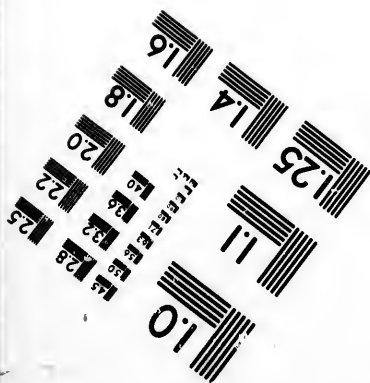
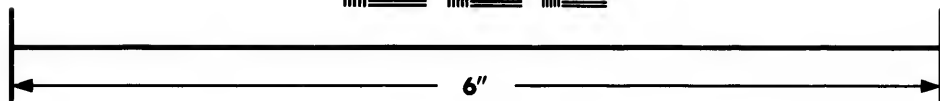
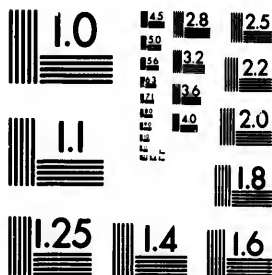


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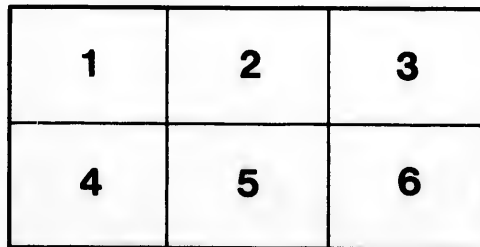
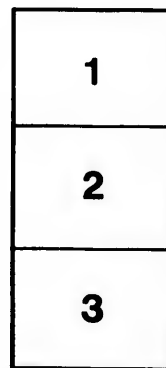
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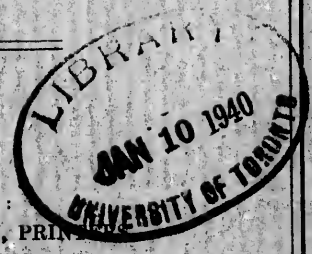
OCTOBER 5th, 1891.

BY

SIR DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., F.R.S.E., (186-1892)

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

Prof Alexander



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ADDRESS

AT THE CONVOCATION OF FACULTIES OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,

OCTOBER 5TH, 1891.

BY THE PRESIDENT,

SIR DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., F.R.S.E.

WHEN, last year, the duty once more devolved on me of welcoming my colleagues and the undergraduates of the University to enter on the studies of a new academic year, we were indebted to the courtesy of an affiliated institution for the hall in which we met; and began the work of the year amid all the impediments and privations incident to the destruction of a building which for upwards of thirty years had been the pride of our graduates. Yet even then we were looking hopefully into the future, encouraged by generous practical sympathy; no less than by the experience that the vitality of the University was in no degree dependent on the edifice which had been reduced to ruin. To-day it is my privilege to welcome you once more within the old walls, not only far advanced towards restoration to all their former beauty; but also with greatly extended accommodation and increased facilities for study.

The hall in which we now assemble, straightened though it is for the requirements of a Convocation Hall, is replete with associations of a very mingled character. To most of you it will recall the alcoves of our well-stored library; and their vista terminated with the fine statue of William of Wykham, the gift of a graduate and member of the Faculty; and, as the statue of the

founder of New College, Oxford, in the age of Chaucer, prized as an appropriate adornment to the University of our young Dominion. To myself, earlier memories are recalled by this day's proceedings; for it was in this same hall—then as now in a transitional stage,—that thirty-three years ago on the 4th of October, 1858, the Senate and Convocation, under the presidency of his Excellency, Sir Edmund Head, as visitor, united in the dedication of this building as the home of the Provincial University. The period was a critical one, not only in the history of this institution, but in the whole future of Canadian national education. Once for all, so far at least as Ontario is concerned, it had to be decided whether it was compatible with the well-being of a free state that its citizens should be educated, in their most impressible years, in sectarian antagonism; and the organizers and administrators of higher education be compelled to fritter away its too scanty resources on ill-equipped and poorly-manned colleges, marshalled in embittered rivalry; instead of stimulating each other in a common aim of widening the intellectual horizon; and training in useful knowledge those who are to be the leaders of thought and action in the coming time.

