

McGILL UNIVERSITY,

MONTREAL.

PUBLIC INAUGURATION OF THE CHANCELLOR,

THE HON. SIR DONALD A. SMITH, K.C.M.G., LL.D.

AND

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL.

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# MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

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INAUGURATION OF THE HON. DONALD A. SMITH, K.C.M.G., LL.D.,  
AS CHANCELLOR.

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The Convocation assembled at 3.30 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 31st, 1889, in the Library, when were present the following members:—

Governors—The Honorable Sir D. A. Smith, President and Chancellor; Messrs. P. Redpath, J. H. R. Molson, J. Molson, H. McLennan, Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, G. Hague, E. B. Greenshields, S. Finley, Hon. L. R. Church and A. F. Gault.

Principal—Sir William Dawson.

Fellows—Prof. A. Johnson, Rev. Dr. Cornish, Rev. Dr. MacVicar, Mr. J. R. Dougall, Rev. Dr. J. Clark Murray, Prof. H. T. Bovey, Dr. B. J. Harrington, Rev. Dr. Henderson, Dr. G. Ross, Mr. J. S. Hall, M.P.P., Dr. S. P. Robins, Dr. F. W. Kelley, Rev. James Barclay, Dr. Robert Craik, Dr. T. A. Rodger, Rev. Dr. Barbour, Dr. N. W. Trenholme and Dr. T. W. Mills.

Professors Emeriti—Professors D. C. McCallum and Hon. J. S. C. Wurtele.

Officers of Instruction—Professors P. J. Darey, G. E. Fenwick, W. Gardner, C. F. Moyse, C. H. McLeod, F. J. Shepherd, J. Stewart, G. H. Chandler, J. C. Cameron, D. Coussirat, A. J. Eaton, A. McGoun, Messrs. P. T. Lafleur, P. Toews, M. L. Hersey and F. D. Adams.

Graduates of the University—T. Nichol and Rev. W. J. Shaw (Doctors of Law); T. D. Reed and E. H. Trenholme (Doctors of Medicine); W. J. Dart, Rev. J. A. Newnham and Rev. J. Scrimger (Masters of Arts); C. J. Fleet (Bachelor of Civil Law); W. E. Deeks, J. Naismith and N. T. Rielle (Bachelors of Arts); G. M. Edwards and E. H. Hamilton (Bachelors of Applied Science), and others.

At 4 p.m., the Convocation, having been called to order by the Acting-Secretary, Mr. Brakenridge, proceeded to the Convocation Hall, where Mr. J. H. R. Molson, as Acting-President of the Board of Governors, opened the proceedings by calling on the Rev. Dr. Cornish, LL.D., to read prayers.

Mr. Molson then addressed the Convocation, stating that the Hon. Sir Donald A. Smith had been unanimously invited by the Board of Governors to occupy the position so long and ably filled by the late Hon. Senator Ferrier and by his predecessor, the Hon. Judge Day. Having alluded to the fact that Sir Donald's exalted position and public services, and the interest he had manifested in the cause of education, more especially in connection with this University, entitled him to a high place in their regard, he said that in selecting Sir Donald as Chancellor they felt that the honor was well bestowed. He expressed a hope that the new Chancellor might long be spared to fill the office, and concluded by reading the resolution of the Board of Governors appointing Sir Donald to the office of Chancellor, as follows:—

At a meeting of the Board of Royal Institution Governors of McGill College, duly called, on Friday, September 27th, 1889, it was unanimously resolved that the Hon. Sir Donald A. Smith, K.C.M.G., LL.D., be and hereby is elected President of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning and Chancellor of McGill University.

Mr. Peter Redpath, as senior member of the Board of Governors, then conducted Sir Donald to the Chancellor's chair, and spoke as follows:—

