

Assembly, and by the Hon. Mr. Gilman, another of our graduates, in the Legislative Council. I think we should here specially express our thanks to the French Canadian gentlemen, and among them to Mr. Robidoux, M.P.P., and Mr. Laroau, M.P.P., for their earnest and eloquent support of the measure, this year and last, in face of the fact that an overwhelming majority of their fellow-countrymen were opposed to the Bill. Let us do honor to the men who exhibited such moral courage and gave such generous and effective aid. The act does honor to the entire legislature and will not be readily forgotten. It is in order also to congratulate you, undergraduates, on the great advantages you now here possess for improving the golden opportunities of youth, compared with those enjoyed by undergraduates in my day, twenty-five or thirty years ago. Then the Faculty of Arts was practically without any library, except possibly as many books as would load an ordinary wheel-barrow: now you have a fine library of thirty thousand volumes, and daily increasing at a rapid rate. You have also the magnificent Redpath Museum, which then had no existence, and you have apparatus and appliances of every kind which were unknown to former undergraduates. Above all, I congratulate the Faculty of Arts in opening its doors to ladies; and the ladies of Montreal by their generous gifts to McGill certainly acquired the right to have their sex admitted into the University, so that the sisters of our young men might enjoy the same educational advantages here as their brothers. There is nothing, however, on which you undergraduates in Arts are to be more congratulated, or for which we all should be more thankful, than the large number of the old staff of the Faculty of Arts that are still with us. I refer to our revered Principal and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the senior professor of Classics and the Professor of French: may they long be spared in health and vigour to guide and direct your studies. It is the more gratifying when we think of the terrible harvest of noble and devoted friends of the University which the great reaper has gathered from among us during the past twenty-five years, among the governors, the deans and professors of our faculties and the officers of the University.

Among the advantages which you undergraduates here enjoy there is no better educator than the history of your own University, of the devotion, the efforts and the self-sacrifice and the generous open-handed liberality of the men, and women too, who have made McGill the great Institution she is to-day. Let us learn the history of their efforts and I never forget to honor and feel gratitude to those who have done so much for us and their country. To have built up such an Institution without state or public aid of any kind, by the private efforts and liberality of the citizens of Montreal, is among the most honorable incidents in the history of Canada. Let me now say to the undergraduates that we entertain great hopes of your future. We hope that hereafter, at future University dinners, it will be said that among you many have been found who, as scientific inquirers and discoverers, have extended the bounds of human knowledge; many who have notably applied such knowledge to the develop-

ment of the resources and civilization of the country; many who have enriched the literature of our young nationality with works of lasting merit. It is our hope that all this may be said of you; but be that as it may, we are certain that from your ranks must come our future teachers and professors, our future professional men, judges, legislators and statesmen! It is certain that on you must devolve the rightful discharge of all these. You are to be congratulated on the field open before you for the exercise of your talents and training in this young country just bursting into new national life. You may not all be successful as success is commonly counted, but you can all do better, you can merit success and attain to that higher success which comes from earnest and honest manly and womanly effort.

This brings me, Mr. Chancellor, to my toast, and I invite you all to drink to the health of the undergraduates of McGill University, and when their undergraduate days are past, wherever one of them is to be found, there may there be found one fully equipped for the work of life, considerate of others, yet unflinching in the right, and if a lady graduate, superadded to these, there may there be in a special degree a centre of that elevating, refining and benign influence which it is the mission of woman to exercise on earth.

To this toast Mr. Peers Davidson responded for Arts, as follows:—

Mr. Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I greatly regret that my fellow-student, chosen to reply for the Faculty of Arts this evening, is unable to do so. I sympathise with him in his illness, with you in missing an eloquent address, and with both you and myself in my incompetency to fill the breach. It is a pleasing duty on my part to assert that the Faculty of Arts is the keystone of the University. Let us hope that the representatives about to follow me will not consider it a necessity, a mere matter of duty, to make like assertions in regard to their faculties. You will, no doubt, be told this evening either that the study of musty law books acts like a balm upon the soul, or that the investigation of the human anatomy is a task of a most interesting and enlightening character, or even that the "*summum bonum*" is to be attained by tramping through bogs and morasses with a heavy surveying instrument over the shoulder. These may be all very well in their way, but in our Faculty is found that culture necessary for the perfect practice of all professions. It gives a basis upon which to found further work, and places within a man's power the means of approaching that perfect knowledge which is the recognition of the vastness of God's universe. Some of our subjects of study may seemingly be of little practical value to us in after life; nevertheless, they leave their intellectual mark behind them, and in some way or other tend to aid men in battling with the difficulties of life. He would indeed be a sorry lawyer who had not some knowledge of Latin, Philosophy, Logic and the principles of Rhetoric; the physician would be almost powerless without his chemistry; while it may be said that mathematics lie at the very threshold of an engineer's training. Ladies and gentlemen, the learn-