It is with a curious sense of retracing life's steps, as though Time had reversed his flight and brought back the vanished years, that I look on these walls denuded of their familiar furnishings, and reinstated in their condition as on that eventful day in the history of this University. The present occasion seems to invite to a review of that critical period. The heraldic bearings of the University, with the crown in chief, symbolic of the name and privileges granted by royal charter, combine to tell the history of the institution with such aptness as the herald's art admits of; and in this same year it has been our fortune to recover the long-missing, charter in which his Majesty, King George IV., duly set forth the royal mandate establishing, and constituting forever "a College, with the style and privileges of a University, for the education and instruction of students in arts and faculties." As a State paper of this nineteenth century the document is a singular one; and some of its already obsolete requirements have a mediæval

flavour such as even to William of Wykham might have seemed out of date. It is impossible to review them now without a sense of the giant strides with which free thought has advanced in the intervening years, and prepared the way for a reunion of our educational forces.

Among the benefactors of this University to whom later generations will owe a debt of gratitude for its organization on a broad national basis, free from every restriction of class or creed, none claims a higher place than his Excellency Sir Edmund Head, the Governor-General of Canada in those eventful years that preceded the federation of the provinces of British North America. With the broad question of constitutional government I meddle not. He was a Governor-General of the old type, who in that transitional stage of Canadian history, claimed to rule when he saw fit, as well as to govern. Familiar himself with University organization, he found the work in inexperienced hands; and assuming it to be outside the arena of political contention, he took a determined stand on the question of diverting the educational endowments of Upper Canada to denominational Colleges. Some of the incidents in the vice-royalty of the Earl of Elgin had already sufficiently indicated the strained relations existing between the upper and lower provinces, which were preparing the way for federal union and local self-government; and, with an executive preoccupied with the exigencies of a political antagonism embittered by elements of race as well as of creed, the special educational question of Upper Canada lay outside the arena of immediate party strife. There was no minister with whom we could take friendly council; nor any one to be sensitive over the responsibilities or rights of an educational department. Our very insignificance stood us in good part. So amid the indifference of unsympathetic party leaders, we appealed directly to his Excellency, and received from him an intelligent sympathy, the fruits of which you now enjoy. As Governor-General, Sir Edmund Head, was visitor of the University. As an old Oxford professor, a man of literary standing, high scholarship, and familiar with the manifold requirements of his own alma mater, he deprecated the

mischievous results involved in the perpetuation of a number of poorly equipped colleges wasting inadequate resources in duplicating professorships; and expending their energies in a way that threatened to engraft the tree of knowledge with a fruitage of embittered jealousies to turn to ashes on their lips.

It is a curious chapter in the history of colonial constitutional rule that I am now tempted to review. Of the actual views of the Government of that day, we are left in no uncertainty. When, in 1860, I proceeded to Quebec to represent the interests of this University in opposition to the claimants for a division of the endowment, there was little mystery as to the favour with which the Executive viewed their demands. But if any doubt remained that was effectually removed by the public avowal of the Government policy at a long subsequent date. In 1884, the distinguished political leader who has so recently closed his prolonged career as a statesman, was welcomed by an enthusiastic gathering of our citizens in the Grand Opera House, on his return from England with special marks of royal favour. On that occasion he explicitly defined the policy which the Government had then been prepared to carry into effect. "It was proposed," said he, "that the University should remain a Church of England institution. That an endowment should be given out of the same fund to Victoria College as representing the Methodists; to Queen's College, as representing the Presbyterian body; and to Regiopolis as representing the Roman Catholics;" and so inadequate were the prevailing ideas in Canada at that date of the wants of a well equipped University, that a considerable balance was assumed by him to be available, not only for the Grammar, but the Common Schools. The experience of Victoria and Queen's, no less than of our own University, has long since demonstrated the fallacy of such ideas.

The constitutionality of the course pursued by the Governor-General, need not now be discussed, since it was acquiesced in by his responsible advisers. But the wisdom of his interposition as visitor of the University, will not be disputed here; and I confi-

dently believe, will command the gratitude of future generations; who well appreciate no less heartily than we now do, his timely action at that critical juncture in preventing the squandering of an endowment, all too scanty for one seat of learning, in petty grants to every school and college of Ontario.

