

with it; and all endowments given to it for educational purposes are held by it as royal endowments. The vacancies in the Board are filled by nomination of the remaining members, with approval of the Visitor, who has power to appoint without any nomination if the number of members falls below ten. But the nominations are made under certain restrictions. The gentlemen appointed must be residents of Montreal. They must be laymen, not deriving any emolument either directly or indirectly from the college. They must be Protestants, and as far as possible must represent all the Protestant denominations. These qualifications probably give the highest security possible in a community like this for an efficient non-academical governing board, and hitherto their working has been successful. I doubt if any body of men discharging any public duty in Canada has been more efficient and influential or more respected and trusted than the Board of Royal Institution, and I have reason to know that this has tended, by the confidence it inspired, to attract endowments to the University. On my first introduction to the Board in 1855, it struck me as an admirable body of men, and one under which any institution might prosper, and though its composition has since changed by death and removal of its members and by new appointments, it still retains its high qualities, a fact which augurs well for its permanence. It is strictly a non-academical governing Board, whose representative capacity lies in its selection from leading and influential men, representing all sections of the Protestant body in this city, thereby giving to the university a character at once Protestant and non-denominational. We have the more reason to be satisfied with it when we consider the serious failures, in other countries, of merely academical bodies, of regulation by local governments, and of boards of non-resident or denominational trustees. A curious instance is afforded by the history of the Scottish universities. Originally they were governed by independent academical bodies. But under modern conditions this proved altogether insufficient, and various amendments were made constituting new offices and representative boards. The result has been so much conflict and confusion, that a bill is now before Parliament, which is said to meet with general approval, and which transfers the management of finances, the passing of statutes, or ordinances as they are called, and the ap-

pointment and salaries of officers, to a Royal Commission, whose members are chosen by the Crown, and which may be continued as long as the Crown ordains, with the alternative of transferring their powers permanently to a committee of the Privy Council. In short the new act places the Scottish universities under a body very nearly resembling our Board of Royal Institution, except that its powers are to extend, not to one university merely, but to all the universities in Scotland.

THE PRINCIPAL

under the old charter was one of the governors, but under the new charter he is a salaried servant of the university, appointed, in the same manner with the professors, by the governors, and holding office during their pleasure. He is, ex-officio, Vice-chancellor and a member of the corporation. Except in his capacity of member of the corporation he has no legislative function, and is merely an administrative officer, under the statutes and regulations passed by the governors and corporation, beyond the enforcement of which his powers do not extend. He is entitled to preside at all meetings of the faculties and at meetings of the corporation in the absence of the Chancellor, and may discharge teaching duties as assigned to him by the governors. He has general superintendence of the university, and is the ordinary medium of communication between the university and other bodies, and between the different portions of the university itself, and he acts for the university in the public conferring of all degrees. Practically in McGill the substantial power resides with the governors, the corporation and the several faculties; the Principal has merely to see that all members of the university obey the regulations, to harmonize as far as possible the interests of different departments, and to keep up their united working for the common good, as well as to attend to all emergencies of a general or indefinite character that may occur, and to such public reports, exercises or cases of discipline as may affect the whole university or more than one faculty. His position is thus much less autocratic than that of the president of an ordinary American college, and his largest opportunities for usefulness depend on his personal influence and on his right to be the official medium of communication between different parts of the university, which