

**KING'S COLLEGE ENCÆNIA.**

The annual Festival of our Provincial University was duly observed on Thursday, June 29th. The examinations at the College and the Collegiate School having been previously held, the Convocation assembled on that day in the usual place and form; when the Vice-President, who on this occasion occupied the Chair, delivered the following Address:—

"The progress of time having brought us to the celebration of another Encænna, it becomes us to revive, in few words at least, the memory of the worthy men who, by the foundation of this College, and successive benefactions to it, believed that they were providing a valuable school of science, literature, and christian morals for the perpetual improvement of a loyal and well-disposed people. The period, indeed, through which we have passed since the first Encænna, in the year 1830, has been marked by agitations, fluctuations, and revolutions in the political, commercial, and social condition of nations;—I might say, in the physical supports of human life, and the moral state of the minds of men. These could not fail to produce discouraging, if not disastrous effects on an institution designed for quiet thought, and the formation of views and habits accordant with the immutable principles of wisdom and virtue. Unless parents are found with means adequate to the maintenance of their sons, during a course of academic study, and foreseeing, also, objects to be attained by the educated youth in some fair proportion remunerative, they will obviously be deterred from the requisite expenditure of money and time; the wood-camp, the workshop, the counter, the desk, or the farm—all severally necessary to the well-arranged commonwealth, but altogether insufficient for its completion and happiness—will confine the energies which might have enjoyed a wider range; and in too many instances the pathetic lament of our elegiac poet will be applicable:—

'Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid  
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;  
Hands that the rod of empire might have sway'd,  
Or wak'd to extacy the living lyre:  
But knowledge to their eyes her ample page,  
Rich with the spoils of time, did ne'er unroll;  
Chill penury repress'd their noble rage,  
And froze the genial current of the soul.'

Let us, however, be grateful to the Providence which has hitherto preserved the College in existence and operation; let us be grateful for the number, however of late declining, of hopeful Students repairing hither for pure philosophy's sake; and let us trust that, while these are seen to arise as defenders of our rights, asserters of our just claims to public respect and confidence, and witnesses to the benefits of our system, the number may progressively increase, the system be rendered more and more inviting, and the College be at length established in the heart of the people.

Cheered by such hopes, we are encouraged still to commemorate with pious reverence our Royal Founder; His Majesty's gallant, enterprising and patriotic representative, Sir Howard Douglas, and other excellent friends, to whom we stand indebted for our present privileges. May their memory be ever cherished in this country, and especially in this place! May their benevolent intentions be fulfilled! And, whatever shall be the course of events in the future history of nations, may the standard here raised be undauntedly maintained; and these walls continually occupied by a garrison faithful to the eternal principles of divine and human truth, until the dawn of that brighter day,—

'Foretold by prophets, and by poets sung,  
Whose fire was kindled at the prophet's lamp,'

and anticipated by all that is high, noble and generous in the human soul,—when 'they that be wise shall shine as the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever!'

The occurrences of the past year are too well known to require particular recapitulation on this occasion. The funeral pall has again been spread over remains, where once the speaking tongue, and moving heart, and musing mind were exerted on subjects in which we still feel a living interest; while others, who were wont to shew an anxious solicitude for our welfare, have been removed to scenes in which, let us trust, their talents may be more advantageously employed. The political changes have also been such as could not but be likely to affect us in no inconsiderable degree. Let the hope be entertained—surely a reasonable hope—that the self government, in all things not clearly and materially affecting the general interest or honor of the empire, now freely conceded to the representative bodies of these Provinces, may call forth the best faculties of the people; induce them seriously to reflect what they can and ought to do for the welfare of their respective communities; and eventuate in the settlement of a well-adjusted polity, affording all possible encouragement to industry, order and peace; and the cultivation of all our resources in the spirit of brotherly love, with humble reliance on the Universal Father, who knows our wants, and must have competently provided for them.

