

McGill University.

McGill University was founded by the Hon. James McGill a Montreal merchant, who died in 1813. A few years before his death Mr. McGill determined to devote his Estate of Burnside, on the slopes of Mount Royal, and a sum of £10,000 to the establishment of a University, one of the Colleges composing it to be called "McGill College." The charge of carrying on the work was committed to the Royal Institution for the advancement of Learning. In 1829 the College was formally opened in "Burnside House," under the Principalship of Dr. Mountain, with three professors. For many years the Arts Faculty had much to contend against, but the Medical School which was organized the same year, coalesced with the "Montreal Medical Institute," and success was soon assured it.

For ten years the work of instruction was carried on in the rooms of the old Mansion, Burnside House, where the Fraser Institute now stands; but the space soon became too confined, and in 1839 the erection of suitable buildings was commenced on the present site. These consisted of the central building and East Wing without connecting corridor, which were formally opened in 1843. For thirty years the University laboured under difficulties which at times seemed insurmountable. The erection of buildings caused a serious drain on the funds of the University, the charter of 1821 was cumbrous and defective, Government support was most meagre, and that private munificence which of late has been the source of her prosperity was then undeveloped. In 1835 Dr. Mountain resigned the Principalship and was succeeded by Dr. Bethune, who after eleven years of office, gave place to E. A. Meredith, afterwards Canadian Minister of the Interior. Principal Meredith was succeeded in 1853 by E. C. Day, LL.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