

His face, a beardless face ;
 No wrinkles on his brow,
 But ruddy health and boyhood's grace,
 And ne'er a thought, I vow,
 Of coming sorrow—in their place
 How sad a change is now !

It will return no more,
 That past with all its pain !
 The weary days I knew of yore
 Can never come again ;
 And dearer thou than e'er before,
 My lost Sweet-briar Lane.

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TWO NEW UNIVERSITIES.



WITHIN the past few months two new Universities have been established by Royal Charter—the Royal University of Ireland and the Victoria University ; and since both of these are calculated to have no slight educational influence in the future, it has been thought that a short

sketch of their foundation, and some account of the degrees which they are authorised to confer, and of the means of obtaining such degrees, will be welcome to all who are interested in the subject of higher education.

It may perhaps be prefaced that in one point only the two new Universities—the Irish, and the Victoria, whose head-quarters are to be at Manchester—resemble one another : they are both far-reaching in their scope, and their work is not limited to one particular area, as in the case of the historic Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or even of the more modern example—Durham. But with this exception—as may be gathered from the more detailed examination of each, upon which we now propose to enter—the two Universities are very dissimilar.

The Royal University of Ireland is the outcome of the demand which has been raised in Ireland for many years past to provide increased facilities for obtaining degrees without any regard to the religious faith of the student ; it is, in fact, the result of the attempt by the late Government to satisfy the demands of the Roman Catholics of Ireland for a higher University education. The Irish University Act received the assent of both Houses of Parliament in 1879, although the Royal Charter has only recently been signed, and the Chancellor and Senate have but lately been appointed.

Summed up in very few words, the Royal University of Ireland may be described as a second London University reared on Irish soil, and like its prototype it will be—to quote Lord Brougham's words—“a mere graduating machine.” By the Charter, the University is to be one body politic and corporate, consisting of a Chancellor, a Senate, and Graduates ; and the University thus composed is empowered to examine for and confer all such degrees—except in Theology—as may be conferred by any other University in the United Kingdom. These degrees are to

be open to all persons, male or female, who may pass the matriculation and other prescribed examinations ; and no residence in any college, nor attendance at lectures or any other course of instruction, is to be obligatory, except for degrees in Medicine and Surgery. In this respect the Royal University will follow identically in the footsteps of the University of London.

With regard to medical degrees, it is provided that the Senate shall from time to time submit to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland a list of the names of the medical schools and institutions from which it may think it advisable to admit candidates for degrees ; and it will rest with the Senate to satisfy itself that the candidates have completed a sufficient course of instruction in such medical schools.

It should perhaps be explained that the new Irish University has been constructed more or less on the ruins of the Queen's University in Ireland, which will now cease to exist, although the three Queen's Colleges—at Belfast, Cork, and Galway—will still continue their work, and will without doubt provide many of the candidates for the degrees of the new University. By the charter it is enacted that all existing graduates of the Queen's University are to be reckoned as graduates of the Royal University, while the interests of the Queen's Colleges are guaranteed by the appointment of their Presidents to seats in the Senate.

The Senate consists of thirty-six members—including the Chancellor—appointed by the Crown in the first instance, but in the future to be appointed, six by Convocation, and the rest by the Crown. The graduates of the University are to be the present graduates of the Queen's University, together with the persons upon whom the University may hereafter confer degrees. Convocation is to consist of the Senate and the registered male graduates of the University of two years' standing, and the present registered members of Convocation of the Queen's University.

The Senate of the University is to make provision for all examinations for matriculation and degrees, and is empowered to demand such fees for degrees, &c., as the Commissioners of the Treasury may approve, all such fees to be carried into a general fund for defraying the expenses of the University. As the Senate has only lately been appointed, the scheme of examinations is not yet settled, and no scale of fees has been arranged. Neither, indeed, does it seem to be known at present where the head-quarters of the University are to be, the Charter merely providing that the University is to meet in such places as the Crown

may appoint. All is therefore a little vague, and it is impossible to say at present how far the new University will meet the necessities of the state of things which has called it into being; but, as far as can be judged, it seems to have been conceived in a wise and liberal spirit, and great expectations may legitimately be formed of its future career.