But it was the novel experience at that time that a large surplus lay at our credit; though by no means at our disposal. It was, on the contrary, a bait in the hands of rival politicians; and the source of greatest danger to the University. We were in a homeless plight: transferred, like casual paupers, from one temporary lodging to another, in all the exigencies of an institution deserted by its old allies; and awaiting only a concurrent verdict of rival claimants, to pronounce its doom, and administer to its effects. At this crisis Sir Edmund Head once more interposed; and it is largely due to his liberal conception of the scale on which the University of the future ought to be organized, that the building which we anew dedicate to the services of higher education has proved capable of readaptation to the ever increasing needs, and to the growing numbers of the University. Sir Edmund Head's "Hand-book of Painting," embracing a critical review of some of the chief schools of European art, furnishes abundant evidence of the cultured taste which exercised an important influence on the architectural features of the building now in process of restoration to more than its former beauty. In this respect it stands in striking contrast to the greater number of the college buildings of this continent, and constitutes an important factor in the intellectual development of the Canadian student. Its æsthetic influences play their part in the enduring associations which link the graduate with his alma mater; and can scarcely be overestimated, not only as a source of intellectual refinement, but as an element of moral culture. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever;" and here in our young country, still rugged with the traces of recent clearing from the forest, we stand in special need of such refining influences. With those who have yielded to the charm of this building, its preservation from injury will ever be a sacred duty. To you who, to-day, enter on

the privileges of undergraduates, and as such will be admitted to the free range of its corridors and halls, its lecture rooms and laboratories, I commend no less earnestly their protection from injury and defacement, than I urge on you the wise use of all the manifold educational advantages here placed within your reach.

But while I have been thus tempted to dwell on the architectural attractions of our renovated building, practical requirements have occupied a foremost place in the work of restoration. We have freely availed ourselves of the experiences of the past in all internal reconstruction. In the intervening years since the reorganization of this University was begun, the Universities of Europe have largely remodelled the system of higher education ; and the venerable seats of learning in the mother country have given abundant evidence of their vitality in readapting their methods and training to an age of unparalleled scientific progress and research. The Universities of the new world have not been slow to follow their example. A comparison of the courses of study of this University, and the departments of its honour work, in the years immediately succeeding the legislation of 1853, with the requirements now prescribed, furnishes the best evidence of the aim of its administrators to keep abreast of the age. In 1853 the old idea that subordinated all other studies to those of classics and mathematics was reluctantly giving place to the requirements of an age of progress. Even with the augmented staff which the changes of that date introduced the entire teaching faculty, including at that period a chair of agriculture, numbered only ten. The modern languages, apart from English, were represented by a single professor ; and other departments were provided for in a like meagre fashion ; while the faculties of law and medicine existed only as a board of examiners. Now, with our restored faculties and crowded classrooms, we have a staff of sixty-one professors, lecturers, demonstrators and fellows, along with nine honorary lecturers who also take part in the instruction in the faculty of law ; and further additions are in view. The department of modern languages, embracing English, (including Anglo-Saxon), French, German, Italian and Spanish, with the

proposed additions of the present year will be under the charge of nine professors, lecturers and fellows. At the former date one professor undertook the whole work in mathematics and physics, now entrusted to six professors, instructors and demonstrators, in the laboratories and lecture-rooms; and only awaiting the appropriation of available funds for further additions. Alike in classics and in the modern languages the appointments to new chairs are only delayed in expectation of increased resources; and this principle of an efficient subdivision of work is being extended to other departments. Experience proves that the lecturer in science, in philosophy, in history, or literature, can present his views as usefully to a crowded classroom as to a dozen students. But in the mastery of languages, in philological and grammatical criticism, in the work of the laboratories, or wherever the teacher has to deal directly with the individual student, subdivision of classes and the increase of instructors are indispensable for the thorough work which the specialisation of studies involves.

