

*Further History of the Royal Institution.*

This may be summed up in the following statements:—

In 1816 an attempt was made to reconcile the two rival educational systems by dividing the Board of Royal Institution into two committees, equal in members and privileges. This failed, and the failure is accorded the cause which everywhere crops out in their illustrations. Sir James Kemp, in a despatch relating to it, says:

"A proof of this feeling of hostility may be found in the reluctance with which the Roman Catholic Bishop acceded to the arrangements first proposed in the year 1826 for a division of the Board into two distinct and equal committees, consisting respectively of Protestants and Roman Catholics, for the superintendance by each of the schools of its own persuasion, and in his refusal to accede to a modified arrangement when legal difficulties were found to exist that rendered the plan to which his assent had been obtained impracticable."

A bill was shortly afterwards introduced to remove the difficulties, but was dropped after its second reading, for what reasons does not appear, except that the Session of Parliament was approaching a close. Had it succeeded, it might have led to a settlement of those long standing difficulties which yet press on the school system; and it will be observed that a similar expedient is now strongly urged on the Government by the Protestant educationalists, in the case of the present council of public instruction.

In 1832, according to Butler's Report, the Royal Institution schools had fallen off to 72, and in 1834 to 63. The sums granted to it by the Legislature in like manner fell off, and in 1832 amounted to only £1,265. In the previous years also, the Jesuits' estates were surrendered to the Assembly, without any reservation in favour of the sums due to the two Royal Grammar Schools of Quebec and Montreal or to the McGill College, except a recommendation that this provision made for the two Royal Grammar Schools should be continued; an apparent breach of faith, the reasons of which seem not to have been known to the Royal Institution: It seems all the more remarkable from the following statement, which appears in the records of that body, and would shew that the government of Great Britain, in that year, acknowledged its obligations in this matter, at least in regard to the promises of Crown lands.

In 1831 the House of Assembly, among other subjects of complaints, addressed his late Majesty upon "the withholding the promised promised grants of lands for schools in 1801," to which his Majesty's answer will be found in the following extract from the general dispatch of Lord Goderich of the 7th of July, 1831. Secondly, the House of Assembly represent that the progress of education has been impeded by the withholding grants of land promised for schools in 1801. On reference to the speech delivered in that year by the then Governor to the two Houses of the Provincial Legislature, I find that such an engagement of course therefore is binding on the Crown, and must now be carried into effect, unless there be any circumstances of which I am not apprised, which may have caused the obligation contracted in 1801 to cease, or which may have rendered the fulfilment of it at the present time impracticable. If any such circumstances really exist, your Lordship will report them to me immediately in order that the fit course to be taken may be further considered."

The Assembly recognised the recommendation of the Crown by granting to the Grammar School of Quebec £290 sterling, and to that of Montreal £254 sterling (the rate reckoned at that time being £9 sterling to £10 Halifax currency). These sums, against the inadequacy of which the Royal Institution protested, have under various acts continued to the amount of \$4,128 for each school, but remained burdened with the education of free schools as originally funded by the Royal Institution, the number of such scholars having, indeed, been increased, in the case of the Montreal School, to 30, and the appointment to scholarships having become a mere government patronage, instead of being regulated by an educational body. It thus happens that the two Royal Grammar Schools, alike burdened with the fulfilment of that engagement to educate free scholars which the Royal Institution exacted of its schools, have received smaller proportionate aids than other institutions not so burdened; and the only advantage they have received is that in the fluctuations of the Imperial education grants, the Education Office has hitherto respected the claims of these schools to uniform sums, supposed to represent those originally given by the Assembly on the surrender of the Jesuits' estates.

More full particulars on these points may be found in Mr. Dunkin's Report on the Jesuits' Estates, appended to Lord Durham's Report.

As I propose to conclude these illustrations with a few extracts relating entirely to the case of the McGill College, I may state here that after 1832 the function of the Royal Institute related almost exclusively to McGill College; and the other English Superior Schools, except the Grammar School of Montreal, now included in the High School of McGill College, fell under the general system, and after many vicissitudes have been swamped in that slough of miscellaneous institutions gathered together under the mis-called "Superior Education Act" of 1856, which, in so far as these schools are concerned, was a bitter mockery of the hopes the friends of education were induced to entertain by the government of the day.

*Appeals of the Board of Royal Institution in behalf of McGill College, in 1836 and following years.*

The Royal Commissioners appointed in 1836 were directed in their instructions to give especial attention to education, and the Board of Royal Institution seem to have expected something from their labours. The Board prepared a memorial which was signed by 3000 inhabitants of Montreal; and a statement in further illustration of these claims, was prepared by the President, who with other members of the Board appeared before the Commissioners. From these papers I make the following extracts, which will also serve to some extent as a recapitulation of previous statements:—