The history of the foundation of Victoria University, which is to have its head-quarters in the city of Manchester, is briefly as follows:—For some years past Owens' College, Manchester—dissatisfied with the existing state of things, under which London University was the only avenue to a degree for its students—has endeavoured to obtain for itself the constitution of a University. And this feeling of Owens' College, as the great representative of educational institutions in union with the University of London, was participated in, though to a lesser extent, by other collegiate bodies, such as the Yorkshire College at Leeds. The restrictions imposed on undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge, compelling them to keep a stated number of terms before proceeding to a degree, formed an almost insuperable barrier to the majority of students at middle-class colleges; while the rigid lines on which the examinations for degrees at the University of London are conducted—the majority of the subjects being compulsory, and the range of each subject being the same for all comers without any regard to the exigencies of college-work—made the attainment of a London degree to a collegiate student a matter of no slight difficulty, and caused the preparation for such degrees to interfere to no small extent with the general class-work of the college. There seemed, therefore, to be much weight in the arguments in favour of a new Northern University; and when Owens' College, Manchester, lessened its pretensions, claiming no longer to be constituted as a University in itself, but to be merely the chief unit in a federation of colleges as a University, all opposition of a serious nature disappeared.

By the terms of the Charter the new University is to have its seat in Manchester, although it is to be known by a non-local name—the Victoria University. The Charter at present names one college only as a college in the University—*i.e.*, Owens' College; but special regulations are laid down for the admission of other bodies as colleges. The words of the Charter run thus:—"The University Court, after considering a report to be made in each case by the University Council, may accept the application of any incorporated college to be admitted as a college in the University, on the Court being satisfied (first) that the college applying has established a reasonably complete curriculum, and possesses a reasonably sufficient teaching staff, in the departments of arts and sciences at least; (secondly) that the means and appliances of the college for its teaching are established on a sound

basis; and (thirdly) that the college is under the independent control of its own governing body." In the event of the University Court refusing any such application, the college applying is to have the right of appeal to Her Majesty in Council against such refusal.

The University body is to consist of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the University Court, the University Council, and the Convocation of the University. In addition to persons nominated in the Charter, the University Court is to include three persons nominated by the Chancellor, four persons elected by Convocation, and persons representing the several colleges in the University. The University Council, which will be the executive body of the University so far as concerns the regulations and the conduct of the examinations for degrees, will be a very representative body, including Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, members of the Court, the principal or chief academic officer of each college in the University, and certain professors of such colleges elected by their respective governing bodies.

The expenses of the University are to be met by the fees for degrees, certificates, examinations, &c., and "in case the produce of such fees is insufficient for the purpose, the University may require from the several colleges in the University contributions for defraying those expenses," in proportion to their relative magnitude and resources.

The Victoria University, thus constituted, is empowered to confer all such degrees (except in Medicine and Surgery) as may be conferred by any other University in the United Kingdom, upon "all persons, male or female, who shall have pursued a regular course of study in a college in the University, and shall submit themselves for examination." The regulations for the duration and nature of the studies to be required as a qualification for University degrees or distinctions are to be prepared by the University Court, and are not as yet before the public. At present, too, nothing is known as to the probable cost of a degree at the new University, although there is no doubt that, including college expenses and fees on examination and on graduation, it will be considerably less than the sum expended in the acquisition of a degree at either of the other English Universities, with the exception of London.

In the first instance, Owens' College, as has already been stated, is the only college in the University, although the Yorkshire College at Leeds will doubtless ere long be admitted. It remains, however, to be seen what other colleges will be incorporated in the University, and if only the same wise and prudent yet liberal spirit which is apparent in the Charter itself should animate the authorities in dealing with the question of the admission of other colleges, the success of the Victoria University should be assured.

G. W.