
THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

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ANNUAL DINNER

OF THE

Members of the Graduates' Society

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WINDSOR HOTEL.

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2nd MAY, 1882.

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The annual University dinner, held under the auspices of the Graduates' Society, was held in the Windsor Hotel on the 2nd May, and both from the number of those present and from the high order of the intellectual part of the evening's proceedings, the gathering was a most decided success. About eight o'clock the President, Dr. Osler, the invited guests, and the members of the Society, about 130 in number, entered the dining-room and took their seats. On the right of the President sat Principal Dawson, L L D, F R S, C M G; Mr John H R Molson, Mr G W Stephens, M P P; Mr S Haight and Rev James Roy, and on his left Hon P J O Chauveau, Hon Justice Mackay, Mr R A Ramsay, Rev W H Drewett (of Manchester, England), Rev Dr Stevenson, and Dr J Clarke Murray. The vice-chairs were occupied by Dr F W Campbell, Mr C H McLeod (Vice-President), and Dr F W Kelley.

The following was the list of the

INVITED GUESTS.

His Excellency the Governor-General, His Honour the Lieut-Governor Quebec, His Honour the Lieut-Governor Ontario, President Eliott of Harvard, President Porter of Yale, President White of Cornell, President Gilman of Johns Hopkins, Baltimore; President Buckham, of University of Vermont; Rev M S Methot, Rector of Laval; Rev T E Hamel, of Laval; Dr Wilson, of University College, Toronto; Chancellor Fleming, of Queen's, Kingston; Rev J A Lobleby, of Lennoxville; Chancellor Heneker, of Lennoxville; Principal Nelles, of Victoria College, Coburg; Hon Mr Justice Mackay, Hon Dr Chauveau, Hon Edward Blake, John McLennan, M P; Hugh McLennan, George Hague, W C Macdonald, A S Wood, James Burnett, M H Gault, M P; J H Burland, Alex Drummond, A T Drummond, Alex Murray, T J Claxton, J H R Molson, George Brush, Warden King, J Hickson, J S McLachlan, A S Ewing, J H Ewing, David Morrice, Sir Francis Hicks, Hugh Paton, Thomas Craig, and Robertson, Thomas Workman, Jas Court,

J M Douglass, H Meckenzie, Geo Stephen, G M Kinghorn, J Rankin, J Duncan,

So far as could be ascertained, the following is a complete list of

THE SUBSCRIBERS.

Dr Osler, Dr Ross, Rev Canon Norman, Mr McClure, Mr McGillivray, Mr F Win, Mr W McL Walbank, G W Stephens, M P P, M Hutchinson, E Lanctot, E Lafleur, Mr H H Lyman, Mr Henry Lyman, Mr E B Greenshields, Mr S Greenshields, Mr Alex Robertson, Mr J F Greenshields, Mr E B Busteed, Mr J J Curran, Mr J E Robidoux, Mr C A Geoffrion, Mr J S Hall, Mr S D Taylor, Mr J S McLennan, Mr Hampson, Mr R M Esdale, Dr F W Campbell, Dr F W Perrigo, Dr R L Macdonald, Dr Cameron, Dr Gardner, Dr Alloway, Dr Bell, Dr Armstrong, Dr T A Rodger, Dr Guerin, Dr Ross, Dr Roddick, Principal Dawson, Dr Cornish, Dr Murray, Dr Harrington, Dr George Dawson, Prof Boney, Mr Kennedy, Mr Watson, Mr Leslie Skelton, Prof Moyses, Mr Chandler, Rev J Empson, Rev Dr McVicar, Rev Canon Henderson, Rev James Roy, Rev James Fleck, Mr W Drysdale, Prof Coussirat, Mr Barnjum, Prof C H McLeod, Dr Johnson, Rev Mr Drewett, Manchester, Eug; Mr James Gardner, Rev R Campbell, Mr Watson, Mr Charles Gibb, Mr C H Gould, Mr F McLennan, Mr Wm McLennan, Philippe H Roy, Raymond Prefontaine, L J Ethier, L H Frechette, L L D, W D Lighthall, J Bouthillier Trudel, James R Walker, Arch McGoun, jr, Dr H A Howe, Dr S P Robins, Dr F W Kelley, Rev E J Rexford, J J Donald, A E Duncan, Rev A H Munroe, F S Hait, J W Tucker, E Lefebvre, Rev E M Taylor, Dr McGregor, Mr A C Lyman, Dr Molson, Dr Geo Ross, Dr Stephen, Dr Craik, Dr W McEachran, Mr D McEachran, Dr Buller, Mr Ibbotson, Dr G T Ross, Dr Hingston, Dr McCallum, Dr Howard, Dr Kennedy, Dr Shepherd, Dr Browne, Dr Fiunie, Dr Mills, Dr Blackader, Dr Godfrey, Dr Muoro, Dr Gurd, Dr Howard, Dr Stephen, Dr Fenwick, Dr Burland, Dr Proudfoot, Rev Dr Sullivan, E Barnard, M

