

**ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT
MEETINGS OF THE
SENATE OF THE QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649443130

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MAZIERE BRADY

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PREFACE.

It has been the design of the following Addresses by the Vice-Chancellor of the Queen's University in Ireland to exhibit, from year to year, the progress of the University in accomplishing the purpose for which it was founded,—that of conferring Degrees in Arts, Medicine, and Law on Students of the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway; to set forth as fully as the occasions admitted, the ordinances of the University as they defined the courses of study to be pursued in the Colleges by candidates for those degrees; to point out to public attention the important provisions of the Collegiate Charters for the supervision of the moral and religious teaching and conduct of the Students; to explain the position and duties of the University; and to refer to such topics of public interest as appeared from time to time to be deserving of notice, as more immediately connected with the institution and the interests of its Graduates, or of the Students of the Colleges.

The addresses, with the speeches of the successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland who were present at the meetings of the University Senate, were published in each year in

the newspapers of the day, and are also given in the Annual Reports made by the Vice-Chancellor, and printed by order of Parliament. It is, however, hoped that it may be of advantage to the University and Colleges thus to republish them in a collected form, and one more accessible to those who may take an interest in the subject.

The Appendix consists of a table showing the numbers and religious denominations of the Students of the Queen's Colleges, as given in the Report of Her Majesty Commissioners of Inquiry into the progress and condition of the Colleges, presented in the last year; and two other tables showing, in like manner, the numbers of those admitted in the Session 1858-9. The latter tables exhibit a very encouraging advance in the numbers of the Students,—and are particularly important, as showing how much the system, according to which the Colleges are established, is conducive to united education.

Dublin, January, 1859.

PUBLIC MEETING

IN

ST. PATRICK'S HALL, DUBLIN CASTLE,

OCTOBER 14, 1852.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF EGLINTON AND WINTON, LORD
LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR.—In the early part of the current year there were some degrees conferred on Students in this University, but those degrees were necessarily limited to one subject of study, namely, Medicine; because from the recent institution of the Colleges the Students were not enabled to complete that curriculum of study which had been assigned to them prior to their seeking the degree of Bachelor of Arts, or any higher degree in this University. We are now enabled, however, to complete the course of duty prescribed for us by the Charter granted by her Majesty, and to confer degrees and honors on the Students of these Colleges in all the branches of art and literature, for the cultivation of which those institutions were devised. I, therefore, take the liberty of opening what I may call the first public general meeting of this University, by making a few observations upon the purposes and objects of the institution. I cannot better do

this than by pointing attention to the language of our Charter, which was granted by her Majesty in the fourteenth year of her reign. It is recited in that Charter that her Majesty had, in pursuance of the authority of Parliament, "Nominated, declared, and appointed certain Colleges for the promotion and encouragement of learning, in Belfast, Cork, and Galway, for students in arts, law, physic, and other useful learning;" and that her Majesty had thought it fit and necessary, in order to render complete and satisfactory the course of education to be followed by the Students in those Colleges in the several faculties aforesaid, that provision should be made by which the Students would be enabled to obtain and receive the several degrees and distinctions in the aforesaid faculties, such as are granted and conferred in other colleges and universities in the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. With that view, and for those objects, this University has been established; and it is our province, under the direction of the Charter, to confer degrees and honors in arts, law, physic, and other useful learning, upon those Students from the Colleges who shall appear deserving of them on public examination. The degrees we are authorized to confer are those ordinarily conferred by other Colleges and Universities in the United Kingdom. They are well known to the world of science, and, I may say, to the public, and they require no explanation on my part. I shall only observe of them, that her Majesty, in the language of our Charter, has declared, that all persons who shall have completed their education in any of the Queen's Colleges, and shall have obtained such degrees in any of the several faculties of arts, medicine, and law, as shall be granted and conferred by the Chancellor and Senate of the aforesaid University, shall be fully possessed of all such

