

3. That where the renewal for the second term was conditional on the proper discharge by the lessee of certain duties and obligations during the first nine years, it was competent to the lessors, at the expiration of the first term, to invoke the lessee's neglect of such duties as a ground of terminating the contract, without having made formal complaint previously.

4. That a resolution adopted by the trustees, that legal proceedings be instituted, if advised by counsel, is sufficient authority for the institution of a suit.—*Les Président et Syndics de la Commune de Laprairie v. Bissonnette*, in Review, Johnson, Taschereau, Mathieu, JJ., Nov. 30 1888.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE B. A. QUESTION.

At the convocation of McGill University, April 30, Dr. Johnson made the following observations:—

The universities of modern times have been in existence for eight hundred or perhaps a thousand years. On this continent and in this country a century gives a respectable hue of antiquity; yet in the history of universities a century does not count for much. A few years ago the university of Edinburgh celebrated the completion of its third century, in 1886 Heidelberg its fifth, and last year Bologna its eighth. Oxford and Paris are probably still older. During all these centuries they have been centres of intellectual light, gathering up and keeping alive the knowledge slowly gathered by man in the ages of the past; adding to it and transmitting it to successive generations; sending out their sons to spread abroad this knowledge; planting younger institutions as fresh centres for its dissemination in other regions, there again throwing out new offshoots both in the old world and the new. There may be traced the descent of this university and of all others on this continent. Tens of thousands of teachers have gone forth from them in these rolling ages; tens, hundreds of millions of men must have directly or indirectly been benefited by them in that time. Noble has been their work, vast their influence, wide-spread their reputation. But there are regions of the world

that know them not as yet. I need not speak of Asia, though even there, under the fostering care of our great empire, they have begun an existence that promises to be prosperous; nor shall I refer to the Islands of Polynesia or the wilds of Africa, but I must speak of a province of this Dominion, of a part of the inhabitants of this very city, of a body of gentlemen belonging to what is termed by courtesy one of the "learned" professions, who deliberately and as a body have declared their ignorance of the value of a university training in arts and of the B. A. degree, which crowns its termination; not the B. A. degree of this university alone, observe, nor that of Lennoxville, but those of all universities, whatever be their province or country, in the new world or the old, however ancient or however famous they may be. All alike are rejected as unworthy to give sufficient preparation for the Bar of the province of Quebec. I am perfectly aware that there are many able men and men of learning who belong to the profession, and I am also equally aware that they cannot but feel shame at the action of the body to which they belong, a body whose title to be called a learned profession in other countries depends upon the fact that so many, if not all, the members of it have been, and are, compelled to take a university degree before admission to it. It may be asked how it is possible to account for the fact that while in all the rest of the civilized world a university training is so highly esteemed, in this province so little is thought of it. I shall not attempt to account for it. It is no more my duty to account for this than to explain why a man, in addressing a letter to me, puts two f's in professor. He may insist on his legal right to put in two f's if he chooses. At any rate the fact is there. It may give some comfort to you gentlemen to know that the degrees which you receive to-day are appreciated elsewhere than in the province of Quebec. If you go to Ontario, your diploma will admit you to study for the bar without further examination; so will it for the bar of England, and not less for the bar of France. In your own native province only will it be ignored. I hope, however, that this will not last long. The light of knowledge has often