MR. CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—The position of Chancellor of McGill University is an office which any man in the Province might be proud to hold, and I congratulate Sir Donald Smith upon his having been elected to the highest honour and office the University has to bestow. But it will not be considered amiss if reference is made to some of those who have preceded our new Chancellor. I am not about to give you a history of the University, but I dare say some of those present will not be sorry to have explained to them a term often used in connection with it. The Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning was a body of trustees appointed under an Act of the Parliament of Canada, for the purpose of holding and administering the property and the funds of schools of Royal foundation existing in Lower Canada. At first, the Board had the general administration of schools, but the time soon came when they had no other funds than those of McGill University, which were wholly

derived from private liberality. And thus the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning and the Governors of McGill University are really synonymous or convertible phrases. In 1852, the charter of the University was amended; and some time after, the statutes, as then amended, provided that the President of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning should bear the title and discharge the functions of Chancellor of the University. The late Mr. Ferrier, who had been President of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning previous to 1852, then resigned his office in favor of Mr. Justice Day, who for thirty-two years presided with so much grace and dignity over the interests of the University, which were very near to his heart. Many of you have listened to the persuasive eloquence with which from this platform and elsewhere he advocated the claims of McGill. He died in England, and his remains lie in Dawlish churchyard. On his death, it was fitting that Mr. Ferrier, who survived him, should succeed to the position. Than Mr. Ferrier the University never had a warmer friend. He was untiring in his energy and devotion, and the service he rendered to us, both in the Legislature and out of it, as well as the help he gave at the meetings of the Board of Governors, which he invariably attended, fully merited the cordial acknowledgment of his colleagues. Since his death in 1888 up to the present time the duties of the office have been discharged by my long-time friend and former schoolfellow, Mr. John Henry Molson, whose interest in the University has been manifested in many ways; but the amount of time he has devoted to its affairs is better known to his colleagues than to the public. He has but one disqualification for the Chancellorship; he is burdened with modesty. He is always in the front rank in work, but he is contented to take second-rank honours. In our choosing Sir Donald Smith as Chancellor, I am sure public expectation has not been disappointed, and we believe that under his administration the University will continue to have that prosperity which has hitherto attended it. To none more than to the Governors is it apparent that the University is but in its infancy, and I fear only those present who are very much younger than myself will see all its Faculties thoroughly and fully equipped. But that time will come if we secure and maintain the confidence and the support of the Protestant public of the Province of Quebec.

SIR DONALD A. SMITH then said :—Mr. Redpath, Governors of the University, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Graduates and Undergraduates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends of the University,—I thank you as earnestly and as sincerely as it is possible for me to do, for the greeting you have given me. I am not weak enough to consider that your applause was given personally to me in any great measure; I know it is your Chancellor you are greeting on this occasion, the Chancellor of that University which you love so much. But I do thank you on the part of the University, and also on my own part, for the honour you have done me. To say that each and all here were not friends of the University, would be to ignore the great obligation we all owe to it; and I think you will all say that it would have been impossible a few years ago to have had present such an assemblage as is here now. We cannot boast of the great antiquity of our University, but as the first universities in medicine were Bologna and Paris, and as our own Oxford and Cambridge are the oldest general academical schools in Europe, and as Harvard is the oldest school in America, so is McGill the oldest in Canada proper,—the old Canada of Quebec and Ontario. Of the great men who were trained in the European schools it is unnecessary for me to speak, as it would be impossible for me to say anything that you do not already know regarding them. But you must perceive, as the outcome of Harvard's teaching, the standard of intellect, and erudition which is impressed on the people of Boston and New England generally. Is it not also, in some degree, the case with ourselves? In evidence of this I may refer not only to a desire for intellectual culture, but to the proofs of elegance and good taste observable in all our surroundings in Montreal, as compared with those of a few years back. And must not this be owing to the greater intelligence and skill of our citizens, which has resulted from the large facilities offered in late years for higher education, and that especially by McGill? Nay, further, are not those business capabilities which enable us to gratify these tastes attributable to the same cause?

I should remark in regard to what has been said by my friend the senior member of the Board of Governors respecting those who have filled this chair in years gone by—Judge Day and