M Tait, L N Benjamin, W D M Marler, C H Stephens, N W Trenholme, J S Archibald, C J Doherty, H J Kavanagh, D Barry, D Downie, Rev J Carmichael, W F Ritchie, A G Cross, C Cushing, M B Bethune, R A Ramsay, S P Leet.

While the *menu* was being discussed, Mr. Charles Reichlitz's string band discoursed excellent music.

The following formal toasts were then disposed of:—"The Queen," "The Governor-General," "The Lieutenant-Governor."

In proposing the next toast, "The University," the President said he felt highly honoured to have the privilege of proposing this toast on such an occasion, and in doing so would give, in a few words, the history of this University, of its early trials, and of the men who so nobly encouraged its career, of its founder, and of those who in the past had borne the burden and the heat of the day, who had sown the seed from which they had reaped the harvest, and who had long entered into their rest. He felt honored, because he felt that this was a festive gathering to celebrate the coming of age of their University. (Applause.) McGill University was in the 50th year of its existence or more correctly its 50th Session. A University, like some other things, came to maturity slowly, and he thought they might safely say that their University was to-day coming of age. In this connection it might be interesting to ask the parentage of this Institution. Who fathered her? Why, the Merchants of Montreal; she was born, so to speak, in the Chamber of Commerce. She had been reared wet and dry nursed by merchants; all her little early difficulties and troubles had been treated in the Corn Exchange. [Laughter.] To whom did she first listerth her early prayers? To the merchants of Montreal. They had seen her safely through the teething, the measles and the several other critical periods of her existence; moreover they saw her through the critical period of puberty, and he believed that period was the time they sought the aid of their noble Principal; he was the doctor called in and he reared her through that critical period. [Loud applause.] In looking over the history of the Institution briefly, he did it with a medical eye (laughter and loud applause), and just at that time there were indications of commencing maturity, and it was very fortunate for this Institution and this city that they called in so skilful a physician. [Cheers.] He might say in this connection that this University was a child of trade;

founded, as he said, by the merchants of Montreal, she owed her continued existence almost exclusively to these gentlemen. There was nothing in the whole history of Montreal to which the merchants of Montreal could look forward with so much pride as McGill University. [Cheers]. The coming of age of this University brought with it additional responsibilities. In the first place, the University should be a teaching place where the youth could go and seek information in all departments of knowledge [loud applause], where men could be educated to fill any calling in life. To do this they required a staff of the ablest men they could get — not only the ablest men that the country possessed, but the best that money could get, the best talent that they could get irrespective of nationality. (Applause.) He hoped that by the time of the next jubilee — namely, the centennial dinner — their University would be known not only as a centre where men could come and get education, but a centre where men could find the means of extending the limits of knowledge. The graduates of McGill University should look forward to the time when she would have her laboratories and all the necessaries to give to students opportunities of individual and private research. Referring to the large amount of work done by the professors, Dr. Osler said that the man who gave 12 or 13 lectures a week could not be expected to devote much time to original work with any proper degree of enthusiasm. He would give them "The University."

The toast was received with the greatest enthusiasm.

Dr. Henderson then gave a song, after which,

Hon. Justice Mackay responded as follows:—

I have to thank you and the graduates for your kind invitation to me to make one at your festive board this evening. The scene before me leads me to comparisons of things past with present, for I was raised in the time of no university and when the chief schools for the English part of the people, in Upper and Lower Canada, were only five or six. I confess to possessing little academical experience beyond what I have acquired in the past few years. In an after-dinner speech it will not do to sermonize; yet a very, very short retrospect may be excusable—I mean of affairs pertaining to our own University. These have a better appearance than they had. The year past was not unattended with some discouragement.

