dr. Potts' scheme one might prophesy that after Victoria Hall is built confederation will *not be a success*,

Wyckliffe Hall was another slice of University grounds and that institution—erected to be a reproach to Trinity College—is likely to go to pieces. The Wyckliffites have clung as a burr to Toronto University for many reasons—a minor one being that Trinity College and the Toronto University are always supposed to be in battle array against each other. When the Anglican Church could not maintain Kings College as a Divinity school for themselves they shook the dust off their feet and went up Queen street; and Kings College then became the University of Toronto, with no divinity taught therein.

The Presbyterians have made the best use of the Provincial University, and Dr. Caven of Knox College is careful and canny. The next denomination to ask for a slice of the Park will probably be the Congregationalists, who may be induced to remove their college from Montreal. And so all the Protestants will be settled comfortably on the public property—because the University of Toronto is a state institution now—and indeed efforts have been made in and out of reason, to induce all sorts of creeds and all sorts of professions to enter into the Provincial round-house.