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J. H. Beattal

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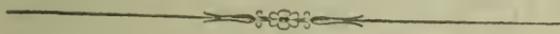
ADDRESS

OF

The Honorable C. D. DAY, LL.D.,

CHANCELLOR OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY,

Delivered at the Entertainment given to Benefactors,
December 20th, 1870.



It is some thirteen years since I had the satisfaction of addressing the friends of the University on an occasion precisely similar to this, so that history repeats itself in little things as in great. Then, as now, an effort was in progress for obtaining the means of increased usefulness by an appeal on behalf of the great cause of education. Then, as now, considerable success had been attained in the work, and a social gathering like the present one was deemed to be a graceful and pleasant mode of acknowledging, thankfully, what had been done, and of promoting prolonged and zealous exertion for what was still required. It is unnecessary to detail the result of the effort then made. We all know how satisfactory it was, and how well it witnessed to the intelligence and liberality of our goodly city. I have not the inhuman design of inflicting upon people who have been invited to pass the evening here in social enjoyment, a long and solemn address; but I wish to lay before you in familiar words a statement which shall be plain and brief. Whatever I may say beyond this statement, will be, in substance, pretty much what I said before; possibly, after the manner of history, repeating myself. At all events, I now repeat to you, ladies and gentlemen, in the name of the University, a welcome and thanks for your presence here, not less cordial than were given to that audience of thirteen years ago. Early in the present year, the Board of Governors having long felt the inadequacy of the pecuniary means of the University for keeping pace with the growing wants of the higher education in the Province, determined upon a public appeal for aid. They accordingly issued a circular, setting forth briefly the urgent reasons for such appeal.

In response to this invitation, a meeting was held in the College

Library, on the 10th February last, by a few public-spirited gentlemen. Resolutions were adopted in the following terms:—

Moved by Rev. Dr. Jenkins, seconded by George Frothingham, Esq.

(1) "That the growth of this country in political importance, and the increase of its Protestant population, have rendered necessary a change and enlargement in the provisions for its advancement in knowledge and mental culture, and that an increase is required in the means we have hitherto possessed for giving to our youth a liberal scholastic training."

Moved by Rev. George Douglas, seconded by T. M. Taylor, Esq.

(2) "That with a view to meet the educational wants above referred to, the present endowment of McGill College ought to be increased, so as to place it upon a footing of permanent independence, and to enable it to extend its work, according to the requirements of the times, and upon an equality with Educational Institutions abroad."

Moved by Rev. John Cordner, seconded by Charles Alexander, Esq.

(3) "That an appeal be made to those interested in the cause of Higher Education among Protestants, for their aid and contributions toward the important object of increasing the Endowment of the College, and that a Committee be appointed to take measures for promoting such appeal and for obtaining subscriptions."

Moved by Rev. Dr. Wilkes, seconded by J. Dougall, Esq.

(4) "That this meeting rejoices in the arrangements made in the Mother Country and on this Continent, to afford young women the opportunities of a regular College course; and being persuaded of the vital importance of this matter to the cause of Higher Education and to the well-being of the community, respectfully commends the subject to the consideration of the Corporation of the University, for such action as the expected addition to the Endowment may enable them to take."

A Committee was appointed, and afterwards a sub-Committee, for soliciting subscriptions. The result, up to this time, of the exertions of these gentlemen in the performance of a duty, not always agreeable, is exhibited in the printed paper prepared for distribution, a copy of which I hold in my hand. The whole amount subscribed is \$52,000, exclusive of a large sum for the establishment and support of Scholarships. Some of the subscriptions are very munificent. Mr. Peter Redpath has crowned his other numerous benefactions with an endowment of \$20,000 for a Chair of Natural Philosophy. Several, among whose names will be found some of the oldest and