ments owing to diminished resources, chiefly from the over-abundance of money, leading to a fall in the rates of interest on investments, as you are aware, and as our worthy Principal has stated to-day. The Governors some may imagine have a position of honor with no anxieties, but those who think so (I mean as to the anxieties), are under mistake. When the discouraging cloud appeared last year the Governors were, nevertheless, not scared. They resolved upon the course of calling to their councils their fellow citizens, of placing the case before them and the claims of the University, trusting to them for a deliverance. I think you will agree with me that the result has shown the wisdom of the course taken. One chief desire of the Governors all the time was to be perfectly fair towards the Professors and not to reduce salaries, if it could possibly be avoided. It is fitting, while acknowledging aid received, to allude particularly to the splendid gift, following upon many large though lesser ones in times past, of \$30,000 from Mr. W. C. McDonald. Our prospects for the future are brightening; yet the work that might be done and ought to be, if we only had the means, is large. One piece of such work is, as our Principal has several times stated, a boarding and lodging house for the students, a building in which each one would have his separate bedroom and study room; in the same building there is to be a large dining-hall and room for exercising and public meetings. The Peter Redpath Museum is fast approaching completion; it is proposed to be publicly opened about the 24th of August. It will be an ornament not only to the College grounds but to the city. May it long endure, a monument to the liberality and noble mindedness of the donor. Ho our to Peter Redpath!

The Rev. Professor Clark Murray was most warmly received on rising to respond in the name of the Professors, for which he thanked the Assembly very heartily.

At this point the Rev. Dr. Sullivan, Bishop Elec. of Algoma, entered the room, and was provided with a seat beside the speaker amid a storm of welcomes.

The Rev. Professor Murray continued:—The Professors of the University had a good deal to be grateful for in the manner in which their services were received both by the public at large, by the Governor, by the graduates attached to the University, and also by the students whom the Professors teach, for scarcely a session passed without their receiving from the Valedictorian

an expression of gratitude for the services which they have endeavoured to render during the session, and he took it that this expression on the part of the Valedictorian should not always be regarded as unmeaning; and he could only say that the professors felt it to be their duty to evince their gratitude by doing what they could to render services more effectual. He referred at some length, and for the first time in public, to the important changes made in the curriculum, and, in response to a possible objection to the change, remarked that the University, as the President had just reminded them, partook something of the character of an organism, and as the growth of an organism implies change, they had made such alterations in the curriculum as best to serve the interests of the graduates and the usefulness of the Institution, and as some complained that the governors had already gone too far, while others complained that they had not gone far enough, it might be expected that they had struck the happy medium most desirable in such a case. He referred with pride to the fact that our merchants were not all absorbed in the task of increasing their bank accounts, but that the immediate object of some of them was to promote higher education in the community. He referred to the great civilizing effect of education as instanced by the history of Greece and Rome, and predicted an industrious and prosperous career for the University.

Rev. E. I. Rexford in a very humble way as one of the fellows of the University said a word with reference to the work carried on, and pointed to one feature to show the very great love and affection the Graduates had towards the Fellows' remedy in returning to the last elections the representative fellows of former years. He also referred to the fact that in both science and literature special merit was rewarded without tedious delay. He referred to the change in the Curriculum as one calculated to be highly beneficial, as tending towards the production of better graduates in the future than the University has been able to produce in the past.

Professor Moyses proposed the toast of "Our Sister Universities," and referred to the universal growth of education in Europe and on the continent. He held that the "recent improvement" made by the governing body was looked upon with favour by all as most conducive to the growth of a liberal education. He called upon the

Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, who on rising to

respond was received with great applause, and cries of *En Anglais* and *En Francais*. He said that speaking for Laval he would address the meeting in French. The toast had been received in a most pleasing manner, and it was peculiarly gratifying that the toast was greeted with the popular English refrain "For they are jolly good fellows." The people he represented were of the French race, but they were fond of the refrain. Their own gaiety inclined them to join with sentiments of fraternity in such a song breathing such gaiety. If the race to which he belonged had exerted any influence upon this continent it was largely due to this very gaiety of their dispositions. Every one was fond of the beautiful Canadian songs. But he had to refer to two things of a more serious character. Laval University was the youngest as a University, but was perhaps the oldest in the wide Dominion as a seat of learning. They had never regarded with jealousy or with an evil eye the success of other institutions of a like character. They were never disposed to snam a spirit of unfair rivalry; in everything tending to the advancement of learning, they were above such a spirit. Indeed, if there was anything for which they had become proverbial for, it was the exaggeration of the opposite feeling, and the desire to maintain the "highest possible standard." Laval then is not to be feared by McGill, but to be considered as a friendly competitor in the same work. He himself had been made a Doctor of Laws in McGill, and it was his first honour of the kind. He had also to refer to one whom he must call the second father of the University, Dr. Dawson, (Cheers) who had begun the work of re-establishing it when he (Mr. Chauveau) was Secretary of the Province, and had to give some attention to the institution. He recollected how Judge Mackay, Canon Leach, and many other friends of the University had repeatedly come, endeavouring to secure the assistance of the Government to this institution in its financial difficulties. And yet for McGill as for many other institutions, it seemed as if such difficulties were really the source of success. Every time Dr. Dawson had come to the office of the Provincial Secretary to seek \$10,000 or \$20,000 or \$30,000 (cheers), he had always felt how well he deserved what he sought, and he always wished the Government could do its utmost for it. And he (Mr. Chauveau) was one of those who had always done their best for McGill, even before Dr. Dawson came to Montreal

