

an example which he hoped to see more frequently followed in the province. The late Mr. McGill, who has amassed a very considerable fortune within the country, did not like many others leave the province and spend his money in some other part of the globe, but having no direct heirs he had left a very handsome legacy for the very laudable purpose of commencing a University in a country where such an establishment was very desirable. The Institution was to bear the name of its excellent founder, and he firmly hoped that it might prove a blessing to many generations yet to come, that it might tend to immortalize his name and be the best monument that could be erected to his memory. The Royal Institution was incorporated in 1812, and through their instrumentality this college was in pursuance of the will of Mr. McGill incorporated in 1821, by a charter which would be read to them. Under that charter the governors of the college were the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of Lower Canada, the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, the Chief Justices of Montreal and Upper Canada, the Lord Bishop of Quebec and the principal of the college. It would be needless for him to refer to the detentions and obstacles which had hitherto prevented the college from going into operation. It was known that this arose from the residuary legatee under the will of Mr. McGill disputing the legality of the bequest and carrying his opposition through all the courts of the Province till His Majesty in his Privy Council had finally given the decision in favor of the Institution, whose duty it had become to prosecute for the recovery of the bequest.

The Rev. Dr. Mills, Secretary to the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning, then read at length the charter of the college.

The Lord Bishop then again rose and said that he was authorized on the part of the governors of the new college to state it to be their intention as far as it was in their power to carry into effect the liberal intentions of the late Mr. McGill. It was not a work in which they themselves were solely interested but it was an institution which concerned every inhabitant of the province and under such feelings the governors were determined that no obstacles should deter them following up and prosecuting the views of the testator. He deemed it unnecessary for him to exhort them upon the advantages of education as he was sure they were all of opinion that a moral and religious education on Christian principles and a scientific course of studies on a true philosophical system were what it was their bounden duty to promote. The governors in assuming the charter hoped that their exertions would meet with the co-operation of every individual within the province.

The Venerable Archdeacon Mountain then rose and stated that as the individual named to fill the honorable post of Principal of the new college it became his duty now to say a few words. He could not but express his sense of his own unworthiness for such a distinguished office and he firmly hoped that he would be succeeded by a long line of eminent and learned principals. He had it in charge from his colleagues to state their anxiety to put the college into immediate operation, and he might urge as a proof of their wish that they had not been idle in this respect. They had been engaged in preparing and modelling a constitution and rules for the government of the institution. Although it was not necessary to detail at present their exact nature yet he could take upon himself to state that they were liberal in every sense of the word imposing no test upon professors or students. In thus applying the term liberal he wished it distinctly to be understood that he was not conveying the charge of illiberality against those noble and venerable institutions of the Mother Country in which a test was properly exacted of conformity to the National Religion, but there were local circumstances which required local adaptation and according both to the terms of the will and the provisions of the Royal Charter all offices whatever in McGill College were left freely open either to Protestants or Roman Catholics and students of all denominations would be permitted to attend. . . . It had been deemed necessary for the present to declare that the professors should be graduates of some British University, but that a preference should hereafter be shown to those who had graduated within its walls. The governors would feel it to be their duty under all discouraging obstacles to push on the great undertaking and never to cease in their exertions for its prosperity. They hoped they would meet with general support, and they trusted with confidence that they would be assisted by all when the very liberal terms of the will and charter were considered. It would be necessary for them to make a strong and powerful appeal to the Mother Country and they also expected great pecuniary assistance from those resident near the establishment and more directly interested in its prosperity. They would as soon as possible establish a system of collegiate education and there was a predisposition to engraft upon the college the well-known and respectable Medical Institution now in existence in the city. The door of the building was at length open and it was the duty of all to proceed with vigor. They might at first complain of a great want of means for such an institution, for it required much to place it on a respectable footing, but while they thus looked forward with confidence they should not be unmindful that the province