



UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED.



SUMMER COMMENCEMENTS.

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Dublin was held on Saturday afternoon last in the Examination Hall of Trinity College, for the purpose of conferring degrees. Exceptional interest attached to the function in consequence of the fact that the names of many distinguished gentlemen figured in the list *honoris causa*. Chief amongst these was Lord Strathcona, who on entering the hall was received with a marked demonstration of cordiality. Another feature of novelty was provided by the fact that a number of ladies who had studied at Oxford and Cambridge were candidates for degrees. There was a large attendance of members of the Senate and their lady friends, and the students mustered in force. The organist, Mr. Marchant, gave a choice musical selection while the audience were assembling, and at the conclusion of the proceedings played the National Anthem.

The University Caput, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor (Mr. Justice Madden), the Provost (Dr. Traill), and Mr. Cathcart, Senior Master, non-Regent presided. The Public Orator (Dr. L. Purser) delivered an address in Latin in relation to each honorary degree, of which an English translation is furnished.

LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL.

The conferring of the degree of Doctor in *Utroque Jure* on the Right Hon. Donald Alexander, Baron of Strathcona and Mount Royal, was the signal for a renewed outburst of applause.

The Public Orator said it is not long ago that this Senate voted its honorary degrees to the seven Colonial Premiers who came to the central seat of the Empire to consult for its welfare. By so doing the Senate, for its part, expressed a hope that the Empire might be more firmly consolidated, and that the parts of that great whole which were acquired by British fortune and discipline might eventually be knit into one organism, such that the British Empire might stand forth to the world as one great body instinct with a striving for all that is high and noble. A man who has for long been the unwearied votary of this lofty aspiration, I am now in all admiration and respect bringing before you, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, a second Ulysses.

Who many states had seen and ways of men, a man tried and tested by a long and varied experience, and now in a hale and vigorous old age adorned, and yet still further to be adorned, with the highest honours. Already when quite a young man he entered the service of that celebrated company founded by the chivalrous Prince Rupert, the Hudson's Bay Company, where for thirty years in the icy North he had a hard but successful career, and at length was made chief factor of the company in Canada. During these years he came to the conviction that Rupert's Land, that "great, lone land," must sooner or later come under the authority of Canada, and increase the British Empire by a far from inconsiderable portion of the whole world. Accordingly, when the Red River rebellion broke out, he claimed a leading part against the rebels, and during that critical and dangerous period acted with such courage and determination that he obtained the favour of the Governor-General in recognition of the brilliancy of these achievements. A pair by att-

whom I now introduce to you, John Percival Postgate, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, who, as the main pillar of the Classical Association, with his resolute firmness and sound learning, can meet without fear all the assaults of the enemy; and as long as he is leader, there need be no yielding; rather the foe is to be faced with greater courage; for the work he has done is an augury of victory. We owe him the most grateful praise for those stately volumes which embrace all the Latin poets, in which so many illustrious scholars as members of the great organism, have taken a strenuous part, while he, like the mind,

Seizes the great frame and permeates the whole. Some of the individual poets, too, he has elucidated with most learned commentaries, and with such taste that they are now like charming poetry set to delightful music. By his gifts Propertius now enjoys that day of fame which he prophesied for himself when dead and gone; and thou, too, refined Tibullus, in the company of the blessed, must feel by his refined work thine own peculiar grace enhanced. When Lucan regards these works, he complains that this patron of the poets has only brought into notice a few scraps of his work, and excitably and impulsively, as is his wont, vehemently insists that the same adorning hand should be applied to the whole of his Pharsalia, so that British scholars, in a truer sense than the Roman booksellers, may feel that he is indeed a poet. Encouraged by these witnesses, we rightly give our honorary degree to this distinguished scholar; and do you see that you show the full measure of your sympathy with Propertius, Tibullus, Lucan, and all men of learning by applause and yet again applause.

FRANCIS CRAWFORD BURKITT.

Franciscus Crawford Burkitt (M.A. Cantab.) received the degree of Doctor in Sacra Theologia.

The Public Orator said—It is a very common belief that the Christian Church during the early centuries was contained within the Roman Empire, and had no life except when engaged in its struggle with that mighty foe, where through troubles and persecutions it acquired its strength and courage, and afterwards when it gradually permeated with its faith the whole Empire. But it was not merely to the Roman name that the trumpets of that holy war rang out: "Their sound went out into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world;" to the nations of the East also "belief came of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." Stirred by a feeling that the various features of this spread of the faith should not tend to sink into oblivion and be wholly forgotten, Francis Crawford Burkitt, whom I now bring forward to you, has investigated them with care, and with signal learning in a charming style appropriated as his special course of study the fortunes of the Gospels in the regions of the East. Lately he has struck out into a wider field, and has thoroughly examined the universal and ubiquitous spread of the Gospels, being absolutely at home in the Syriac versions, and possessing a minute knowledge of the Itala also. Hence all allow him to be one of the chief authorities on the tradition of the Gospels. You recognise this scholar's vast learning; but—and this is not frequently found—his learning is not a confused and unordered chaos, but it has fructified in the fertile soil of his mind, and reappeared like the flowers of the field arrayed with every grace and charm. We do not at all wonder that Cambridge has gladly elected such a learned man to the Norrisian foundation—though it may seem to some almost portentous to see a layman in a chair of Divinity; and now that we, too, are no less gladly inviting him to our highest honours in Divinity, let your approval and admiration be repayed in a most marked way by your loud and varied acclamations.