

and friends, and now, though we may not think it meet for women to wrestle with men in the dusty arena of the struggle for existence, we are enabled freely to recognize their right to the highest kinds of culture and to all the social life of the university. The present gathering leads us also to see how completely the different departments of the university in all its faculties, and from the chancellor to the junior undergraduate, are united in one great work. In its different faculties the university provides, as the *universitas literarum*, for all liberal culture, but those who are being trained for different professions are not the less its children, nor the less relations and friends of one another. We see here also that insensible gradation which leads up from the embryonic junior student to the fully developed and senior graduate, and how impossible it is to draw a line of separation between students and graduates. To us, the older members of the university, those graduates who appear here as reverend divines, learned deans of faculties, judges and legislators, college professors and eminent professional men, are the students of yesterday, and you the students of to-day are the leading men and women of to-morrow. So we hail you as the prospective victors in the battle of life, the university of the future; and more than this, the heads of society in the coming time. I may congratulate you also on entering into life under better auspices than your seniors. The means and appliances of study are being improved. Learning is becoming more valued and respected, and disabilities are being removed. A step in this direction is our at length successful struggle for the recognition of the B.A. degree, in which graduates of our university, Judge Lynch, Mr. Hall and Dr. Gilman have distinguished themselves, and Mr. Hall deserves especial and grateful mention. I regard this as not merely an educational but a moral triumph, not for us merely, but for the whole province of Quebec, and especially for its more capable and ambitious young men who desire the best preparation for the work of life. It is especially noteworthy that our cause has been sustained in the Legislature by the ablest and best men of both political parties, of both races and of both creeds. This is a guarantee that the benefit sought is not partial or invidious, but for the good of all, and it is an honourable evidence of the fact that when great public and educational interests are concerned, the leading men of this province have the magnanimity to sink the party differences which may divide them. It is an illustration to our young men that there are higher political considerations than those of party, higher public interests than those of race, and higher religious objects than those of mere creed. In this matter our province of Quebec has at length shown a good example and has earned for itself a good degree among the peoples of the world. And now permit me to be prophetic. I believe that the recognition of the B.A. is the beginning of a new educational era. It will induce many of our young men to devote some additional years to preparatory culture for professional life. It will thus tend to raise still higher the standard of the professions, and to introduce the time when our young barristers and physicians will

pride themselves on their academic culture and success, will be friends of liberal education, and will go on to take their higher degrees in arts, so that whether at home or abroad they will be recognized as men of academic standing as well as of professional eminence. This is what you are to see in the good time coming. We, the older members of the university, have had to work under less favorable conditions, and must pass away before these and other advantages resulting from recent improvements shall have been realized. But we are not disposed on this account to appear before you with the mournful cry of the old Roman gladiators—*morituri salutamus*—but rather with the exulting shout of another gladiator in a nobler arena, we would say we have fought the good fight, we are finishing our course, we wait for the victor's crown. To you, the younger members of the University, it remains, with God's helping, to achieve still greater triumphs.

After the rounds of applause which greeted Sir William's speech had subsided, the Glee Club sang "A Health to Old McGill"—

"The lights around the festal board  
On glass and silver quiver;  
The generous wine is freely poured,  
The toast awaits the giver;  
So here's a health to old McGill  
With feelings proud and tender,  
Let each a brimming bumper fill  
And loving homage render.

CHORUS.

Another toast before we part,  
Another bumper fill boys;  
A toast that comes from every heart,  
A health to old McGill boys."

Mr. Trenholme, Q.C., Dean of the Faculty of Law, then proposed the toast of "The Undergraduates," as follows:—

Mr. Chancellor: Ladies and Gentlemen,—the toast which I rise to propose, to the undergraduates of McGill, is a toast, which I am sure, we all agree is of a most comprehensive and interesting character, for it includes not only the students of the three old faculties, of Law, Medicine and Arts, but also the students in the new and prosperous faculties of Applied Science and Comparative Medicine, and above all, students of that full one-half of humanity, the ladies, heretofore excluded from our halls, but now representing the Donalda Department, and doubling by themselves or their attractions the number of students in Arts within the past five years. It is impossible to express the thoughts that arise from the contemplation of the future possibilities and certainties connected with such a large body of the choice and ardent youth of our country of both sexes, and as for their importance that is manifest from the fact that they constitute the element for which professors, endowments, museums and all else exist.

Let me in the first place congratulate all connected with the University, on the great triumph just achieved for higher education in this Province by the passage of the B. A. Bill, at Quebec, and which was ably promoted and carried through by Mr. Hall, M.P.P., one of our own graduates, in the Legislative