The annually increasing number of undergraduates, and the addition of new departments of instruction, along with other changes, have involved the need for greatly extended accommodation. It cannot be justly charged on those who, thirty-eight years ago, undertook the reorganization of the Provincial University, that they were unmindful of the requirements of an age of progress. But it would have indicated the prescience of a seer, could they have anticipated all the wants that are now recognized as urgent. Only a few years before Dr. Dyonisius Lardner had demonstrated the impossibility of a steamship crossing the Atlantic; and Shakespear's Ariel as yet monopolized the feat of making a girdle round the earth in forty minutes. Now in physics, the department of electricity is a claimant for special laboratories and apparatus; while that of metaphysics has its own laboratory and other appliances for the novel branch of experimental psychology, which undertakes to investigate the correlations of mental and cerebral activity; and extends research to the organic counterpart of all associated mental life.

Such are illustrations of the claims of rival departments for needful facilities, some of which constituted perplexing, if not apparently insoluble problems: when the results of that ever memorable evening which seemed to undo the work of a lifetime furnished the opportunity for readapting our buildings to meet many unforeseen wants. Among these were the requirements that coeducation involves. Repeated plans had been considered by the architect, with a view to provide some supplementary accommodation for the annual increase of this new class of students. Nor were our difficulties due only to ever-growing numbers. We were still more perplexed in our endeavour to adapt the few lecture-rooms at our disposal to the indispensable subdivision of work which additional honour departments involve. Modern languages, the oriental languages, comparative philology, the rearrangement and extension in the department of philosophy, the new department of history and political science; along with the increasing appreciation of the informal interchange of enquiry and instruction in the Professors' private rooms: all demanded extended accommodation. By an arrangement with the late Minister of Education, some of the science departments had been temporarily transferred to the school of practical science. But with the revival of the medical faculty, that proved wholly inadequate for requirements which even the commodious building now provided for biology, physiology, and botany, only partially meets. Nevertheless, when the furnishing of the museum is completed, this building, appropriate to one group of the sciences, will, in its laboratories and other appliances, compare favourably with similar provisions in the best equipped Universities of Europe or America. The new museum is so planned as to greatly economise space, so as to afford more room, and better opportunity for arrangement. It is to be strictly a teaching museum. But while the aim will be educational utility and not decorative display; and the wants of the student will constitute the primary object: it will be not only attractive but instructive to the general public. Many advances have been made in recent years in the methods of exhibiting specimens so as to give such collections a higher edu-

educational value. In this we shall reap the advantage of Professor Ramsay Wright's recent visit to Europe, where he made such practical methods a special subject of study.

To another important department, that of physics, greatly extended accommodation has been appropriated in the restored building, including lecture-rooms, laboratories, workshop, apparatus and other needful appliances; and plans are under consideration for some corresponding and no less needful provision for the departments of geology and chemistry. Our gains in the remodelling of the restored building have been manifold. Two additional laboratories will now facilitate work in the departments of physics and psychology. The east wing, including the area of the old Convocation Hall, has been rebuilt on a new plan; and as the result of this and other changes, instead of nine lecture-rooms formerly at our disposal we have now fifteen. In the old building the private rooms for professors and lecturers were only six; now they amount to twenty-four, and for the first time will enable the professors and lecturers to adequately supplement the instructions of the classroom by informal tutorial relations with individual students. The transfer of the museum to the new biological building places at our disposal a hall of ample proportions, which it is proposed to turn to account for courses of public lectures; and, also, along with the old library, to supply much needed examination halls. Two large reading-rooms formerly attached to the library have been set apart for the lady students, and with other additions, coeducation will now be freed from impediments that greatly militated against its success. Among provisions for which space has also been found available in the new wing, are a students' reading-room and clubroom. Improved ventilation, heating, and the introduction of the incandescent electric light throughout the building, are included among many improvements with which we enter on the work of a new year, encouraged by long-coveted facilities now placed at our disposal.

I referred with some detail last year to the generous liberality with which one of our greatest privations had been met. The contributions to the library already acknowledged have since