—as far back as 1820. He came to Montreal the same year as Dr. Dawson came as Principal of McGill, and it was one of the happiest recollections of his life that he had assisted Sir Geo. Cartier in the establishment of McGill Normal School. They recognized the wisdom of sinking religious differences and valued the principle consecrated in the English maxim "to agree to disagree." He was always glad to reply to this toast, as it gave him an opportunity of testifying to the zeal, industry, and talent that characterised its foundation and supporters. Its Principal was a man who loved science for science's sake. The chairman had referred to the desirability of having connected with the University men who might devote their mind to producing works of high class in literature and science, without the necessity of being distracted by the work of teaching. But this was a young country and we can hardly hope for a large leisured class. We have rather to congratulate ourselves when we possess men that in addition to performing their teaching duties can at the same time establish a renown as literary men, as scientific writers of highest merit. And McGill can boast of a man who has achieved that distinction, who has gained a name in Europe and in America that challenges our greatest admiration. He need not say he referred to Principal Dawson. [Cheers] Another suggestion that had been put forth was for the erection of a *pensionnat* for the students of McGill. They had it in Oxford and Cambridge, and they had it in the ancient University of Paris. In England to-day Balliol College, St. John's College, and others had brought the students close together and developed that *esprit de corps* that distinguishes the sons of such *alma maters*. Laval had a *pensionnat* for her students in Quebec and he hoped that she as well as McGill would soon have it in Montreal. In conclusion, he thanked the meeting for this toast and hoped for great success to institutions of learning that will build up our country. [Applause.]

The Chairman regretted the unavoidable absence of Rev. Chancellor Henneker of Bishops College, Lennoxville; Rev. Canon Norman, Montreal; and Rev. Chancellor Fleming of Queen's University, Kingston, all of whom he had hoped would be present and respond to the toast.

Principal Dawson then proposed the toast of "The University and Montreal," He commenced by humourously referring to the varied manner in which the toast was put on the several billets and advertisements, and also to the Chairman's descrip-

tion of the youthful trials of the University and would not speak of the University of Montreal any further than to say how very much they were indebted to Dr. Chauveau, as the representative of Laval University and the French nationality in the city of which he (Dr. C) was a most fitting representative for the kind words spoken on this occasion. He preferred to put the toast, "The Citizens of Montreal and McGill University." He characterised McGill as a giant in his day, when at a time when Montreal boasted of but 20,000 inhabitants he founded the University, and he was glad to say that from time to time others of like sympathy and benevolence appeared—Dunkin, Hugh Ramsay, Benjamin Holmes, Peter McGill and more besides. They had been found so earnest and energetic that when the professors had entered upon their duties with absolutely nothing in the University chest—they had been prepared to pay the expenses out of their own pockets—and the race is not yet extinct while we have such men as Peter Redpath and W. C. Macdonald (applause). He was struck not long ago by a remark of the worthy Chancellor that there was nothing he envied so much in a wealthy man as the power he had for contributing to good purposes. That was the sentiment, the luxury of giving realizes that holy truth, "it is more blessed to give than to receive. He referred to the love of fame inherent in man, and contended that no more lasting monument could a man raise for himself than an endowment, a chair, or a scholarship. He referred to matters pertaining to the University, which he believed in its career to the peaceful Saint Lawrence, bestowing benefits throughout its course.

The toast brought forth the most enthusiastic applause on the part of the audience.

Mr. M. M. Tait, Q.C., then gave a song, which was loudly *encored*.

Mr. George Hague, in responding, said that it was a great pity that in a wealthy city like Montreal, and for so small a sum as \$150,000 there should have been those measures of retrenchment that they heard of in the afternoon, and he hoped that before long this reproach would be wiped away. McGill University was the greatest thing that Montreal had to boast of. He referred to the great and honorable Faculty of Arts, which produced men fitted for every department of commercial and political life, which trained men that they might take their part in moulding the destiny of the great northern part of this continent, which might be

to the continent what our mother country was to Europe. [Applause]. They were all interested, as business men in the success of McGill University, and it was worth their time to devote money, time and labour in advancing its interests. [Applause.]