most generous of the friends of the University, have given \$5,000. Here we find the honoured name of Mr. Wm. Molson, that of our worthy city representative, Mr. Thos. Workman, and of Mr. W. C. McDonald, a staunch and liberal friend, who, to the \$5,000, has added the ample sum of \$1,250 yearly, for the maintenance of ten scholarships. I mention last the name of the late Mr. John Frothingham—a name which must ever be gratefully remembered by us. He was one of the foremost among the list of subscribers to the first endowment fund. His present subscription was among his latest acts. Since then, after an old age prolonged beyond the limit of years usually accorded to man, singularly tranquil and cheerful, his virtuous life closed in peace and hopefulness. He was truly a just and honest man, and those who knew him best, among whom I count myself, can bear testimony to the benevolence and worth of character which made his death a calamity to the community in which he had lived so long. You will see upon the paper other large sums, from \$2,000 given by Mr. John Henry Molson and Mr. Charles Alexander, gentlemen whose former gifts have not been few or far between, to \$1,000 by Mr. Justice Torrance, Sir Wm. Logan, Dr. Campbell, and Mr. Hart Logan—and so on through smaller yet liberal sums, making in all the total of \$52,000. To this must be added a thankful acknowledgment of \$1,667, from Mrs. Redpath, for the maintenance of the exhibition founded by her. Thus much has been done, and the present friendly assemblage is in a great measure for the purpose of acknowledging how much this University and the whole community interested in the cause of higher education, owe to the gentlemen whose names we find upon this list, both to those who have given of their substance, whether the sum be greater or less, and to those who have devoted their time and exertions to the work. We are glad to do them honour. Whatever may be in the future, it is certain that they have done good service, which is not likely to be forgotten, in a noble cause, and it is to be hoped that their good example will not be lost on others of our fellow-citizens.

This much for the past. For the future, the wants of the University and the judicious objects to which subscriptions may be applied are specified in the paper referred to. Under three heads, these are:—1st., additions to the general funds of the College; 2nd., aid to students; and 3rd., additions to the Library. I will not dwell upon them, but simply refer to the explanations contained in that paper. I trust I may not be tedious; but even at that risk I must now advert, briefly as I can, as to a topic suggested by objections which the gentlemen soliciting subscriptions have occasionally encountered. As a general proposition, very few men will deny the desirableness of liberal education. But there are some who seem to be under an impression that academical institutions should be self-supporting, or, in

commercial phrase, that the supply should not anticipate nor exceed the immediate demand. They are disposed to measure the beneficial results of the work of a University solely by the number educated in it, upon a mere money-basis of valuation, and, as a consequence, to conclude that if the expenditure exceed the ordinary cost per head for tuition, there is no reason for supporting Universities among us. Now, these opinions involve a great and dangerous fallacy, and, if largely entertained, must lead to consequences in the last degree injurious to this or any other community. The notion that institutions for the higher learning are or can be self-supporting, is contradicted by their history in all countries, and it is indeed hardly possible in the nature of things that it can be true. The old Universities of England began as schools; and although in the remote period of their origin, they at first perhaps struggled on without extraneous aid, yet their Colleges soon received rich endowments, which have grown from age to age, and have long since furnished superabundant incomes for all their work. In France and Germany the Universities are directly sustained by the Governments of those countries (which in that respect show a sense of the duties which belong to Governments in the highest form of civilization). In the neighbouring Union, second to no country in the appreciation by its whole people of the value of education, their Colleges receive large Legislative aid, and are, moreover, endowed by their citizens with a munificence which has scarcely a parallel in any nation. If such, then, be the fact in old and wealthy countries where the highest mental culture prevails, and where there is a maturity of civilization for which we can scarcely hope in our generation; with what show of reason can it be expected that our young University, having still before it the first and hardest lesson of all to teach a people,—that is the value of learning—how, I say, can it be expected that a University so situated should, in any considerable degree, be able to sustain itself, and carry on its work upon the fees of tuition alone? I have said that the first and hardest lesson to teach a people is that the higher education has any real or appreciable value, and none but those who have been engaged in the task can know how hard it is. I believe this University has done a great deal in that direction, but it has a great deal more to do, and until the instruction of our people is brought up to a far higher standard, universities will not be numerously attended, and certainly will not be paying enterprizes in a pecuniary point of view. But in connection with this objection, it is assumed that the work which the University does is not worth the money which it costs, the number of students being so comparatively small. It is unfortunately true that the number of students is very much less than could be desired, and this evil springs from the precise cause which has just been adverted to, the want of a just appreciation of scholastic training. But whether few or many, the

means of giving a liberal education must exist within the University. It is very nearly as costly to educate fifty as five hundred, for the appliances for a complete education must be the same, whether for the larger or the smaller number, just as a ship must be sea-worthy and complete in all its costly appointments, whether it happens to carry fifty passengers or its complement of a thousand. You cannot measure the outlay by the first numbers who may take advantage of it.