Mr. Ferrier—that I cannot for a moment believe I fill this chair fittingly when I think of the great eminence of the former and of the great business capacity of the latter, as well as of the invaluable services both have rendered to this University. But I say that, humbly following their example, I will endeavour to act to the best of my ability whilst it may be permitted me to fill this honourable position, and I do assure you I look upon it as a very great privilege to be here at this moment and to have by the suffrages of this University, a position so exalted as this. I am only too well aware that any one of the gentlemen sitting around me would have filled it more ably than it is possible for me to do. I could have wished to see my friend Mr. Redpath, or Mr. Molson, or any one of the Governors here in the chair instead of myself, and I would have most loyally supported them. But, however unfitted for the duties I may be, I am sure I shall receive from them the greatest support it is possible for men to give, and aided by their ripe experience as to what are the necessities of the University and what is required not only to continue its prosperity, but to raise it to a higher and yet higher position among the schools of learning, I feel we must still advance, no matter how unworthy of the position to which I have been elected I may be. The able and learned men who preceded the present staff did a good work in their day, which is being continued now, and with that support which the enlightened citizens of Montreal and of this Province cannot fail to give, the University will go on raising up men, aye, and women too, for the professions and for the avocations of life generally. We have many tangible proofs of the interest taken in the prosperity of the University. One of these is found in the generous donation a little while ago by Mrs. J. H. R. Molson and the Rev. F. Frothingham of \$40,000 for the endowment of the principalship of the University. This gives aid and relief to a certain extent to our honored Principal, by providing for the appointment of an efficient lecturer to assist him in his arduous duties, and it also enables the Governors to feel somewhat assured as to the future of the Principalship. But let me not be understood by this as wishing to imply that it will be an easy matter to replace Sir William Dawson, whose name is a household word not only throughout Canada and the United States, but also in Europe, as one fore-

most in the ranks of science and amongst educationists. We know only too well how difficult it will be to find a successor to our present Principal, and our earnest wish is, that he may be spared many years to continue the good and great work in which he is engaged.

Besides the endowment just mentioned a subscription has been initiated by Mr. Warden King, in aid of the Hebrew chair, which gives a substantial addition to the salary of a valuable professor, and a better position to the teaching of oriental languages. Nor is this all, for lately, by the death of Mr. Thomas Workman, a bequest has fallen to the University of \$120,000, to endow a department of mechanical engineering, which is to bear his name, a name which will long be remembered and regarded with esteem and respect, by the citizens of Montreal. The teaching of mechanical engineering, a growing and important department, will now be provided for on a scale adequate to its value to the country, and in the hands of the able Dean and Professors of the Faculty of Applied Science, we feel assured that the result will be of the most gratifying character.

But whilst you will agree with me that it would be unbecoming this great University to go round hat-in-hand begging for money for its needs, it cannot be wrong that we should suggest important matters in the interests of education. The liberality of the friends of the Institution, as we all know, has been very great, and the issue has been in every way satisfactory in the large number of educated men and women sent forth from the University. But to enable it to continue and to render more efficient the means for its great work, the Governors are now desirous of further endowments of money, for the division of the larger chairs in the Faculty of Arts, for there can be no doubt the greatly increasing number of pupils demands that the professors should have further assistance in their work; also for the endowment of unendowed chairs in Arts and Applied Science, and for the endowment of the Faculty of Law. It may be that there are few laymen who have not sometimes in haste thought it would be well that we should be rid of the lawyers, but when we begin to look earnestly at what the Profession is, and at what it has done for us; when we see that from it are drawn the highest judges of the land; that it has contributed, and now contributes,



members to our Provincial Legislature and to our Dominion Parliament; that graduates of this Faculty of the University have been and now are Ministers of the Crown; that it is essential to the rights and liberties of the people that those who plead our cause in the legislatures of the country or in the halls of justice, should be men of liberal education as well as conversant in the law, it cannot be an unessential matter that there should be no lack of efficiency in the means provided for the training of so very important a class of the community. In speaking of those who have been sent forth by this University and by the Faculty of Law, you will, I am sure, bear with me whilst I give you a few names. Among our graduates in law are:—Sir A. P. Caron, Minister of Militia; the Hon. Mr. Abbott, leader of the Senate; Hon. Wilfred Laurier, Q.C., M.P., the Hon. Mr. Laflamme, who was at one time Minister of Justice, and one of the members for the city; Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., the late Mr. L. Cushing, M.P., Mr. Prefontaine, M.P., Mr. E. Holton, M.P., Mr. D. Girouard, Q.C., M.P., the late Mr. Frederick McKenzie, M.P., Mr. MacMaster, Q.C., Mr. J. Hall, Q.C., M.P.P., Mr. Edmund Lareau, M.P.P., Mr. J. E. Robidoux, M.P.P., Mr. George Washington Stephens, Mr. W. J. Watts, and the Hon. Mr. Gilman, M.L.C. On the Bench we find that there are from this University the late Hon. Mr. Torrance, the Hon. Mr. Wurtele, the Hon. M. B. Tait, the Hon. Charles Peers Davidson, the Hon. A. Charland, the Hon. Mr. Lynch, and the Hon. Mr. Dubuc, of Manitoba. Now, I think, ladies and gentlemen, that such a list is sufficient to commend to us the Faculty of Law of McGill College. Let us all do our best to provide for, if possible, making this Faculty of the College still more efficient than in the past. It has much to contend with at the present moment. We know that we are a comparatively small minority of English-speaking people in this Province, and we know that whilst the Faculty of Law of this University had, up to quite recently, the field entirely to itself, things are now quite different. Now there is another faculty of law of another University in this city. We wish them God-speed; we have not one word to say but of goodwill towards them. But at the same time we do not wish that McGill in this respect should take other than a foremost place. We desire that it should in no sense be second to any other law

