

all changes, and go on, bearing fruit from age to age. It will, doubtless, be so here also, and the time will come when the original endowment of McGill will appear but as the little germ from which a great tree has sprung—or as the spring which gives birth to a mighty river.

THE AMENDED CHARTER.

I have referred at some length to these points because they constitute an important element in the origin, not only of the university, but of its constitution, as based on its royal charter. As already stated, this was granted in 1821, and under it were carried on for thirty years the early operations of the university—embarrassed by pecuniary difficulty, owing to the failure of the Government to give the promised public aid, and by the structure of the charter itself, which was cumbrous and unwieldy, and unsuited to a small college in the circumstances of this country. The result was that, after nearly thirty years of struggle, the university, with the exception of its medical faculty, was almost extinct, and that it was without sufficient income even to sustain the scanty staff which it then possessed in the faculty of arts. Its existence at this time seems to be largely due to the persistency with which the late Vice-Principal, Ven. Archdeacon Leach, clung to its interests. It was then that several gentlemen, citizens of Montreal, assumed the responsibility of its renovation, and secured an amended charter under which its latter work has been carried on.

Of the noble band of men who at that time undertook this herculean and, in the view of many, desperate task, Day, Ferrier, McGill, Anderson, Davidson, Coffin, Ramsay, Holmes, Robertson and Dunkin, none has left more of the impress of his mind on our constitution than the last named, the Hon. Christopher Dunkin. Dunkin was a man of high culture and eminent ability. He had passed through a somewhat exceptional university career. The son of a widow with limited means, he entered the University of Glasgow at the age of fifteen, and came out at the end of the session as the highest prizeman in his class. In the meantime the new University of London had been established; and as his mother resided in that city, he naturally left his Glasgow college and entered the