

by the establishment of public schools for girls on the one hand and University examinations on the other.

LUCY SIMPSON.
Secretary.

June 10, 1871.

Rev. Mr. GIBSON said that it was a pleasing duty to him to move the reception and adoption of the report. He thought he might say for the report that it was very explicit and very modest. This was one of the occasions when a little exaltation might have been pardoned. But he thought the anticipations of success were quite as moderate as the most cold-blooded and unenthusiastic person could have desired to see. There was one sentence in the report which struck him as being of the very greatest importance; that was that women had a right to the highest education for which they could prove themselves qualified. That God had given to woman all the faculties for learning universal experience had demonstrated. In the class at Toronto the ladies had seemed to take most interest in the study of metaphysics, and he was sure from what he knew of Professor Young that they had not gone into the subject superficially. He had not the slightest doubt that ladies would be found able to compete with the sterner sex in all branches of study. If they took the average of school girls and school boys in mixed schools, the average intelligence of the girls would in his belief be found above that of the boys. Therefore he thought that women had a right to the highest education that could be given to them, a moral right; and a political right. And if this was the case, what was the right which gave to young men the exclusive privilege of college education and withheld it from young women. By some the question of expediency might be raised. They would find many who would say, that higher education may turn the minds of ladies from their peculiar duties. But he would ask what were those duties? They would answer, perhaps, household duties. Were they merely those which had to do with eating, drinking and clothing? He pitied the man who considered that his wife's sole duty was to look after his comfort in those respects; or rather he pitied the woman who had such a husband. He had no doubt that a mother's influence in forming the minds of her children was far greater than a father's. The head of the house was more away from home, and had less of that direct influence that the mother always possessed. The writer of a memoir of Professor Wilson, of Edinburgh, had said the whole Wilson family were indebted to their mother for their success. Let them look too at the book of Chronicles, whereas each character was introduced, his mother's name was mentioned. So that it was quite an old story—the power of a mother's influence on the minds at home. People would tell them that ladies who had been educated in the higher spheres of study would neglect their family. But he would say that if a woman had so little conscience as to neglect her family for study she would without that study easily find excuses enough to do so. And he had little doubt that it would be found that those women who had been most thoroughly educated in their youth would perform all those household duties but most faithfully. Another reason that many had for objecting was the fear of the competition of women in the learned professions. However, there was no need to fear this now; for whatever they might do in the future, it was not intended to give a technical course at present. The ladies had proceeded with very great caution. They had proceeded on the principle of raising the funds before they proceeded with the work, which was more than could be said of many undertakings managed by men. There was the want of an elementary superstructure on which to found an education. He thought that was one difficulty which had been spoken of,—this movement would be found to regulate the matter. What was it that gave a standard to our grammar schools but the universities, and therein was to be found the systematic teaching of young men. He believed that this institution would have the same effect on ladies' schools. It had occurred to him that a great deal that had been said, and well said, about the development of our country had been said with one eye shut. He

believed that in nine cases out of ten we shut our eyes to the very best of our resources. It might be all very well to develop our material resources, but we must not forget that we have great intellectual resources which had not been properly developed in the past. He believed that this field, which had previously been so much neglected, was one of the most fertile, and that it was one which would tell in the ages to come. He would appeal to the matrons of Montreal, as well as to the young women, to assist the undertaking, and he trusted to meet with a hearty response.

Sir A. T. GALT, said it gave him a great deal of pleasure to be permitted to second the resolution. He felt that after the explanations which had been given, the subject was fully understood by them all, and after paying a high tribute to the ladies, who had begun this movement and to the ladies of Montreal, he proceeded to say a few words on the general subject of education. The question of education was one of paramount importance, and was receiving the closest attention throughout the world. He was rejoiced to say that in Canada it was receiving due attention and that the education of the masses, was being well looked after. But all the efforts heretofore, in regard to higher education, had been bestowed upon young men. Where so much depended on the education of young women, he thought that they should not hesitate in any way to advance it. It was the mother who gave the character to the children, it was to her that they looked for instruction and help. It was therefore to the future mothers of this country that they should give their attention. It had been said that when the novelty had worn off, the Association might not receive so much support. He quite agreed with the recommendation of the report, and thought that something of the nature of competitive examinations should be introduced. Emulation was one of the strongest elements which they could excite in the young, and he hoped to see it cultivated. There was another element of this subject which had not yet been touched upon. In all communities there were many changes. Opulent people were often reduced to poverty, and there might come a time to many young women when the fact of possessing the diploma of this institution, would be of the utmost importance to her and her family. And if they looked at the means which were afforded for women to make themselves useful to society, he thought that regarded in both aspects, they might feel that they were working in the interests of society in this movement.

The resolution was then carried.

His Lordship, the BISHOP OF MONTREAL AND METROPOLITAN, then moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting entirely recognizes the necessity for exertion in the matters of the higher education of women in Montreal, and supports the association in its endeavour to obtain for them a higher culture than they have heretofore enjoyed."

He said that when he had been asked to move the resolution, he felt that it required some little delicacy in speaking to it, for the reason that it might seem to imply a want of culture heretofore in the ladies of Montreal. He thought that nothing of that kind had been intended. And he might also say that for himself, during his stay in Montreal, he had met with very many ladies of great culture and refinement. What seemed to be wanted was that the women of Montreal should have a better opportunity for self-culture. Women in general laboured under a great disadvantage as compared with men, inasmuch as they had fewer means of fixed definite employment, and especially in this city, where almost every man had some employment. He scarcely knew either, a town where the young men were so universally employed as here. But the case was not the same with our women. They were more or less kept at home, where they had no fixed definite employment. They might be abundantly useful, but still they were not so fully employed as their brothers were. What they wanted to accomplish by this movement was to give them the opportunity to cultivate their minds, which were as capable of culture as men's were. They did not wish to raise them to a transcendental state of culture, but what they wished