been augmented by additional gifts from other Universities and learned societies, as well as from private donors. The present condition of the library may be thus stated: Of books saved from the fire we have upwards of 800 volumes; 2,598 newly purchased works have already been entered in the accession book; and further additions now under order and in course of forwarding to the library may be stated at about 5,000 volumes. The Committee organized under the presidency of the Marquis of Lorne for securing contributions towards the restoration of the library, with Mr. A. Staveley Hill, M.P., as Treasurer, and Sir George Baden-Powell, M.P., as Secretary, has now closed its labours; and the gifts due to their indefatigable exertions on our behalf, and to the liberality of other generous donors, number in all 29,604 volumes. The purchases made by the library committee under the advice of the faculty have been mainly directed to meet the practical requirements of the various departments, and restore to the library, as far as our means permit, its special function as a factor in the educational work of the University. We have thus already at our disposal fully 38,000 volumes,—to be increased, we may confidently anticipate before the opening of our new library in October next to not less than forty thousand volumes,—including scientific serials from the library of the great chemist, the Hon. Henry Cavendish; choice folios of early date from that of the historian of "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire;" and many other works which derive a special and unique value from their gifted donors.

Thus encouraged by generous sympathy and practical aid, no time has been lost in taking the needful steps for providing a home for the restored library. The new structure is now in progress on the site selected for it midway between the buildings appropriated to literary and scientific instruction; and will form an attractive addition to the group of buildings surrounding the College lawn. The plans have been carefully prepared with a view to the construction of a detached, and as far as possible fire-proof building, embodying the fruits of the most recent experience both in Europe and in the United States. The book room,

adapted for the secure accommodation of the entire collection within narrow limits, has been planned on a scale to admit of the reception of 120,000 volumes, with provision for future extension. To this a set of studies will be attached appropriated to the leading departments of science, letters, and philosophy. It is further purposed that the entire building shall be illuminated with the electric light, and so furnish an attractive resort where the student may at all times pass his evenings with no less pleasure than profit. With the improvements thus aimed at, we confidently anticipate that our new library will prove an invaluable adjunct to the whole scheme of higher education here aimed at, as a common centre of intellectual life, and a bond of closer union among the Federating Colleges of the Provincial University.

One other department remains to be noticed. When the work now in hand is completed a museum over the main entrance hall will afford accommodation for the collections in the departments of ethnology and archæology. To these, valuable contributions have already been made, and others are assured so soon as the cabinets are ready for their reception. The biological museum, transferred to apartments in the new wing of the science buildings, will be enriched by contributions from universities and other scientific bodies of Paris, Berlin, Washington, Cambridge, Mass.; Anne Arbor, Mich.; and Montreal, as well as by valuable gifts from private donors, including Sir William Dawson, Dr. Garnier, Mr. McLellan, Colonel Grant, Dr. John Evans, Mr. B. E. Walker and Mr. William Christie, in addition to liberal pecuniary aid.

I have enlarged on the increased facilities which new lecture-rooms, museums, laboratories and apparatus will now supply. But even more important are the additions to the intellectual force on which all their practical uses must depend. Our Faculty of Arts is strengthened for the work on which we are now entering by the appointment of Mr. Milner to a lectureship in Latin, in anticipation of the carrying out the approved plan of two professors in the department of classics; and Mr. Cameron and Dr. Needler have been selected to fill additional lectureships in French and German. We welcome them as old honour graduates,

returning after years of success in other spheres, to bear a part in the work of their own alma mater. In addition to this we only await the report of available funds, to fill up the new tutorial fellowships recently established in Mathematics, Oriental languages, Italian and Spanish. Meanwhile it is with peculiar pleasure that we once more welcome among us to-day, Professor Ramsay Wright, back from a busy year in the laboratories of Berlin and Paris, rich in results bearing on some of the most important discoveries in physiological and pathological science. I have already intimated our intention of turning to account our increased facilities by instituting a course of public lectures on special subjects. Not the least attractive of those, I feel assured, will be the promised report of Professor Ramsay Wright's visit to Berlin.

With no less hearty congratulations we greet our new colleague, Professor James Gibson Hume: one of our own alumni, fresh from post-graduate studies at Harvard and Freiberg; and enriched by the intellectual advantages of European travel: to revive the memory of his lamented Master, the late Professor Young; and to strengthen the department of philosophy in conjunction with his gifted and popular colleague, Professor Baldwin. We are reminded thereby of the aim that is now in view, of honouring the memory of a colleague whom we all bear in loving remembrance, by founding a travelling scholarship, to bear the name of the George Paxton Young Scholarship; and to constitute a coveted aid to the students in philosophy. I trust the time will yet come when, not in this department only, but in all, we shall have at our disposal adequate facilities to enable our most distinguished graduates to follow out their work at foreign Universities. This need in no degree damp our zeal in extending all available facilities for our own post-graduate work. And here I have the pleasant announcement to make, that a generous friend has undertaken to place at the disposal of the University, the sum of £1000 sterling, to endow a scholarship in the medical faculty, to be called the George Brown Science Scholarship: in recognition of the great services rendered by the late senator, the Hon. George Brown, in

the furtherance of an unrestricted system of higher education ; and for the encouragement of research in the departments of biology, physiology, and therapeutics.