school or faculty of law, not only in this Province, but in the Dominion of Canada. The very fact of the small proportion of English-speaking people in this Province of itself makes it impossible that the number of students can be sufficient to maintain the school in a proper state of efficiency. The Civil Code of Quebec is entirely different from that of the other Provinces of the Dominion. There is, therefore, little inducement to those outside Montreal or this Province to come here to be instructed by the Faculty of Law; so that it is most essential that the citizens should give that support to the school without which it cannot possibly have the vitality which it should have to be in every way efficient. The English-speaking members of the Bar are so fully convinced of this that they have sought to provide an endowment for the Faculty of at least one chair, to begin with, and they hope to have one or two additional chairs. Of this the Governors entirely approve, and they commend it to you and ask for your cordial support, being well assured that it will be freely and fully given. I have here a memorandum on the subject, which I shall not read to you now, but I am assured it will be so convincing that you will feel inclined to adopt it and to do all that can possibly be done to bring up the standard of the faculty to what it ought to be. In this regard it is gratifying to know that some of the obnoxious regulations injurious to the Law Faculty have been repealed, and it is probable that the Legislature will grant to the University degrees that recognition which is given to them in all other countries.

In speaking of the Faculty of Medicine, I need not do more than refer to your late Dean, Dr. Howard; you knew him well, and those who knew him best know how to esteem him, to respect him and to love him, and will be glad to learn that a Howard Memorial Fund is in progress. The Medical Faculty holds its head high amongst the schools not only of this continent but of Europe, and in view of the great advances made in the science of medicine and surgery within the last quarter of a century, I am sure your wish is that McGill should hold its own; but this will be impossible without the liberal aid of the community.

To turn to another department, it is also very desirable that there should be a new Gymnasium. We do not mean that all

is to be done to-day or to-morrow, but it is well we should keep these things in view, and that a helping hand should be given us as soon as possible. As I have just said, it is desirable that there should be a new and enlarged gymnasium, and it is also desirable that there should be a new and larger convocation hall and a dining-hall. These it is hoped will come in good time, for we see how necessary it is we should have better accomodation for our meetings than is afforded by this hall. There is also required, as soon as it can be had, an addition to the general funds of the University applicable to all professorial endowments and for college purposes. There is yet something more required, and that is additional facilities for that department known as the Donalda Department for Women. Some of us had hoped that by this time there would have been such a college in existence, but from certain causes it has not been brought about. My friend Mr. Abbott brought in a bill for that purpose in our Legislature, but there was some technical objection taken to it, so that it had to be withdrawn. However, I hope, and I think we may feel assured, that before the lady undergraduates who join this year are ready to leave the college they will have a habitat of their own. The progress which has been made in education, in the arts and sciences, and in the other professions throughout the world is so very great that to keep pace with it we must bestir ourselves in every possible way. Therefore, you will at once admit the necessity for the demands we now make upon you. The great value of our present work may be seen when I mention that there are now attending the classes in Medicine 250 students; in Law, 19; in Arts—men, 206, ladies, 84; and in Applied Science, 71. In all, more than 600, besides a large number in the affiliated institutions. In addition to this, there has recently been added to the University a faculty of Veterinary Surgery, a most important and humane profession.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I am afraid I have trespassed already far too much upon your time; but had I any portion of that ripe learning, of that fulness of knowledge, that eloquence, or that aptitude for public speaking which is possessed by so many around me, I should continue to speak and tell you how much is expected of you in respect of the greatest English school of this Province, that of McGill University. I do not

