

To the Board of Governors of McGill University:

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to say in explanation of the somewhat imperfect and fragmentary nature of the Memoranda accompanying this letter, that the important questions to which they relate have been sprung upon me suddenly, and at a time when my thoughts were fully occupied with other important duties.

When a Committee was appointed last year to inquire as to the free tuitions in the Faculty of Arts, I placed in the hands of the Honorary Treasurer a Memorandum, No. 1, relating to the statistics on the subject compiled by the Secretary; and on the report of that Committee in January last, I carried out its recommendations in so far as the Governor-General's scholarships, and the announcement of others in the calendar were concerned. But I naturally expected that before taking any steps to cancel the Benefactors' scholarships, a matter so important, and tending to subvert the policy inaugurated by the original Board under the new charter, full information would be asked for by the Committee. In this I have been disappointed, and heard nothing of what was in progress till a formal paper of renunciation by the Benefactors was presented at last meeting of the Board of Governors, and nothing remained to me but to consider the best means to preserve the interests of the University in the new conditions thus established.

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It has been hinted to me, that the withdrawal of free tuitions may be followed by large benefactions to the University. From my point of view, this seems like giving money clogged with the provision, that it shall do as little good as possible. I can scarcely imagine gifts with such conditions. But if made, they should be respectfully declined, *unless accompanied with sufficient provision for free tuitions on some other and equally effectual basis with those surrendered.* All the great educational benefactions of the Mother Country and the United States, have been given by men who stipulated for the largest and widest diffusion of the benefits they were bestowing, and I should hope that similar views will actuate all benefactors of McGill. If not, we should remember, that though poverty may be an evil, it would be a vastly greater evil to betray for any pecuniary consideration whatever, great public interests, consecrated by the beneficence of Mr. McGill, and by the devotion of the great and good men, who, in 1852, raised this University from its ruins.

In this connection I trust I shall not be blamed for respectfully reminding you that the object of the University, as stated in its charter, is "the education of youth in the principles of true religion, and their instruction in the several branches of science and literature," the former of which we are now endeavouring to do without expense to the endowment by means of our affiliated Theological Colleges; that under the statutes the Board of Governors is to this end "selected with a view to the representation of the several Protestant denominations in the Province of Lower Canada;" and that since the University as a body corporate consists of the "the Governors, Principal and Fellows"—the latter representing all the other elements in the University besides the Governors and Principal, no important educational change can be carried out without first submitting it to the Corporation, which, on its part, is bound by the statutes to give opportunity of representation thereon to such affiliated Colleges as may be interested and to the several Faculties. For these reasons, as well as in consequence of the resolution of 1887 with reference to Theological exemptions, no immediate action can be taken as to these, and there will be ample time for the full consideration of the new relations in which it seems proposed to place the University with the religious denominations and the general education of the country, and of the means, if any, for carrying out such changes without injurious effects.

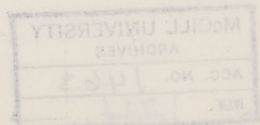
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MONTREAL, June 3, 1892.



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McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 1463
REF. 124

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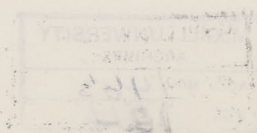
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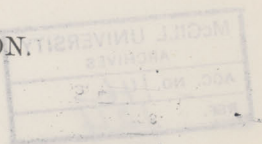
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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to say in explanation of the somewhat imperfect and fragmentary nature of the Memoranda accompanying this letter, that the important questions to which they relate have been sprung upon me suddenly, and at a time when my thoughts were fully occupied with other important duties.

When a Committee was appointed last year to inquire as to the free tuition in the Faculty of Arts, I placed in the hands of the Honorary Treasurer a Memorandum, No. 1, relating to the statistics on the subject compiled by the Secretary; and on the report of that Committee in January last, I carried out its recommendations in so far as the Governor-General's scholarships and the announcement of others in the calendar were concerned. But I naturally expected that before taking any steps to cancel the Governor-General's scholarships, I should have had an opportunity of consulting the Honorary Treasurer, and of discussing the subject with you. I was, however, so pressed for time, that I was unable to do so. I have been disappointed, and have been obliged to place in your hands a formal paper of resignation by the Honorary Treasurer, which was presented at last meeting of the Board of Governors, and nothing remained to me but to consider the best means to preserve the interests of the University in the new conditions thus established.