In its session of 1854, our University had, in addition to its medical class of thirty-six, just half-a-dozen students, but it was necessary to begin with the number which then offered, or to close its doors. It could never have expected its two hundred and fifty now, or its five hundred, or one thousand hereafter, unless it began with its half-dozen then. A commencement must at some time be made in every enterprize, and when the enterprize has for its object the improvement and elevation of a people, the sooner the beginning is made the better, for the agencies of intellectual and moral progress do not act quickly, their results are gradual and painfully slow. It is then our obvious and imperative duty in the present generation to lay, as a necessity of national life, a foundation of national education; although the superstructure may not be completed in our time; to plant the tree, although it may only be expected fully to mature and fructify, for our children or our children's children;—this is an elementary and inexorable condition for a nation's growth. If the men of the present day live only for the present day, resting upon the niggardly and miserable thought that we owe nothing to posterity—we are a people doomed, indeed, to hopeless and everlasting dwarfishness. But let us meet directly the assumption that the expenditure of money exceeds the beneficial returns from it. I deny that the numbers educated furnish alone a criterion of the true value of the work performed. But if they do, the aggregate of those numbers shows a result which itself neutralizes the objection. Since the first subscription to the Endowment Fund, the University has sent out not less than seven hundred graduates, exclusive of a great number, amounting to thousands, from its affiliated schools. This is no small contribution to the educated intelligence of the country, but I am not disposed to rest upon this fact. The subject justifies the occupation of higher ground. I repeat that numbers alone furnish no just criterion of the true value of the work performed. The training of a hundred or of ten young men of capacity, instructed and prepared to go out, and do the work which belongs to the higher order of intelligence, is worth more than all the money which the University has expended, or is ever likely to require. A few such minds, perhaps a single one, of capacious mould and thorough discipline, may shape and govern the destinies of his country, and contribute more to its prosperity and renown than the cost of training a hundred times repeated. A

nation is just what its men and women make it. If the best standard of individual intelligence and character be low, the standard and position of the nation will be low, for they are the nation. The march of a sound civilization must be even and sustained upon its two supports—knowledge and wealth—and not halt and limping upon one. While on the one hand it finds in Agriculture, in the Manufactory, the Warehouse and the Banking office its material profit, it must on the other look to Universities and Students, to Science, Literature and Arts, for that which constitutes its essential and nobler element, and holds Society back from the grossness which leads to barbarism.

If it be said that our young men can be trained more cheaply and as well in Universities abroad: I answer, no! emphatically, no. The denationalizing effects of a foreign education, breeding foreign habits and foreign modes of thought, its tendency to break up local attachments and home affections, and to enfeeble the sacred love of country, are too certain to need arguments. This all nations know and act upon. England has not produced her long line of sons—Sages and Poets, and Heroes—illustrious in all the arts of peace and war, by sending them from her shores to seek an education in a foreign land. Nor has any great country committed so fatal a mistake, and it is clear beyond controversy that we must not do so. Do we ever hope to have men—Canadians—who will make themselves and Canada felt as a power and leave an impress on the world? If we do, then during all the impressionable years of youth, these men must breathe their native air and tread their native soil, and the pulse of all their sympathies must be taught to beat in harmony with the sentiments and habits of their own people in their own country; and this can be secured in no other way than by training them in the educational institutions of that country. Whoever lends a helping hand to this great means of building up a nationality, renders service which no other, of whatever nature, can surpass in value. I have purposely omitted all mention of science and technical education. The subject has lately been treated by my friend, the Vice-Chancellor, who, of all men, is qualified to deal with it as a master should.

And I now ask your patience for a closing word. ¹⁸⁶⁰ is about the ladies. I have read to you Dr. Wilkes' resolution, which points to the necessity for providing the means of furnishing a higher education to women; a matter in which we are woefully behind the age. I shall not discuss this subject now—it is far too important for the few moments I could bestow upon it—but I may say, that I trust the time is not far distant when McGill College may become the privileged instrument of ministering to this urgent want. In this whole matter of Education