wish to disparage in any way our sister university at Lennoxville, which is the only other English college conferring degrees in this Province. I am sure you will all feel that McGill, with what it has done in the past, and what it will be capable of doing in the future, with that further support which I am sure will be given to it by the people of Montreal and the Province generally, fully justifies me in appealing as I do now for its support. We have now another university which has extended its operations to Montreal, and is strengthening itself in every way, that of Laval. We find no fault with that. There has also been a union of certain professional schools here, under the auspices of that university, and union we know is strength, and it is well that in a good cause there should be union, and that there should be strength. But whilst we desire that they should go on and prosper, we must not forget that it is our first duty to look to ourselves, and it is to be hoped that each of us will do his part, to the best of his ability, to see and secure that McGill shall hold its place among the schools, not only of this Province but of the Dominion, as one which will be able to send forth men and women who will be a credit to their alma mater, and will take their part efficiently to advance the best interests of the whole community.

Perhaps I may be permitted now, as one who has gone through many years of life, to say a word or two to the graduates and undergraduates of this University. To you, graduates, I would say that I feel assured you will cherish the remembrance of the advantages you have received from the teaching of the University, that its welfare will ever be near to your hearts, and that it will have your utmost support. To the undergraduates I would say that you cannot do better than follow the example of those who have preceded you, and who have gone out from the University into the different walks of life, doing honour to their alma mater and to the country of which they are citizens. And to the young ladies I would only say that I feel satisfied you will not be contented with being simply highly educated and learned women, but that you are, and will continue to be, ladies as well, not only in the conventional meaning of the term, but in that still higher sense which used to be designated by the good old English word, "gentlewomen."

I have now to apologize for having detained you so long, and to thank you in the warmest way for the attention you have been good enough to give me.

The Chancellor then called on the Principal to deliver an address, which on this occasion was to take the place of the usual University lecture.

Principal Sir William Dawson then spoke as follows :—

Mr. CHANCELLOR,—It gives me much pleasure on this auspicious occasion to be the medium of conveying to you the cordial good wishes of the Professoriate of the University, and to express the hope and confidence of all its members that you may long discharge the duties of your high position with satisfaction to yourself, and with the utmost benefit to the great educational interests which are represented by this University. In the gentlemen who have preceded you in this office, Judge Day and Senator Ferrier, it has been our privilege to serve under and to be associated with two of the ablest and best men of this country, under whom the University has risen from small beginnings to a great and prosperous position; and we trust that with God's blessing the years to come may be still more fruitful of usefulness and prosperity.

I may be permitted, in this connection, to refer to some of the points relating to our past and future, which are suggested by your own remarks, and which may be interesting to our friends and to those who, our students at present, must in the future take our places.

The endowment of the Principalship, to which you have had the kindness to refer, is one for which I entertain the utmost gratitude to the generous donors, not only on account of the immediate relief from labour which it secures, but because it removes a great anxiety as to the difficulty which the Board of Governors might have experienced in providing for the multiform duties which long experience has rendered habitual to me. Now, I have the assurance that in any event the provision for these duties will be comparatively easy, while I shall in the meantime have some additional time for general management.

Benefactions like that of Mr. Workman recall the history of our Faculty of Applied Science, which, after being established

merely as a School of Civil Engineering, and maintaining for a few years a precarious existence, had to be abandoned, owing to want of means. I find it alluded to in the following terms in an address which I delivered in 1870, and which was published under the title "A Plea for University Extension":—

"Our School of Engineering, successful in the number of pupils attracted to it, and calculated to confer great benefits on the country, was worried with professional and official opposition; and, unaided by the public, was at length suspended, owing to the temporary financial embarrassments of the University. Its Chair of Practical Chemistry, though filled by the most eminent Chemist in this country, has failed to attract our artisans or manufacturers to receive its benefits.

