

SIR WILLIAM DAWSON, in referring to the special classes for the higher education of women, at the late Convocation, said:—"I am concerned as to the further development of our Donalda special course for women, in accordance with the expressed intention of the founder, that it should become an independent affiliated college. To those who think of this special course as a thing of yesterday, its development may seem rapid; but to those who, like myself, have been working toward it since the establishment of the McGill Normal School, in 1857, it is the slow growth of more than thirty years, first in the provision for higher education of women in the Normal School itself, and the preparation of a high class of qualified female teachers; next in the organization of the Ladies' Educational Association in 1871, and its noble work for fourteen years; next in the institution of the Girls' High School in 1874, and in the admission of women to the examinations for associate in Arts in 1877, and to that for senior associate in 1880. Those who are familiar with this history and the struggles and efforts with which it was accompanied, up to the time of the endowment by Sir Donald Smith, know how much our present position implies. On the other hand, those who are acquainted with such institutions as Girton, Newnham, Vassar and Wellesley, know how far it falls short in its present form of those higher social and æsthetic surroundings which there encompass and refine the education of women. For my own part, I have always maintained that a college for women should stand on a higher plane than one for men, because it could be emancipated from some of those traditional and professional hindrances which embarrass our ordinary colleges, and because it should aim not merely to fit professional and business persons for the

struggle of life, but to form the minds and characters of the mothers of a cultivated and progressive people. I had hoped that before this time the liberal founder of our Donalda course would have been able to carry out his purpose to develop his scheme farther in this direction; but hindrances, have been thrown in his way which, for the time at least, have prevented his liberal intentions being carried into effect. May we hope that these may soon be removed, and that the Royal Victoria College for Women may complete our long series of efforts in this direction. I should hail such a consummation as a crowning educational triumph for McGill, and should then be prepared contentedly to terminate my educational work."

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#### HALF A CENTURY OF INVENTIONS.

—Those of us not yet fifty years of age have probably lived in the most important and intellectually progressive period of human history. Within this half century the following inventions and discoveries have been among the number: Ocean steamships, street railways, telegraph lines, ocean cables, telephones, phonograph, photography, and a score of new methods of picture making, aniline colours, kerosene oil, electric lights, steam fire engines, chemical fire extinguishers, anæsthetics and painless surgery; gun cotton, nitro-glycerine, dynamite, giant powder; aluminum, magnesium, and other new metals; electro-plating, spectrum analysis and spectroscopy; audiphone, pneumatic tubes, electric motor, electric railway, electric bells, typewriter, cheap postal system, steam heating, steam and hydraulic elevators, vestibule cars, cantilever bridges. These are only a part. All positive knowledge of the physical constitution of planetary and stellar worlds has been attained within this period.