

University Gazette,

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Editors for 1877-78.

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THE ANNOUNCEMENT made recently in the daily press, that a branch of Laval University is to be established in Montreal, has created considerable surprise and no little discussion. Many people seem to regard this move as an encroachment upon the rights and privileges of our own *alma mater*. This view of the case is, we think, quite erroneous, and the project should, in our opinion, meet with the approval of all who desire to see the advancement of liberal education in the province of Quebec. That the existence of a branch of Laval in Montreal—with faculties of Law, Arts and Medicine—would have any prejudicial effect on McGill we fail to see.

Our Medical Faculty is too strong, and the proportion of French-speaking students attending its classes too small and inconsiderable to give rise to any apprehension that the number of McGill medical students will be lessened in any appreciable degree by the presence of another French medical school in Montreal. We would go farther and say that if Laval would even swamp and overwhelm the small Victoria medical school, McGill men ought to hail the event with pleasure; for no one can pretend to say that the curriculum of Laval University is second-rate or below the standard in any respect. If the effect of this proposed scheme in its relation to our Medical Faculty would be inconsiderable, it would be felt even less by the Faculty of Arts, and every citizen who has the welfare of this country at heart should, and we venture to say will, cordially rejoice at the success of any measure which would tend to educate the French Canadian population in Montreal, and give to it the advantage of an university training, which has hitherto been denied it on account mainly of the absence of any university which French-speaking young men could with profit, and on an equal footing, attend.

The effect of this scheme on our Faculty of Law

would, however, be much more serious than on either of the other faculties to which we have referred.

In this faculty about one half the students are French Canadians, and consequently a great diminution in the attendance and revenues of the Faculty would result from the existence of a rival school, which would undoubtedly secure the patronage of all French speaking law students. Whether the directors of Laval could or could not secure teaching talent in Montreal superior to that of the McGill Law School, is of course a moot point on which we will not attempt to give an opinion. But this we will say, that if the scheme is carried out, and if it results, as we think it will, in the withdrawal of a moiety of the sources from which our Law School has drawn its students, there is only one course to be followed: the governors of McGill must, in a liberal spirit, so endow our Law Faculty that the diminution in fees will not be felt. And if this be done, sorry as we will be to lose our French fellow students, it will result in having our own Law School placed on a better footing.

A YEAR OR TWO ago we advocated the holding of an annual university dinner. This subject has been discussed largely of late by the students of the various faculties, and the general opinion is heartily in favor of the idea. We would suggest that a meeting be called after vacation, and we doubt not the measure will be well received. The expense attendant on such a demonstration would be trifling, and its effects would be great in promoting a spirit of good fellowship amongst the different faculties, and in affording an opportunity to the students of becoming better acquainted with each other.

This is the last number of the *University Gazette* which we propose to publish till after the Christmas holidays, and we take this opportunity of wishing our our subscribers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A little moralizing may not here be amiss. Moralizing is in fact the most abundant thing in the world excepting toil and trouble, which no man can escape. Man in the midway of life invariably finds himself situated as Dante was when, surrounded by a dense wood, climbing a mountain side, followed by wild beasts, and losing his way in the gathering gloom of night, he met the Mantuan bard. But the boy knows nothing concerning the cares of the man. He dreams of the day when he will no longer be liable to the restraints of parental