In like manner I had supposed the question of exemption of theological students from fees to have been set at rest by the resolution of the Board consequent on the united petition of the Principals of these Colleges in 1887; and only learned incidentally from my friend Mr. [Name] on his recent visit to Montreal, that a movement was in progress to rescind this resolution. The Memorandum, No. 2, was prepared in consequence of his information, but I had to it several statements to make it more complete. The statement, No. 3, contains proposals relating to other colleges, which, were there time, could be greatly extended. The statement, No. 4, has been prepared in compliance with a suggestion of the Chancellor, to add, that any information which the study and experience of thirty-seven years of management of the affairs of this University has placed in my possession, is at the service of the Board, and that if given the opportunity, I shall be most happy to do all in my power to place before it the important issues involved, more clearly and fully than in these imperfect memoranda.

It has been hinted to me, that the withdrawal of free tuition may be followed by large benefactions to the University. I have no doubt that such benefactions, if they come, will be of great value to the University, and I can only regret that I can not actively inaugurate them with such conditions. But if made they should be respectfully declined, unless accompanied with sufficient provision for free tuition on some other and equally effective basis with those now in force. All the great educational benefactions of the Mother Country and the United States, have been given by men who stipulated for the largest and widest diffusion of the benefits they were bestowing, and I should hope that similar views will actuate all benefactors of McGill. If not, we should remember, that though poverty may be an evil, it would be a vastly greater evil to betray for any pecuniary consideration whatever, great public interests, consecrated by the beneficence of Mr. McGill, and by the devotion of the great and good men who, in 1828, raised this University from its ruins.

In this connection I trust I shall not be blamed for respectfully reminding you that the object of the University, as stated in its charter, is "the education of youth in the principles of true religion, and their instruction in the several branches of science and literature," the former of which we are now endeavoring to do without expense to the endowment by means of our affiliated Theological Colleges; that under the statutes the Board of Governors is to this end "selected with a view to the representation of the several Protestant denominations in the Province of Lower Canada;" and that since the University as a body corporate consists of the "the Governors, Principals and Fellows"—the latter representing all the other elements in the University besides the Governors and Principals, no important educational change can be carried out without first submitting it to the Corporation, which, on its part, is bound by the statutes to give opportunity of representation thereon to each affiliated College as may be interested and to the several Faculties. For these reasons, as well as in consequence of the resolution of 1887 with reference to Theological ex-emption, no immediate action can be taken as to these, and there will be ample time for the full consideration of the new relations in which it seems proposed to place the University with the religious denominations and the general education of the country, and of the means, if any, for carrying out such changes without injurious effects.

In conclusion, I trust that every member of the Board will make it a matter of duty and conscience to inform himself fully on the subject before committing himself to any course of action.

I have the honor to be,

Your humble servant,

J. WILLIAM DAWSON

Montreal, June 3, 1892.

Memoranda to

Governor
1892

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July 4/92

Dear Mr. Leighton,

I have your
Journal of June 29th,
and fully appreciate
the importance of the
matter to which it
refers. I think such
a course might be
of great service both
to men and women
in the Faculty of



The great difficulty is
I find time for the
many important ac-
cessory subjects now
pressed on our attention,
as Hygiene, Physical
Culture, Education, Political
Science, etc., and means
for having them especially
taught. I fear such
subjects can at best
only be optional parts
of our course, and

is taken only by a
few senior students.
This is the case already
with a great part of
our course in arts.

In so far as the
Dwight course is con-
cerned, I hope that
when Dr Dwight Smith
pursues his scheme for
a distinct college for
women - additional
options may be able

closed them, ~~as~~ as
to bring in other subjects
not now provided for.

In the mean time
I shall keep your sug-
gestion in mind, and
shall be glad when I
return to town after
the vacation to see
you on the subject.

Truly yours
J. M. Dawson