"Some men may regard these efforts as failures, which should not be referred to here. For my own part, I am not ashamed of them. Directly or indirectly, they have done good; and they aimed at objects most important to the material progress of this country. There is not one of them which by us, or others, will not be at length successfully carried out. I do not yet despair of their success; and I am prepared, should I remain in this University, to watch for the opportunity to revive them when favourable circumstances shall occur. In the meantime, they remain as projects inchoate and so far matured in their plans and methods, as to be readily brought to completion by the aid of any one desirous of stimulating through us the development of any of those arts to which they relate. We wait for some Canadian Lawrence or Sheffield to endow for us a Scientific School, like those of Harvard and Yale, which have contributed so greatly to the wealth and progress of New England."

Since that time we have found benefactors who may be ranked with Lawrence and Sheffield, and our Faculty of Applied Science, with an efficient staff, providing not only for Civil Engineering, but for Mining Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Practical Chemistry, with admirable chemical laboratories, and a large amount of apparatus and models, and with seventy students, will, when the intentions of Mr. Workman are carried into effect, be able to challenge comparison with the greater schools of Applied Science not only in Canada but abroad.

In the same address of 1870, I referred to the importance of additions to our library, then consisting of about 6,000 volumes, to the want of accommodation for our collection in Natural History and Geology, and of rooms adapted to the teaching of these subjects. Now, the recent report of our Librarian shows that the library has reached about thirty thousand volumes, and the room in the William Molson Hall, which at that time was derided as a

quantity of empty shelves, is now much too small for its contents, while the Peter Redpath Museum has placed us far in advance of all other Canadian Universities in regard to means for teaching Natural Science.

In 1870, I also referred to our want of endowed chairs. We had then only one, the Molson Chair of English Literature. We now have nine endowed chairs, some of them with much larger funds than that of our first endowment for that purpose. In 1870, I asked for additional aids to students. We had then only two Scholarships. We have now sixteen, besides money prizes connected with them and with endowments of medals.

In the same address reference was made to the efforts being made in British Universities and in similar institutions in the United States to provide a university education for women, and the suggestion was made that lectureships should be endowed for this purpose. This idea is now realized in a better form in the Donaldda Special Course, and this, as you, Mr. Chancellor, have intimated, is only the nucleus of a future college for women, taking rank with McGill College itself, though under the same University organization.

Some suggestions made in the old paper to which I have referred still remain to be acted on or have been only imperfectly carried out.

One of these is the provision of an adequate physical laboratory, in connection with the separation of the chairs of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, now much too burdensome for one professor. Other chairs almost equally require subdivision, and though we have practically secured this to some extent by the lecturers and assistant professors added under recent benefactions, much remains to be done, and any large endowment either in aid of the Faculty of Arts or its Special Course for women would enable a great advance to be made.

Last year our Vice-Principal, Dr. Johnson, prepared for our Annual Report an interesting diagram showing the progress of the Faculty of Arts in the number of its students from 38 in 1856 to 310 in 1889. In turning over an early address of 1858 I find a somewhat simpler comparison which may more forcibly strike our minds and remain fixed in them. In that year in all our Faculties and Departments we reckoned 150 students. Our

numbers now exceed 600, so that they have increased by 150 in each decade or on the average 15 annually. This may appear a slow rate, but in our circumstances it affords ground for congratulation and encouragement.

This large increase of students revives the memory of an important suggestion, made in 1870 and not acted on, namely the institution of a fund for assisting poor students, as distinguished from competitive scholarships. I quoted at that time the following suggestions by the President of Harvard. After referring to those who are able to take scholarships in competition, he adds:—

“ Among those who become our best scholars there are some who, not having enjoyed the preliminary training of schools of a high grade, are not prepared in the first months of their college course to become successful competitors with those who are thoroughly fitted to enter college. There are others who in rank fall but little below the successful competitors, and are fully their equals in industry and merit. There are yet others, destined to be able and useful men in after life, who commence their education at a late period, and cannot, therefore, become as accurate classical scholars as those who acquire the rudiments of the ancient languages in childhood, who yet attest their mental capacity and vigor by their strong grasp of the subjects on which they are occupied in the last years of the college course. Many of these students submit to severe privations, struggle on in depressing poverty, and often incur a burden of indebtedness which must weigh heavily upon them for many subsequent years. It is very desirable that there should be a fund—a large fund if possible—the income of which should be distributed, not with sole reference to the scale of rank, but in the joint ratio of merit and need. The disposal of the proceeds of such a fund might be intrusted to the President, or to a select committee of the Faculty, and left, without restrictive rules, to his or their discretion. A provision of this character would meet a want profoundly and painfully felt by those members of the Faculty who have been placed in confidential relations with individual students, whose own ability to render aid is limited, and who often know not where to look to private generosity for the requisite funds, or are reluctant to multiply appeals where appeals are never made in vain.”