"The undersigned having been authorized by a resolution of the Corporation of the Royal Institution for the advancement of learning, to bring under the consideration of His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry the necessity, before the Crown lands or resources thereof are surrendered to the Provincial Legislature, of reserving to the Crown the power of making endowments out of those lands or resources for the support of the grammar schools of Royal foundation heretofore established in this Province, and in aid of the private endowments of McGill College at Montreal, and for the future extension of that establishment, or the foundation of a University, or other sufficient Collegiate institutions in the Province, in conformity to the Royal promise recited in the preamble of the School Act of 1801, respectfully submits to His Majesty's Commissioners a statement of the grounds on which the Board of the Royal Institution solicit the attention of the Commissioners to this subject. The claim or expectation of a Royal endowment out of the Crown lands in this Province, for institutions of education, may be stated as resting on the pledge contained in a communication of the Royal intention to this effect made by the Governor of the Province to the Provincial Legislature, and recited in the preamble of the Provincial Statute of 1801; on the measures which were shortly after taken by the Provin-

cial Government in pursuance of that promise on the fulfilment of a like pledge given nearly at the same time for the benefit of the inhabitants of Upper Canada, who accordingly now enjoy the advantage of such an endowment; on the fact, that in all other North American colonies such an endowment has been granted by the Crown; on the establishment of the Grammar Schools at Quebec and Montreal, with a provision for the salaries of the masters out of the revenues of the Jesuits' estates, on the incorporation of McGill College under a charter from the Crown, with the declared intention on the part of His Majesty's Government, at one period to assign the revenues of the Jesuits' estates in aid of the private foundation of that institution, and on the total absence of any other means or resource by which the inhabitants of this Province, speaking the English language, can hope to see an institution established to which they could send their children for instruction in the higher branches of education.

"The promise of an endowment in land conveyed by the message referred to in the Act of 1801, and the measures adopted by His Majesty's Government and by the Government of the Province in consequence thereof, were stated by the Royal Institution in a memorial to the Earl of Dalhousie in 1826, and as a member of the Board, has by their request placed before His Majesty's Commissioners a copy of that representation, it is unnecessary for the undersigned to state the terms of that pledge, or the nature of those measures.

"It may, be proper, however, to observe, that the act of 1801 was passed for the establishment and regulation of free schools, and other institutions of Royal foundation of a more enlarged and comprehensive nature, and that that it is under that act that the Corporation of the Royal Institution has been established, and has received the advice and bequest under the will of the late Mr. McGill of Montreal, under which McGill College has been chartered by the Crown; under this act many elementary schools were established and provided for out of the public revenues; but no measures were taken for creating the corporate body contemplated by the act, or for establishing schools for the higher classes of education, until 1815 and 1816, when His Majesty's Government ordered that the Royal Institution should be organized (with a view, in particular, to take advantage of the bequest of Mr. McGill, who died in 1813), and directed that the funds of the Jesuits' estates should be applied to the re-creation of a college under that bequest; and in 1816 masters were engaged and sent out from England, who were to have charge of Royal grammar schools, directed to be established at Quebec and Montreal, with a suitable provision out of those estates.

"These measures, which were considered as the first steps towards the execution of those premises, made by the Crown to assign an endowment for education, were followed by the incorporation of McGill College, under a Royal charter, in 1821, of which the Royal Institution are the visitors; but it was not until 1829 that, after a long course of litigation, the Royal Institution came into possession of the landed property and buildings near Montreal, devised by Mr. McGill, nor was it until a few months ago that the judgment was obtained before His Majesty in his Privy Council, for the sum of £10,000, also bequeathed by Mr. McGill, in trust for the Royal Institution. This legacy, though now amounting, with the accumulated interest, to £22,000, is manifestly insufficient, without the aid of further endowment, for the establishment and maintenance of an University, as contemplated by the testator, or even of a single college.

"It is desirable, also, that inferior academi- cal institutions should be maintained as nurseries for those of a higher description; but the Grammar School established by His Majesty in Quebec and Montreal, have been left without support since the revenues of the Jesuits' estates were transferred to the management of the Legislature, without any reservation in favour of those establishments, or for the protection of the teachers whom His Majesty's Government had engaged and sent from England to preside over them; the salaries of the masters were, in 1832, reduced by the Assembly to a sum totally insufficient to enable them so provide the requisite assistance in their schools, without which they cannot apply themselves to the principal object of such institutions, instruction in classical and mathematical knowledge; and there is no reasonable ground to hope that any relief will be afforded to the teachers, or any effectual support to the schools, unless His Majesty shall in his justice and bounty, secure a provision for them out of his land revenues, at least equal to that upon the promises of which the establishments were originally founded."

"It would also be highly desirable that similar provision should be made for instructions of the same description at Three Rivers, and in the Eastern Townships.

The commissioners however, contented themselves with making the following recommendations:—

"Your Lordship will observe by the evidence (to wit, of Messrs. Moffatt, McGill and Coeurau, before inserted, and by a memorial which we have included in the Appendix also inserted) that the Trustees of the Royal Institution brought before us, claims that the Crown should not deprive itself of the means of granting them an endowment of land. The general reservation which we have just recommended, and His Majesty's right over the Crown Lands, would strictness comprise this power; but we apprehend that such a grant would be viewed with great jealousy by the Provincial Legislature: we cannot help thinking that the Royal Institution should be left to be assisted by Assembly, which we believe has always shown itself liberal in encouraging the promotion of education."

"Upon the subject of the higher class of Schools, we cannot enter at present, though, as we have received applications for assistance from the Trustees of McGill College, in Montreal, we must prepare ourselves to do so hereafter; as also to turn our attention to the subject of the establishment of a University in the Province, to which all classes of its inhabitants might resort for the attainment of the higher branches of education, and the general cultivation of science. This latter, we believe to be an object of earnest desire amongst persons of influence in the Province, and one which we apprehend, is every way benefitting the care of the Imperial, as well as the Local Government."

Lord Durham's repeal contains only slight and inadequate notices of McGill College and the Protestant Superior Schools, and nothing was done for the former until 1854, when for the first time it obtained a legislative grant. Its rapid growth under its new charter, and the claims which it now presents, may be learned from the memorial of its governing party which has recently been prepared for presentation to Parliament, and which fully explains the pre- state of the claims, of which I have endeavoured in the foregoing papers to present some historical illustrations.