

Dr Wilson



Toronto

March 10th 1875

My Dear Sir William

I see occasional criticisms
on your "McGill College Women's
Classes" — mostly I suspect from
one pen. But, lest you should
be confused with our some-
what conflicting statistics, it
is well that I should explain.

We started with six; all under-
graduates; who had been
taking the University's Examinations
in previous years. One joined
taking only some of the work.
But we had a pretentious
institution styled "Norwood
College" started here; professing

in a very high flown prospectus,
& carry on the Higher Education
of Women on the same standing
as University College. It got
some 27 lady students I think;
but collapsed at the end of the
first term; leaving salaries,
rent, servants wages &c. unpaid.
and either four or five of
the unfortunate lady students
entered themselves here. One
broke down; and so our
numbers now are two Ladies.
This will account for what
may possibly have struck
you as a discrepancy in the
statement of numbers. Our
over-zealous M. J. has indeed
got considerably beyond this
by adding the Lady undergraduates
who absolutely refuse to avail
themselves of Coeducation.

to those who do; and so triumphantly flourishing a total of seventeen! He has moved for the correspondence between the Minister of Education & myself. It doesn't amount to much; but when it is printed I shall send you a copy - if I can get copies. The chief point it will reveal will be that the minister did not know their own minds up to the very last: when they yielded under the paltry pressure of two or three newspaper articles.

My position has been a very simple one. I battled the point strenuously to the last. But when - after the College had opened, with the assurance from the Minister that no change

was to be made this year; the Government suddenly took fright; and passed an Order in Council admitting women as students.

I had no further choice. If they chose to say that none but women were to be admitted, it was our duty to obey. My effort now is to work the novel experiment with as little friction, and as free from evil as possible. We have had no trouble thus far; but my opinion as to the interference of Coeducation with the true interests of the Community in relation to the Higher Education of Women remains unchanged.

Kindest greetings to Lady Dawson; and all the Home Circle. Yours faithfully
Dan. Wilson