

1852 an amended charter was secured, all but absolutely essential expenses were cut down, portions of the estate were sold, and a loan of £300 was negotiated. The revenue from the land disposed of, together with a government grant of £1300 relieved the pressure temporarily, but a few years later it was found necessary to make an appeal to the citizens of Montreal, which was liberally met by the subscription of an endowment fund of £15,000. The amended charter, the appointment of Dr. Dawson as Principal in 1855, and the creation of a permanent endowment fund was the dawn of better days for McGill

In 1861 Wm. Molson, Esq., announced his intention of erecting a new wing to the College, and the next year the Molson Hall and the corridors connecting it, and the East Wing with the main building were completed. Since then the advance both in extension of buildings and equipment has been uninterrupted and rapid. At the commencement of Sir Wm. Dawson's connection with the University the number of students on the roll was seventeen; last year they numbered in all departments, one thousand. The library was founded in the same year by the purchase of a small collection of historical works, which were stored on a few plain shelves in Brunswick Hall; it contains now with the legal, medical and science libraries, some forty-five thousand volumes.

It has been increasing so much of late, that its home for the past thirty years is no longer able to hold it. When McGill assembles in September the library will probably have been transferred to the building on McTavish street, erected by Peter Redpath Esq., and designed to hold 150,000 volumes.

When Sir William Dawson inquired respecting the University Museum, the Janitor drew forth a single fossil from an obscure drawer; from this under the care of the Principal, has grown the magnificent collection which the University now possesses. Thirty years ago the University possessed no chemical laboratory and its philosophical apparatus consisted of a few antiquated instruments donated by Dr. Skakel, the equipment now is one of the best on the continent.