More, much more might be added, did not at the present moment a watchful and observant silence rather appear the duty required. Those who have been here charged with the instruction of their younger brethren have, I know and am fully assured, laboured with faithful zeal in their respective departments. Thus the paths of

Mathematical and Physical science have been diligently investigated; the records of ancient learning illustrated and augmented, and in some points perhaps corrected by modern discoveries; and the relations of man to man, the obligations of the human soul to its own high born nature and elevated destiny, and the reverence due to the Creator and Lord of all, have been set forth and inculcated. Nor, as we would earnestly hope and trust, have these instructions been misapplied. If every Student could not be expected to make the same proficiency, all may have made that which would contribute to their advancement in life, and their qualifications for the higher ground which they may be called to occupy; while some—may I not say the greater number?—have gladdened our hearts by the development of superior abilities, and sentiments of finer grain. I cannot, therefore, I will not despond. We live in a tempestuous season, but 'the wind, the earthquake, and the fire' will have passed away, and the 'still small voice' be yet heard by the faithful and patient servants of eternal rectitude and goodness.

The academic year must not, however, be allowed to close without some notice of the means by which the College might be rendered more immediately beneficial to the existing population of the Province.

The proceedings of past years would shew how deeply I have participated in the conviction entertained by many of its best friends, that tangible, or at least easily appreciable inducements are indispensably requisite to obtain the desirable supply of Students. In far larger and more opulent communities the number of those who resort to Universities for intellectual improvement alone appears to be extremely limited: in a country which, as yet, hardly affords instances of hereditary independence, surprise can scarcely be excited should few indeed be found—

'Inter sylvas Academi quærere verum.'

Could a Collegiate education be made more directly conducive to professional appointments or advancement, with the fair prospect of a respectable livelihood, the desired inducements would thus be furnished. But a survey of the Clerical, Legal, and Medical professions (to say nothing of political or other more public employments) seems almost to preclude the hope that, during our own time at least, objects adequate to the purpose could be proposed in any of these departments.

On the whole, therefore, I venture thus to avow the conclusion to which anxious enquiry has conducted me—that the College cannot, in the present circumstances of the country, be rendered much more extensively useful, unless more immediate encouragement be given to those parents who are aware of the intrinsic value of knowledge, and would, in a more favourable condition of fortune, seek it of itself for their sons. From the earliest periods European Colleges, and especially those of England, have maintained a large proportion of their Students by means of Fellowships, Scholarships, or other exhibitions, (as they have been called,) materially contributing to the support of the less opulent; and it is matter of historical record that names the most distinguished in the world, would, without such aids to learning, have remained in illiterate obscurity. May it not, therefore, with good reason be suggested that a more beneficent act could hardly be performed than the foundation of a considerable number of such endowments? The question of funds may occasion some embarrassment; from which, however, I cannot doubt that due consideration would discover available means of relief. Still less can it be doubted that these means will be promptly employed, when a little reflection shall have been given to the obvious truth, that unless the attendance of Students be secured all appliances and instructions are uselessly provided.

Perhaps it might be alleged that Colleges in the United States appear not to require the attractive influence of such endowments. I am far from inclined to comparisons which might seem invidious, but thus much may be permitted in reply—that if this country be in all points to become assimilated to the great confederacy in its neighbourhood, a larger and wealthier population may certainly in the course of years fill these halls, as theirs are and have been filled; but if in the mean time, in the time at least of this generation, King's College, at Fredericton, be expected to produce its Jewel, Hooker, or Barrow; its Selden or Blackstone; its Harvey or Sydenham; its Wallis or Ray; its Newton or Locke; its Chaucer or Milton; its Addison or its Johnson; the same munificence must be employed which has consecrated to ever-grateful remembrance the names of princes, nobles, prelates, and others of subordinate rank, after whom the liberal endowments of Oxford and Cambridge are commonly denominated. Such bounty might almost canonize a Wolsey's ambition; or atone, in the judgment of erring mortals, for the despotism of his patron: it has long since placed in the calendar of unquestioned saints another Henry, a Queen Philippa, a Margaret of Richmond, a John and Dervorguilla Balliol, and many a reverend and honorable name—sure, although borne in ages now accounted dark, and associated with imputed errors of faith and worship, to be forever revered and honored by those who have inherited the blessings of their enlightened charity.

In the Chancellor's absence, I have to propose the subject of English Essays, in competition for the Gold Medal of the ensuing year, in the words of the philosopher, statesman and orator of Rome:—

'AGRICULTURA NIHIL UBERIUS, NIHIL DULCIUS, NIHIL HOMINE LIBERO DIGNIUS.'