

with feelings of the warmest appreciation and admiration the illustrious institution which I have just had for this brief time the honour to serve.

While I was there you may be sure I never missed a chance of impressing upon the generous minds of my colleagues and others, some sense of the peculiar and unique service which Queen's is doing for the country. Similarly I should like here in Kingston to do all I can to promote a better understanding with McGill. They will meet us quite half way. They have the sense to respect us there. Queen's has no more acute observer, and therefore no warmer admirer in Canada than Principal Peterson. At the banquet given last year on the occasion of Dr. Gordon's installation he was the only one of all the speakers who had the wit to pick out for remark what was undoubtedly the one overshadowing feature of that memorable day's proceedings, and he did it in words most felicitous and heart-felt, the high note of generous appeal struck in the new Principal's address, the splendid response it elicited from the gallery, and in general the truly magnificent behaviour of the students, both in what they did and what they left undone. When I was bidding him a regretful farewell I spoke of the *desirableness* of cultivating sympathetic relations between the two colleges. He heartily agreed, and expressed the most appreciative sense of a recent service done to McGill by Queen's in Toronto. His very last words to me were a charge to convey to you the assurance of his strong desire for the continuance and increase of friendship and alliance. I think he used, among

others, or at least homologated, the expression that "Barkis was willin'."

I am confident that closer co-operation and greater frankness of mutual recognition between the Universities would be a decided gain for the higher education and for the higher life of our country. There has been far too much of the more sordid "complete-tradesman" kind of competition among them; far too much inclination on the part of each to regard itself as the one all-sufficient "thinking-shop of sapient souls," and all the others as more or less irrelevant intruders on its own divine right of monopoly. They are all here to stay. It is a hopeless enterprise for any one of them to try and crowd out any other. There is ample room and verge enough, and work enough for all of them. By combining their forces they would gain enormously in public respect, yes and in public support and in effective influence. A state of things in which Judah vexes Ephraim and vice versa to the extent of their several ability is not calculated to impress the general body of the surrounding Philistines as the German students call the outside world, with any very high estimate of the liberalizing virtue of Academical studies. The miserable sectionalism and provincialism which is one great curse of Canada ought not to find itself reflected or even, one might say, exaggerated like the Brocken-spectre on those serene summits from which in part we have a right to look for its cure. Some day perhaps we shall attain to a really organized system of the higher education such as they have in Germany where all the incredibly numerous Universities of the whole country form in a sense only one