

the President of the McGill College at Montreal—were placed upon the Commission. The Hon. Mr. Saunders, Mr. James Brown, of Charlotte County, and myself were the remaining members of the Commission. In the session of 1855 the Commissioners made their report; and it is under the system recommended in that report, and which was after some years further discussion in the Legislature substantially adopted, that the University is now so successfully conducted. To Dr. Ryerson the Commissioners were particularly indebted, and it is but due to the present President and Professors to say that to their cordial co-operation and judicious management that success is mainly to be attributed. The character of the Institution was entirely changed. From a College, limited to one denomination and disliked by all others—because supported from the funds of all—it became a University covering with its broad ægis all the educational establishments of the country. It takes by the hand the infant child in the Parish school, and points to him that County scholarship which his industry may attain. It tells the struggling parent, whose scant means might bid him turn away, that his country will provide for the expanding intellect of his child. It tells the young scholar within its walls who thirsts for knowledge, that the fountains which can supply him are at his command; that in the practical sciences of chemistry, geology, mechanics, astronomy, as applicable to civil engineering, surveying, agriculture, commerce or navigation—all that will be useful to him to learn—he can have. To those who desire to try the classic walks of Greece and Rome, to study the records of the great Past, to learn how nations rose and fell, the University affords every opportunity; and to those who wish to become acquainted with modern languages and literature, equal facilities are extended.

But above all, it establishes the broad fact that within your own country and under your own institutions can be found the means of enabling you to take your place amid the foremost men of the world, by the attainment of the