Harvard has long ago had large provision made for such needs; but nothing of the kind yet exists in McGill.

In 1870, I pleaded for new and larger buildings for our Medical Faculty, as well as for our Museum and Laboratories. These have been provided, but there remain for future benefactions,



buildings for which we have still to look forward with prophetic anticipation:—A larger convocation hall, a dining-hall for students, buildings or rooms for college societies and for our gymnasium, now so insufficiently represented by the little brick building in University Street, and class-rooms for our Faculty of Law which has never yet had any local habitation for its own exclusive use.

The gymnasium of the University is now a time-honoured institution, and many of its early pupils have grown gray in public and professional life. Our late instructor, Mr. Barnjum, was an eminent master of physical training, and we now have one of his best pupils carrying on his work, as well as Miss Barnjum instructing the class of ladies. But unhappily our building has not improved with age. Originally a small and poor brick structure, and enlarged to meet increasing demands for space, it is now almost beyond repair, and is too distant from our class-rooms for its complete efficiency. It must eventually be replaced, and the sooner the better, by a larger and better building on or near our college Campus. In this connection, it is worthy of consideration whether we might not, as has been done in some cases in the United States, and as has been suggested to Toronto University by Sir Daniel Wilson, combine a gymnasium and convocation hall; and whether in the same building we might not have rooms for college societies and for a dining-hall as well. Now that the occupation of the East Wing by the Faculty of Applied Science and the contemplated provision of a separate building for Mechanical Engineering, have set free the admirable site corresponding on the east side of our grounds to the Peter Redpath Museum on the west, it seems perfectly feasible to erect there a large building combining the utilities which I have indicated above.

I think it right to add my testimony to the value and claims of our Faculty of Law. I believe that it never was in a position better to subserve the interests of legal education than it is to-day. Yet a year ago it seemed verging toward extinction under a weight of vexatious regulations and of active competition. Against the disabilities inflicted on it by the Council of the Bar, and against the unwise legislation which gave weight to these disabilities, we have long struggled, and sometimes with only faint hopes of success; but our perseverance and patience have

at length had their reward, and we begin the present session free from some, at least, of the difficulties which embarrassed us, and with good hopes of being relieved from others. Under the present circumstances of this Province, the number of students in our Faculty of Law cannot be large, but the maintenance of the Faculty is nevertheless vital to our interests. We must never abandon the provision of a high standard of education for the English members of the Bar; for, unless we are represented in that profession and in the legislature and judiciary by learned and able men, we must submit to social and political extinction. It is time that some benefactor should take up the endowment of our Faculty of Law as a worthy object for educational expenditure. I believe that with two well-endowed chairs it would attain to such a degree of eminence as to raise the standard of the English Bar of Montreal, and to attract students from beyond the limits of our Province. You have yourself, Mr. Chancellor, informed us that our Faculty of Law may point with pride to Judges, Members of the Cabinet and of the House of Commons and Local Legislature, and others occupying very prominent positions, as its graduates, and this not in Quebec merely, but in other Provinces; and in connection with this, I am rejoiced to learn that graduates and officers of the Faculty have taken its endowment in hand, and I earnestly hope that the effort will commend itself to the friends of education. All our faculties, I am sure, feel keenly the difficulties under which our legal brethren have been placed, and will wish God-speed to a movement in its behalf.

I am sometimes amused by the remark that McGill is a very wealthy institution. Such things, of course, are comparative, and if we look back on the time when the University was reported to its new Board of Governors, in 1852, as having no revenue, and obligations to the amount of five hundred pounds, our present position is one of comparative affluence. But if we look at the revenues of colleges abroad doing no more extensive work, or at the new endowments constantly given to them, our poverty rather than our wealth becomes a prominent feature. Harvard College alone has received half a million within little more than a year, and Vassar and other ladies' colleges nearly as much; while the latest academical news from Australia informs us

of an endowment of two hundred thousand pounds, or about a million of dollars, in one sum, to the University of Sydney, and we learn that one use of this sum will be to found a Faculty of Law, while other portions of it are to be devoted to chairs in Medicine and Engineering. Such gifts, while they serve to measure the actual requirements of institutions of higher education, show also how much remains to be done here.

