

*Sir William Dawson's Address.*

Principal Sir William Dawson closed the proceedings with a short summary of the statistics and work of the University for the session, which had been in the highest degree successful and creditable to the ability and devotion of the members of the several faculties. The total number of students attending lectures in the several faculties of McGill College had exceeded five hundred. Besides these there were in affiliated colleges and in the Normal and Model Schools at least as many more—the whole number of persons deriving educational advantages from the university being 1,042. Of these, probably 500 are persons not resident in Montreal, but resorting to this city for the purpose of education. Colleges like McGill, situated in large cities, are often spoken of as if they were solely for the benefit of the wealthy inhabitants of towns. In the case of McGill the reverse of this was the fact. The University had been sustained by liberal citizens of Montreal, not for their own benefit merely, but for that of students from all parts of Canada. The financial statement appended to the report of the University for 1884 shows receipts from benefactors to the amount of more than \$150,000, and this without reckoning the munificent gift of \$120,000 for the foundation of the Donalds classes for women, and the subscription of \$2,000 per annum for the maintenance of the chair of botany. Such gifts reflect the highest credit on the city and confer the greatest benefits on the whole Dominion. It becomes us in this connection to thank the many benefactors, from the Governor-General downward, whose liberality has been connected with the announcements made to-day in the awards to our students and in the training which has led to those awards. The number of degrees conferred at this and the recent meetings of the convocation is seventy-eight, and it is deserving of notice that in this number are included six graduates in arts from Morrin College, Quebec. Another feature of interest and encouragement is the growing proportion of graduates in arts who appear in the degree lists of our professional faculties. We welcome for the first time in the present meeting not lady graduates, but prize-women in the first year, under the Donalds endowment, established by the Honorable D. A. Smith, and we have reason to congratulate the students and ourselves on the success which has so far attended the institution of classes for women. It is well to notice in this connection that we have made no attempt beyond the first year, and that while our classes for women are separate from those for men, there has been no difference in the studies or in the examinations. Next term we propose to pursue the same course in the case of the second year. The third and fourth years will be commenced as the class proceeds, so that in 1888 we shall hope that the first graduating class of women will come up. We shall thus enter gradually upon the work, and, as need occurs, shall add lecturers and tutors in the more important branches of study; our plan being as far as possible to employ the same instructors in the classes for men and women, so that there will be no difference in the character of the teaching. In this way