The experience of the past year, invites our consideration of another wise custom in well-endowed Universities of the neighbouring States, of systematically freeing their professors from duty at stated intervals, in order that they may refresh their minds by renewed study ; and return from some favoured centre of learning, as Professor Ramsay Wright now does, to share with their students the most recent discoveries in science, or the latest phases of philosophic speculation and philological research.

We cannot overestimate the importance of thus keeping abreast of the achievements in science and letters. The latest triumphs in celestial physics have received special prominence at the recent meeting of the British Association. The establishment of telegraphic communication between the Old World and the New was welcomed as a practical contribution of science to the daily business of life. The actual interchange of conversation between the two continents by means of the telephone seems to be within reach. But the grander achievement of direct communication with remote suns and planets is being carried on, with ever increasing definiteness in the results. To spectrum analysis we owe the demonstration of an apparent unity in the constituent elements of the stellar universe ; while celestial photography in co-operation with the telescope charting and picturing the skies, brings back from remote space the material data to be subjected to the searching scrutiny of microscopic analysis. On the other hand celestial chemistry, by means of the spectroscope, is applying the phenomena exhibited in the combustion of remotest luminous stars to aid it in the determination of unknown elements of our own planet. Professor Rowland's anticipation of the discovery of new terrestreal elements by means of uninterpreted lines in the solar spectrum seems to be assured ; as indeed our knowledge of the spectrum of hydrogen in its complete form was thus derived. I know not how the materialist may interpret this fresh revelation of an all pervading unity. To me it seems as

though the most realistic of the sciences were telling us anew, as in the still small voice which to the prophet of old was stronger than the earthquake, and more quickening than the fire, of the

"One God, one law, one element."

"A whisper to the vast of space
Among the worlds that all is well."

Everywhere the field of scientific research is luminous with brightest aspirations. Stimulated by its latest triumphs in novel fields of research we more clearly realize the inadequacy of the provision hitherto made by this University, alike for physics and chemistry, and no less so for mineralogy and assaying.

It may seem a descent from the fascinating revelations of celestial physics to the mundane sphere of political economy. But the practical value of this recently organized department has given a healthful impetus to the study of history, and contributed to the efficacy of the restored Faculty of Law. It commends itself to our favour from its bearing on important economic social problems. Following the example of the great German universities, some of our graduates and senior students have been encouraged to prepare, under the editorial supervision of Professor Ashley, a series of studies in political science, of which there has already been issued Mr. McEvoy's treatise on the history and present working of local self-government, as illustrated by our Provincial Townships. Another, by Mr. A. H. Sinclair, treats of "Municipal Monopolies," and others are in preparation, not only in this department, but also in that of philosophy. A critical study of the papers thus far produced by students in the department of Political Science, will, I believe, suffice to demonstrate that economic social questions of great delicacy can be studied in the same impartial spirit as abstract speculations of philosophy, or problems of the physical sciences. When this is fully realized we may hope to see subjects of this class, in constitutional history, constitutional law, and public finance, taking their place among the prescribed requirements for candidates preparing for the Civil Service. In this respect Canada has a lesson to learn from the great states of Europe. In Germany the main work of the department

of Political Science in the universities has for more than a century been the preparation of candidates for the Civil Service; while in France the recently established *Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques* has been signally successful in the same direction.