The Rev. Dr. Stevenson then proposed the toast "Canada." He alluded in most complimentary terms to the election of the Rev. Dr. Sullivan to the Bishopric of Algoma, and congratulated him on the increased ecclesiastical dignity and prominence which that position gave him. In accepting that position Dr. Sullivan had committed an act of faith and self-sacrifice, for which they sincerely admired him. (Applause.) In reference to his leaving Montreal, they condoled one another and desired to express their very sincere regret that their society of which he had been so great an ornament would shortly lose him. [Applause]. He was very proud to propose this toast of Canada. Born, as he was, on the other side of the Atlantic, he was glad now to drop the name of Englishman and to take the name of a Canadian. They could be proud of Canada without belittling in the slightest degree any of the other nationalities. [Hear, hear]. They could congratulate England on her mighty history; they could point to the history of Scotland, that brave little land that gave such great and brave men; they could look across the Channel to Fair France, and see a people who were first in the clear expression of thought, first in those ornamental delicacies which helped so greatly the charm of social intercourse; they could look to Germany, that seat of learning, or across the Alps and glory in the brightness of the Italian sky, and in the soft elegance of Italian literature; and they could come to their own country, and boast of a sky as clear as the Italian sky, and a race which poured into their blood all the richest qualities of the English, Scotch, French and Italian races. They must congratulate themselves on the splendour of their climate and the grandeur of their territorial extent. Great nations had been made by some climatic peculiarity, and Canada undoubtedly possessed climatic advantages which alone would make of her a great nation. He did not wish to speak unkindly of other histories, but we had lights in our history that were like the Chevalier Bayard, men without fear and without reproach. France and England had quarrelled and been enemies in the past, but they had now shaken hands over the sacred dust of their

heroes, and in this Canada of ours the intermingling of these two great nationalities would be of great benefit. They had had a glorious past, and they had a glorious prospect for the future. From Sarnia to Gaspe and right away to the Pacific Ocean where was the man who could not breathe freely in this beautiful air of ours, where was the man who had grievances that could not ventilate them right to the foot of the throne. [Applause.] There was no exclusive class in Canada, every man had perfect freedom in speech, freedom in life and freedom in the press. As a Protestant clergyman he could not forget the heroism of those Catholic Missionaries who came to this country many years ago, and went into the wilderness and civilized the people. He concluded a most eloquent address by saying that they had only to preserve sacredly and earnestly their confidence in Him who was the source of all good things, and the giver of every blessing and they would then be a great nation in the time to come. (Applause.)

Dr. Louis H. Frechette, in reply, said it natural that the toast of 'Canada' having been proposed in English should be responded to in French, since, as had been said by the eloquent speaker who had proposed the toast, our country had an immense advantage in the rare good fortune of having been discovered, peopled, inhabited and developed by two of the greatest races in the world, the Anglo-Saxon and the French. This toast was one that called forth a response from every heart. The name of one's country has always inspired poets with their finest sentiments, and all the poets of Canada have sung their native land: from Cremazie who sang on the battlements of ancient Quebec to the late poet and politician who cried, *avant tout je suis Canadien*,

from that other veteran whose refrain was *O Canada, mon pays, mes amours*, to the poet who sang of *Nos peres sortis de la France, Qui cherchaient loin de leur patrie, Une terre de la liberte*. But it is not sufficient that a poet should have inspiration, but there must be the occasion to call it forth. He must be under its direct influence. The proposer of the toast in recalling the noble heroes of the past, those men whose deeds made us delighted with the thought that this was our country, had furnished such an impulse, he thought he might repeat a few lines that he had composed upon a like occasion:—

Et toi, de ces heros genereuse patrie,
Sol Canadien qu'on aime avec idolatrie,
Dans l'accomplissement de tous ces grands
travaux.
Quand je pese la part que le Ciel t'a donnee,
Les yeux sur l'avenir, terre predestinee,
J'ai foi dans tes destins nouveaux.

Yes he had faith in the destiny of his country, especially when he looked upon such institutions as McGill University, which had sprung from her soil, and were fastened under the banner of a glorious past, and in the hope of a great future. [Cheers]. On resuming his seat Mr. Frechette was greeted with loud calls of *Soixante-dix*, in response to which he repeated the words of his poem "1870," which were listened to with the profoundest attention, and at the close greeted with enthusiastic applause. Mr. Eugene Lafleur then sang "*Sol Canadien*."

Professor J. E. Robidoux then proposed the toast of "McGill in Parliament," which was eloquently responded to by Mr. G. W. Stephens, M.P.P.

"The Ladies," who have also been benefactors of McGill University, were then honoured, and the evening's proceedings were brought to a close shortly after 12 o'clock.