rights, privileges, and immunities as belong to the several degrees granted by other universities and colleges, and shall be entitled to whatever rank and precedence attaches to the possessor of similar degrees granted by other universities. In addition to those degrees it seemed useful to the Senate to constitute a second class of honors, by conferring diplomas in several departments on Students deserving of them. These diplomas have been instituted in the faculty of law, and in engineering and agriculture. They are not titles which confer on the persons who obtain them any special rights or privileges in their profession, or any advancement in it; but I have no doubt that they will constitute, in the eyes of those who may be desirous of employing these individuals, a high recommendation, as well as a valid title in their possessors to the confidence and good reception of the public. In addition to those degrees and diplomas, we have established a scale of merit, by the institution of exhibitions for the candidates who may succeed upon examination for honors in the several departments. These consist in pecuniary exhibitions and medals, and are designed for Students who, having passed their examination for the degree or the diploma, shall be recommended by the examiners for competition in those higher branches which they are to be examined in before they can obtain those distinctions. Having, then, to confer degrees on Students from the three Colleges I have mentioned—having to confer diplomas, and having to institute a competition for those honorary exhibitions—it became our duty, in the terms of the Charter, to appoint fit Examiners, whose office it would be to report to us on the merits of the respective candidates. In fulfilling this part of our duty, we felt that we were discharging a public and an important trust, and that it behoved us to take

care, in the selection of Examiners, that we should present to the world at large a guarantee that the Students of those Colleges, and the Graduates of this University, possessed acquirements commensurate to the high distinctions they had obtained. Accordingly, searching among the candidates who presented themselves to be Examiners, and selecting from among them those who were most highly qualified in their respective departments, we did not confine the selection to any particular institution or college. Some were taken from the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway; some were taken from the Professors of Trinity College, Dublin; and some were selected from the general ranks of scientific and professional men; and I think I may venture to say, that in the list of Examiners thus selected there is presented to the public a roll of names of gentlemen whose position and qualification show that they are capable of conducting an examination which should be highly appreciated by the public at large, and that the Students passing that examination richly deserve to be invested with the degrees and honors we are empowered to confer; at the same time it will satisfy the world, I am sure, of the perfect integrity with which the duties of such an examination have been discharged. In this course of selection we have but followed the example of our Chancellor, the Earl of Clarendon, who, when administering the affairs of this country, was called on to select Professors of the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway; he took pains, from all parts of the United Kingdom, to find out men the most eminent in science, men the best qualified in literary attainments, and men of the highest professional station, to undertake the duty of acting as Professors in those Colleges. Those institutions have been some few years in operation; and I think I may

pass over this part of the subject very briefly by saying, that I believe they have deserved, and have received, in that respect, the confidence of the public. I believe that a course of instruction has been laid down in them, and has been pursued under the direction of the Professors, which is calculated to advance the learning, to stimulate the industry, and to develop the mental faculties of the Students under their direction. In addition to that course of study in these important institutions, let me briefly observe on a peculiar feature in them, which is deserving, I think, of special notice—I allude to that part of the arrangements of these Colleges which provides not merely for the literary, scientific, and professional education of the Students, but for the sedulous care of their morals and religious conduct. In these institutions the Students are not allowed at hazard to locate themselves where they please; in their respective localities, places of residence must be selected and licensed by the authorities, and, in addition to that, individuals must be appointed from the ministers of the various religious persuasions to which the Students belong, whose duty it is to attend to their moral and religious care. I propose to close this part of my observations by referring to the language of the statute passed for the direction of those institutions. Under the chapter which relates to the residence of the Students and the Deans of Residence, it is expressly declared, that her Majesty shall appoint Deans of Residence, who shall have the moral care and spiritual charge of the Students of their respective creeds residing in the licensed boarding-houses; and that the Deans of Residence shall have authority to visit the licensed boarding-houses in which the Students reside, for the purpose of affording religious instruction to such Students, and shall, also, have power to confer with their Bishops, Moderators,