And now, having indicated to you who are "yearning for the large excitement that the coming years will yield," some outline of the provision we have been able to make for further growth and expansion; permit me to turn to another department of modern university work which is at present commanding a wide-felt interest. One of the most pointed, yet fulacious epigrammatic sciolisms of the eloquent English tribune, John Bright, was his characterisation of Oxford as "The home of the dead languages, and of undying prejudices." The experience of the years in which our own University has been casting off its swaddling clothes, and bearing some part in the progress of the century, has taught us how largely the New World is indebted to the harvestings of Europe's ancient seats of learning; and familiarised us with the vitality of England's intellectual centres on the Isis and the Cam. One of their recent manifestations of such vitality has been the inception of the popular movement of University Extension, now promoted with such zeal in the neighbouring States. The age of an exclusive scholarly cast has passed away; and there is an ever growing demand for an educated people—with not a few, at least, a growing dread of an uneducated democracy; and of the demagogue who would fain "teach our flattered kings that only those who cannot read can rule." Rather let us believe that we are learning to interpret in a nobler sense the old Epicurean maxim: *Vivere ut vivas*; and realizing that humanity in some way craves this higher culture for all, not as a means of livelihood, but as a means of life. It is a welcome sign, in a progressive age, this claim of the people for a share in the ampler life so long left to a privileged, educated caste. We need not only the power of the gifted few; but the wide sympathy of a well-educated community. It is the best antidote to the mischievous error which confounds mere professional training with education.

University extension—the placing as far as may be within the reach of all, the privileges now enjoyed by the cultured few,—is an idea old as the era of Hellenic intellectual life. It is the revival under modern forms of a feature that Plato recognized as essential to his ideal commonwealth ; and which reappears in the imaginary Utopia of Moore, where “ All the void time between the hours of work, sleep, and meat, is to be bestowed well and thriftily upon some science, as shall please them. For it is a custom to have lectures daily available ;” and so we are told that in Utopia “ A great multitude of every sort of people, both men and women go to lectures, as every man’s nature is inclined ;” only the philosophic Utopian is careful to add that there are a good many “ whose minds rise not in the contemplation of any science liberal, who are to be commended for bestowing their time on their own occupations.”

The poets of the past generation dreamt anew of a panti-socratic community on the banks of the Susquehanah, where, in ideal fancy, Coleridge pictured the gifted boy Chatterton finding at last congenial associates :

“ With them to learn the tinkling team to drive
O'er peaceful freedom's undivided dale.”

In our own day, in sober realism, the like purpose was embraced in the original scheme of the founder of Cornell University. It seems within the possibilities of the coming time—whether the twentieth century shall see it or not,—when righteousness shall exalt, and reason rule the nations : “ And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law.”

But the idea involved in the scheme of University Extension has to be jealously kept in view if we would avoid bringing the whole movement into contempt. Its aim is the organization of systematic courses of lectures, accompanied with no less systematic study and testing examinations. The very term implies that it is to be under University guidance and control ; and one of the foremost dangers to be guarded against, is the reproduction under some meretricious title, of the old Lyceum lectures, with their sensational fancies and flashy humour. There will be no

scarcity of lecturers volunteering for the work. As a supplement to the pastime of the concert-room and the theatre, the popular lecture has its legitimate place; and in the hands of gifted men, like Emerson and Lowell, had an earnest purpose in view. Yet, even with such lecturers, there was nothing systematic. They rather helped to dignify, than to supersede, the popular humorist. We have no quarrel with Josh Billings or Mark Twain, so long as they are confined to their legitimate sphere; and make no attempt to hide their motley under the doctor's gown. Systematic courses of instruction, of home-reading, of examination and accredited results, carried on at the cost of localities desiring to avail themselves of extra academical teaching, if done under the countenance and supervision of a carefully selected University board, may not only prove of inestimable value to a large class outside the sphere of undergraduate life; but may ultimately react on the inner life of the University with quickening power.

The year on which we are entering is to ourselves one of exceptional interest. I have glanced at the increase of our facilities, and the great expansion of room. We rejoice no less in an important step in the approximation to a comprehensive national system of higher education, as we welcome the University of Victoria, now entering into closest bonds of union, to cooperate with us in training the new generation to highest intellectual attainments, and to every pure and lofty aim.

