

L.L.D., who was replaced two years later when he became chancellor, by Dr. Dawson, whose firm hand and wise council have guided the University in a path of prosperity and renown for thirty-eight years.

In 1850 a crisis was reached in the history of the University when its life reached the lowest ebb. The urgent demand for vigorous action was bravely met. In 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 advancement 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 about 1200.

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 the Brunswick Hall, and which were afterwards moved to the commodious room in the ground floor of the Molson Hall, where it remained until the opening of the present magnificent building on McTavish street, the