for either sex, women are directly and deeply interested. They are its earliest and most important ministers. Upon the delicate impressions received from the mother's gentle accents, depends, in a large measure, the development of character in youth and manhood. These impressions, so soft and slight, and at first apparently unimportant, deepen and harden with the growth of each succeeding day. They become the ineffaceable things of life, and extend, for good or for evil through all the motives of action and the impulses of thought to the last breath of existence. But woman is not only the first great high priestess of Education; she is also, in a signal degree, dependent upon its influences. From the feebleness of her frame and the fineness of her organization, it regulates her position and happiness far more than that of men. The wild hunter or the savage chieftain differs incomparably less from the polished leader of European armies or the accomplished Senator, than the poor oppressed, broken spirited slave whom the savage calls his wife, differs from the cultured, refined, respected and beloved woman of civilized life.—It is education which has made the difference. There is no surer evidence of the degree of that education, which is an essential part of the Christian civilization of a people, than the social position of its women. And it is for the enlargement of the means of furthering this great object, of vital importance to both sexes and all classes, that the University has made its appeal for sympathy and succour.

The following subscriptions have been already announced, from the commencement of the effort for a new Endowment in February, 1870.

Peter Redpath, Esq., for the Endowment of the Chair of Natural Philosophy, - - -	\$20,000	B. Gibb, Esq. - - -	600
William Molson, Esq., - - -	5,000	W. Notman, Esq. - - -	600
W. C. McDonald, Esq. - - -	5,000	T. W. Ritchie, Esq. - - -	600
Mr. McDonald gives also \$1250 yearly for the maintenance of ten Scholarships and Exhibitions of the annual value of \$125 each.		A. & W. Robertson, Esqs. -	600
Thomas Workman, Esq. - - -	5,000	T. M. Taylor, Esq., \$100 per annum for a Scholarship.	
John Frothingham, Esq. - - -	5,000	T. M. Thomson, Esq., \$250 for two Exhibitions in September, 1870, and \$50 for Prizes in German.	
J. H. R. Molson, Esq. - - -	2,000	T. J. Claxton, Esq., £50 sterling for additions to the Museum.	
Charles Alexander, Esq., for Endowment of a Scholarship of the annual value of	2,000	John Reddy, Esq., M.D. -	100
Honorable F. W. Terrance.	1,000	Messrs. Sinclair, Jack & Co.,	250
Sir W. E. Logan LL.D., F.R.S., for a Chair of Geology, - - -	1,000	William Lunn, Esq., - - -	100
G. W. Campbell, Esq., M.D.,	1,000	Kenneth Campbell, Esq. - - -	100
Hart Logan, Esq., for a Chair of Geology, - - -	1,000	William Rose, Esq. - - -	50
		John McLennan, Esq. - - -	1000
		Mrs. Redpath, (for an Exhibition in Arts.)	1667

Amounting to the sum of (exclusive of Scholarships not endowed, &c.) \$53,667

Since the above statement was made up, Mr. William Molson has given an additional sum of \$4,000, for a Library Fund, and Mr. T. M. Thomson \$200 for Exhibitions for 1871.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

OF

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, 1870.

The value of Mr. McGill's original Endowment, being the Property known as the Estate of Burnside.	\$120,000
When the Charter passed this property was only in part productive, the Revenue of the University being only.	2,160
And this amount burdened with a debt reducible by annual Installments of	1,040
Leaving an available income of	1,120
After the lapse of 18 years, the present property including the Endowment Subscription of the Citizens in 1866 of \$57,200, amounts under the head of real Estate : covering Buildings, College Grounds, Lots sold, Mortgages, the Library, Museum and Apparatus used by the University, &c., to	558,017
The present Income amounts to	20,875
This includes the Government Grant, which was reduced last year to \$1640,49.	
The Expenditure amounts to	22,088
Under the heads of	
Salaries, University	\$2,690
do Faculty of Arts,	13,750
do Faculty of Law,	800
do Porters' Wages	800
Fuel, Insurances, Taxes, Printing, Stationery and Contingencies,	3,164
Repairs, &c., of Buildings,	974
	22,088
The Prospective income from the New Endowment up to date is —without including the sums contributed for Scholarships, of the Annual Value of	3,000
There will be an increase of income in 1872, arising from the Sale of Burnside Hall of	2,020
So that the anticipated increase of income may be put down at	1,440
	4,440

[For information as to the objects sought to be attained by the University through the increase of its endowment, reference is made to the printed statement issued by the Committee on Collections, and referred to in the above Address. To provide for these objects, it is estimated that a further annual income of at least \$6,000 will be required, in addition to the increase above stated.]