

CONFIDENTIAL.

Memorandum for the Board of Governors with reference to certain recent statements respecting the McGill Classes for Women.

1. The endowment of the Honourable Donald A. Smith, was given and accepted by the Board of Governors and Corporation, (see the deed of October 16th, 1886,) for the ultimate endowment of a College for Women, but in the mean time for Separate Classes for Women, as a Special Course in Arts; but no part of the income of the endowment was to be used, either directly or indirectly, for the support of mixed classes of the two sexes.
2. In making arrangements for carrying out this intention, under the resolutions passed by the Governors and Corporation, the Principal of the University conferred not only with the Faculty of Arts, but with all the Professors concerned individually, inviting them to recommend the best methods of providing for their several subjects, without any additional labour to themselves, unless voluntarily undertaken and for special remuneration. It was suggested to them that the lectures might be provided for by either of the following methods: (1.) By the Professor himself, with remuneration for the same. (2.) By the employment of an Assistant, or an assistant Professor, who might take certain portions of the work for both sexes. (3.) By any combination of these modes, or, (4.) By the engagement of a separate Professor or Lecturer for the Women. It was stated, however, that it was the belief of the Donor and others, that the last method would be less likely to be successful and acceptable than either of those previously mentioned.

3. Full time and opportunity were given to each Professor to think of the matter, and to make such proposals as he thought best, including all the details of the work with reference to subjects, hours, &c. After discussion of these proposals by the Principal with the Faculty and individual Professors, and report by him as to the wishes of Professors, with written schemes from several of them, resolutions were passed by the Governors appropriate to the circumstances of each chair, and assistance was provided in all cases where it was desired, the preferences of the Professors themselves being consulted in the choice of their Assistants. The resolutions were communicated to each Professor, and letters of acceptance were received by the Board from all of them, and are on record in the minutes of the Board of Governors.

4. In carrying out these arrangements where assistance had been required, the junior classes, involving the heaviest labour, and that least agreeable to the Professors, have been given to the Assistants, and the Professors have retained the senior classes. In no case has a greater number of lectures been imposed on any Professor than those he delivered previously, except when voluntarily undertaken and with special remuneration. It is to be observed also, that it is the ordinary lectures which are separate, and that no Professor is required to deliver separate lectures in the honour work of the third and fourth years.

5. With reference to repetition of lectures on the same subject to different classes, there is nothing unusual in this ; and it is certainly less difficult than the delivery of as many distinct courses. In McGill, the Principal for many years delivered separate lectures in Botany to the Medical and Arts students, and Prof. Penhallow has continued this, simply because it is more convenient and advantageous to the students. This consideration and the advantage of teaching smaller classes in our present over-crowded class-rooms, would be sufficient to justify such a method, even independently of difference of sex ; though this of course affords an additional reason and facility for such division.

6. In the judgment of the undersigned, after careful observation for nearly four years, in which much of his time and labour has been given to the details of this work, the preference of the founder of the classes for separate education has been fully vindicated, and this not only with reference to the classes for women, but with reference also to those for men. The appointment of additional lecturers, all of them competent and successful, has given aid previously much needed, more especially in the junior years. The usefulness of some of the senior Professors has been extended, by relieving them of junior classes, and they have been enabled to devote themselves more exclusively to the higher parts of their work. The results as shown in the examinations and in the large number of students, have been eminently satisfactory, and beyond those previously realized elsewhere in Canada, and have laid a secure foundation for the intended College for Women, as soon as means shall be obtained for its establishment. Such results to any one interested in the prosperity of the University and the advancement of education, should compensate for some sacrifices had these been required. There is every reason to believe that this is the feeling of most of the members of the Faculty; and that all have labored as earnestly as possible to achieve success in this new and important effort.

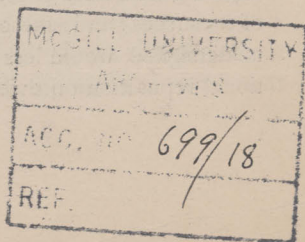
7. So soon as a separate College for Women can be established with adequate endowment, it will not be necessary that the staff of such College shall consist wholly of the University Professors and Lecturers. It will no doubt have, in part at least, a staff of its own; and the present provisional arrangements will then necessarily be much modified.

8. It is the conviction of the undersigned that had McGill University, with its staff and its endowments as they existed four years ago, entered on the work of "co-education," it would scarcely have been possible to avoid a complete breaking down of its success and usefulness, whether for men or women. The undersigned would certainly have declined to risk his educational reputation on the success of such an experiment, under-

taken at the instance of gentlemen, who while expressing perfect confidence in the system which they advocate, may have no adequate conception of the difficulties which it would encounter in the circumstances of this University, or of the amount of care, labour and responsibility involved in the institution of classes for the higher education of women, even under the most favourable circumstances.

J. Wm. DAWSON.

February 22nd, 1888.



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Dawson, Sir John, William. ^{v. 3} 1820-99.

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Montreal, 1888. 4 p. D. (in
his Collected pamphlets. ^{v. 3}).

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Mc Gill University.

At least of the following:
his collected papers
1880. 1880. 1880. 1880.
A. G. D. in
classes for women, 1880, 1880.
present statements respecting the McGill
Governors with reference to certain
Memorandum for the Board of
Dames, & John William, 1880-85.