

With kind regards
of the Lecturer.

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THE CANADIAN STUDENT.

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With some interruptions rendered expedient by circumstances, I have devoted the university lecture for several years to topics connected with the history of the McGill endowment and the constitution of the university which has grown from it, and I propose now to complete the present series by referring to the students, whose education constitutes the object for which the university exists, and who are therefore in one respect the most important part of it. The subject is specially appropriate at a time when our number of students has reached 800, and if we reckon the students of the Normal school, which is really a professional college, and those in our affiliated colleges, must exceed a thousand. Since the revival of the university under its new charter in 1852, when the number of students was about 70, and these nearly all in the then well established faculty of medicine, the students have gradually increased in number, though with some fluctuations up to the present time, and it is an interesting and encouraging fact that their increase has been proportional to, and I believe to some extent determined by, the improvement of our means of instruction, whether in staff, appliances or buildings. The revival and reorganization of the faculty of arts in its new building of Burnside hall not only in four years doubled the number of students in that faculty, but indirectly caused an increase of students in medicine and law. We had determined when the students in arts should exceed fifty to take possession of the old college building, above Sherbrooke street, and this with the consequent completion and extension of the buildings and improvement of the grounds, caused a rapid increase of students. The Normal school, established in 1857, gave a stimulus to the faculty of arts, by connecting it with the school system of the province. The commencement of our school of engineering and its subsequent extension into a faculty of applied science not only added students in that

faculty, but tended to the increase of the others. The provision of a better building and laboratories for the medical faculty has been accompanied with an increase of its already large classes. Our affiliated theological colleges have given us a great influx of new men, and the sudden and marked increase in the members of the applied science faculty in the present session is undoubtedly connected with the princely provision which has been made for its work. I have no doubt that the intended addition of a proper building, with adequate staff and appliances, as a home for our Donalda department will give a similar impetus to it; and the prospect of a new library, with suitable reading and study rooms, now opening to us through the liberality of another of our leading benefactors, will give a like and most desirable stimulus to our growth. Thus it seems proved that Canadian students naturally flock to the institution which provides best for their educational wants, and the lesson is that it is not by boasting or mere advertising that we can attract students, but by making substantial provision for their training, a conclusion which is at once creditable to the student and encouraging to his teachers and to educational benefactors. I would add here that the resort of so large numbers of the most promising young men and women from all parts of the Dominion to this city in quest of education imposes no small moral and social obligation on the citizens of Montreal. To the liberal aids given to the university for purposes of instruction they should add a kindly and generous hospitality, and I think the time has come when they should supplement the appliances for mental training with those for comfort and social life, in the form of a dining room and college halls.

Students are of different grades, from the infant opening its eyes on the world, to the aged man of science or literature, still anxious to learn new truths, and to