To the students here present in so large numbers, these subjects may perhaps not be so interesting as some others, because not directly addressed to them; yet I have always felt that the students can be relied on to take an interest in all that concerns the extension of the university. The large majority of our students come to us because they believe that here they can obtain the best training for success and usefulness in life, and they are naturally interested in all that concerns our progress. Among the students of to-day are the judges, members of Government and of the Legislature, professors and men of science, eminent divines, physicians, engineers, and men of business of the days to come, and the lady students, whether they enter into professional life or not, are the destined leaders of society, the guides and helpers of those who rule in the world of men. I think it right therefore to present to the students, in closing this address, some remarks on the general principles of university extension. I would wish the student to have before his mind an ideal university—one complete and perfect in all its parts, with every subject, literary, scientific or professional, adequately and uniformly provided for; with every professor at once a model as a man, and a perfect specialist in his subject, and supplied with all the means and appliances for his own progress and for teaching what he knows; with all facilities for the comfort and progress of the student; and with all its regulations so framed as to afford the greatest possible facilities for higher culture, both in general education and every useful department of study. But while you should have such an ideal before your minds, and while you should look forward to its realization in the future, you must not expect to find it here and now, and more especially in an institution in process of extension and development. The growth of a young university in a new and advancing community is like the progress of a campaign, like the invasion of a strongly

defended enemy's country. The invader meets with an open way here, with some almost insurmountable difficulty there, with an unexpected success in one quarter, with an equally unexpected check or defeat in another. From this cause, his line of battle must always be uneven, and he must be prepared to take advantage of every opening and to repulse every attack. Yet to the soldier or subordinate officer these vicissitudes may be known only in part. In such circumstances, we should not be too critical, but must be content to balance the good against the evil. You may not at any time in your course find everything as you could wish. You may sometimes think that great labor is imposed on you for nothing; sometimes that you are unduly held back from advantages easily acquired. Yet you are not altogether in a position to judge. Those who can take in a wider field in time and space often know better, and can better decide where it is necessary to advance and where to halt or retreat, in prospect of an eventual victory for you and your cause.

To drop the figure, educational institutions are never wholly symmetrical. They receive great aids in one direction and are deficient in means in others. They are weak in one department and strong in others. Defects are constantly appearing through wear and tear, and unexpected oppositions and failures often make themselves felt. It is the part of those in charge to watch all these things and as promptly as possible to correct every error, while always ready to take advantage of every new opportunity. This spirit of constant vigilance, effort and patience should regulate your individual action as students, and must regulate that of the University as a whole. To you the advantages which you have here are priceless in reference to your future life, however imperfect in some respects. With us the effort has been throughout the history of the University to prevent it from becoming a mere aggregate of disconnected efforts, and to bind it together into a compact and symmetrical whole, in which every part would do its appointed work for the advantage of the student, whatever the course he may be pursuing. In so far as this University has advantages over others, I think they may be found in its unity of action and clear and definite arrangement of its several departments of work, and in the free and progressive character of its constitution, which fits it to take

immediate advantage of every opportunity for good. It has also been highly favored by the support of a liberal and wisely practical community, by the labors of many eminent and self-sacrificing men, both as administrators and instructors, and by an excellent spirit on the part of the students in all its faculties. So long as it retains these advantages it may be expected to enjoy the blessings of peace, efficiency and prosperity.

You as students are the heirs of all these educational privileges. To you belong new advantages in the way of preparation for actual life, which, in the youth of those who are your seniors, could be obtained only in other and older countries. Before you, on the other hand, lies a land of promise in the rapid growth and expansion of this Dominion, which we older men could not have imagined in our student days, and which is no doubt destined to widen and grow beyond the most sanguine expectations of the present time. For this great career you are fitting yourselves now, and you have our best wishes and earnest endeavors for its full realization after we shall have passed away.

The benediction was then pronounced by the Rev. Canon Henderson, D.D.