But the coming year brings with it the completion of a great cycle in the world's history in which our whole western hemisphere claims an interest peculiarly its own. It recalls an event without a parallel among the grand transforming influences of modern discovery. Four centuries will complete their course since Columbus dared the mysterious terrors of the ocean, and opened to the old world the gates of the west; and with this pregnant historic epoch in view, we enter on the last decade of a century rich beyond all others in the mastery of science, and its application to the practical uses of life; rich also in the accumulation of scientific truths which we cannot doubt constitute the seeds of a

still richer harvest. In such an era, so replete with promise, how ample are the possibilities for those who, fresh in youthful vigour, are now entering on this new cycle, the dawn, as sanguine optimists persuade us, of that golden age of universal commonweal that is to :

“ Ring out the thousand years of war ;
And ancient forms of party strife.”

that is to dethrone the old, the false, the faithless ; and bring in the reign of truth and right.

Like others of you, I renew the work of the year refreshed by a brief sojourn in the motherland. There the landscape everywhere greets the eye like a garden. Its cottage-homes, and stately mansions amid their tall ancestral trees, combine to tell of the industry and civilization of two thousand years. Since the memorable year when Julius Cæsar revealed it to the outer world, Briton and Roman, Celt, Saxon, Dane and Norman, have contended in the transformation of that barbarian island of the North Sea into the England of to-day. It is but a speck on the world's map, but it fills an ample space on the historic page. A poet of its own claims for it :—

“ Great men have been among us ; hands that penned
And tongues that uttered wisdom ; better none.
Those moralists could act and comprehend.
They knew how genuine glory was put on ;
Taught us how rightfully a nation shon
In splendor.”

A genial poet of New England, looking in fancy across the Atlantic to the land where his fathers sleep, thus repeats the claim in more ideal fashion :—

“ One half her soil has walked the rest
In poets, heroes, martyrs, sages.”

But we are not allowed to forget that this growth of centuries has among its manifold bequests the sins of the fathers as an inheritance for their children. There “ Darkest England ” challenges the self-sacrifice of her philanthropists ; and her wisest statesmen are struggling—not in vain we trust,—to undo the wrongs of older misrule. For there lies behind them not only the achievements, but the misdoings of twenty centuries.

I need not shrink from the confession that, returning from the garden-landscape of England, the new clearings of our young country, so recently hewn out of the virgin forest, look raw and untended. The artist, the landscape-gardener, has yet to take them in hand. For happily for us, our two thousand years lie still before us. You who to-day take your place here as undergraduates will only be beginning your real life-work as you enter on the twentieth century. As Canadians we are but fashioning the raw material of a future nation. We want the makers before we can stand much in need of the historians of Canada. As a Province we are scarcely a century old; as a Dominion we are but of yesterday. And yet already we have the warning how easily the fair parchment of our Magna Charta may be sullied. The wrong will be redressed, but the foul stain is ineffaceable. Few lessons of truer practical value can be kept ever present in mind by you who are now entering on life—still, I trust in the purity of ingenuous youth,—than this that a wrong once committed may be repented of; that it may be atoned for: but it can never be undone. Treasure then the unsullied purity of youth as its choicest inheritance, and so wear, as the highest order of chivalry, the white flower of a blameless life.

Among the effaced mementoes of our own brief history as a University, I trust the graduates will recognize that a sacred duty devolves on them to replace the memorial window, which in the old Convocation Hall perpetuated the memories of those of our undergraduates whose lives were sacrificed in gallant defence of our Canadian frontier against Fenian invaders. The east window of the hall in which we now assemble has been reserved for its restoration there.

Far different are the memories associated with another effaced memorial which commemorated the welcome in the same Convocation Hall of the Prince of Wales. In illuminated letters on its southern wall was recorded the apt salutation to the young heir-apparent:—“*Spem imperii, spes provinciæ salutat.*” You who are now entering on the manifold privileges here placed within your reach, inherit this title of *spes provinciæ*: and cannot over-

estimate the responsibilities that it involves. When the Golden Rule becomes the law of life then may we look for the golden age so fondly dreamt of. Let us type it now in our own lives. You are invited to bear a part in fashioning a new era that shall cast this boasted nineteenth century into the shade. See that the promised evolution be not one of mere intellectual development. Let it be accompanied by the quickening of a higher spiritual life. While science achieves new triumphs, and letters win fresh laurels, set before yourselves that highest standard of rectitude of which Christ is himself both the teacher and the exemplar. Let righteousness ever reign supreme. Then, and then only, can you hope to aid in the fashioning of a nobler future ; and make the new cycle shame the old.

