

as assigned to the
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sphere of medical practice. An attempt was made to revive it in the autumn of 1855,* but before the negotiations then entered into were concluded, it became known that a revision of the educational grant was proposed, and a degree of uncertainty was thrown over the whole subject, which rendered it prudent to suspend those negotiations sine die. About this time also the Rev. G. Mackie, D. D., Official of the Diocese of Quebec, founded Annual Prizes for two essays, one English and one Latin.

It was not long now ere the College received a shock which threatened to inflict upon it serious injury. Owing to the commercial depression of the year 1848, the payment of interest on investments in Montreal, amounting to about £300 per annum, was suspended. The revenues of the Institution thus weakened, were not sufficient to enable it to carry on its work with efficiency without further aid. The Corporation of the College was called together to consider what was best to be done. At that meeting the Professors of the College volunteered to forego such portion of their salaries as the circumstances of the case should render necessary. Their offer, without which, as it then appeared, the College must have reduced its staff, was thankfully accepted, but in the event was not needed. The Principal was deputed at the close of the year 1849, to visit the cities of Quebec and Montreal, and explain the position of the College. Quebec came promptly to the rescue, and contributed £300 per annum, for three years. In this way the crisis was passed, and the threatened danger averted.

In the year 1850, the vast Diocese hitherto presided over by the present Bishop of Quebec, was divided, and another Bishop placed over the newly formed Diocese of Montreal. As soon as practicable, an Act, (dated 10th November, 1852,) was obtained, giving to the Bishop of Montreal, and to the Bishops of any other Sees which may hereafter be erected in Lower Canada, equal and co-ordinate powers with the Bishop of Quebec. It is scarcely necessary to observe that this new appointment brought a considerable accession of strength to the College.

* Yet only on such terms as could scarcely be said to have implied its permanency. Until the revenues of the College are considerably increased, this important chair cannot be properly maintained, nor the teaching of some other subjects such as Moral Philosophy and History, adequately provided for.