

- October 4, 1960 - Fall Convocation
- October 29, 1960 - Opening of Sir James Dunn
Science Building
- May 18, 1960 - Spring Convocation

Convocation - October 4, 1960

Fall Convocation

(First there was the introduction of new professors).

In welcoming the new students at Convocation, October 4, President Kerr said:

"I know that I speak for all your teachers when I say that they will take it as a compliment if you will consult them about your problems and in particular discuss with them any difficulties that you encounter in their respective fields of study - the evidence of the active interest of the student in the subject that he is being taught is part of the reward that every true teacher appreciates. And although I myself, to my genuine regret, cannot look forward to contact with you in your classes, I shall always be glad to see you if you think there is ever anything that I can do to help you. I make the same offer in the name of the Vice-President of the University and the Deans of the several faculties."

Referring to the history of Dalhousie, the President said:

"You have just become children of Dalhousie, as I hope you will reaffirm frequently and fervently in one of our loveliest college songs, so it is appropriate that I should tell you a few things about the origin and character of this University. I consider ^{them} ~~it~~ part of the historical background with which every member of Dalhousie should be familiar."

He proceeded to recall the Castine Fund, made up of customs dues collected in New England in the War of 1812, when a portion of that territory was invaded and annexed by a British expedition organized in Halifax, and of the decision to use most of this Fund in the establishment of a college.

" In the year 1815 the Right Honourable George Ramsay, Ninth Earl of Dalhousie, became Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia. He persuaded the Province to make most of the Castine Fund available for the creation of what he called "a seminary for the higher branches of education...in Halifax, the capital of the Province, the seat of the Legislature, of the Courts of Justice (and) of the military and mercantile society. Such an institution in Halifax, open to all occupations and sects of religion, restricted to such branches only as are applicable to our present state, and having the power to expand with the growth and improvement of our society, would, I am confident be found of important service to the Province". So Dalhousie came into being, a non-sectarian college, in imitation of Edinburgh, which in turn bore a resemblance too striking to be accidental to the College of Geneva.

" The story of Dalhousie, as Dr. Harvey, until recently Provincial Archivist of Nova Scotia, has written, cannot be dissociated from the struggle of democracy in this

Province against monopoly and privilege in church and state. It was designed to provide a liberal education for all qualified students, without distinction of class or creed, who were prepared to make a serious effort to improve their minds; and as Dr. Harvey also intimates, it would be unfortunate if the genius of this noble seat of learning were forgotten, in new generations in which the spirit that animated ^{the Earl of} Dalhousie and his supporters will need to be reaffirmed repeatedly, and translated into contemporary terms."

In conclusion President Kerr urged the students:

1. To remember that they had come here to study, and ~~they~~ should keep every interest subordinate to that,.

2. To keep the rules - these had been made for the common good. "Most of our students in recent years have been mature enough to conform to the regulations of the University, and the Senate has seldom found it necessary to impose penalties for breach of discipline."

3. To attend to the exercises of their religion, now that so many ^{of our students} ~~of them~~ are away from the restraints of their home life. He commended the judgment expressed by the President of the Royal Society of London in his address at the Tercentenary last summer, that the new advances of science instead of conflicting with

fundamental religious belief, ^{may}~~must~~ only call for a more robust faith."

4. Finally he referred to the great changes that are taking place in the world's life, and urged the student through everything to keep in mind the idea that they were "preparing (themselves) for the service of their generation and the discharge of (their) duties as citizens".