

# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

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## McGill University Gazette

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### Editorials.

#### THE EDITORS' APOLOGY.

With this number closes the connection of the present staff of editors with THE UNIVERSITY GAZETTE; and as the manner in which they have fulfilled their trust has been severely criticized, it seems meet that the reasons, which actuated them in the course adopted, should be stated now. We believe that the affairs of McGill are at a dangerous crisis. Never before had she to compete with such formidable rivals as to-day. Yet this session has seen an attempt made to divide the resources of the University. Then the Faculty of Arts has been guilty of an unheard of stretch of arbitrariness. The Faculty of Law has shown no sign either of improvement or promise of improvement. In the Science Faculty there has been a well-grounded complaint of lack of practicality, of too much unnecessary mathematics in its teaching. Even in Medicine, which is the strongest and most progressive of the four Faculties, there has been some carelessness in the department of practical anatomy. Happily this last defect was at once remedied, when attention was called to it in these columns, and this has been the one golden reward bestowed upon the editors in the performance of an unpleasant duty. A body of men,

ever willing to meet criticism half way, is so rare in the world that we cannot but feel proud that the University has such men in her service. Would that she had more of them! For three years THE GAZETTE has been calling for more effectual teaching in the Faculty of Law. For three years it has been asking for a dining hall. For three years it has been demanding that the Arts Faculty should raise its standard, in order to keep pace with the advance of rival institutions, and of its feeders, the High Schools. These reforms could all be effected without further expenditure of money, yet no response has been made to our appeals. What wonder, then, if this year we adopted a sterner tone; if we attempted, by harsh criticism, to sting the authorities into action; if we denounced their indefensible attempt to establish a new faculty—we say indefensible attempt, because the leader in it, with all his controversial skill could make no other defence than one ridiculous in the eyes of all who have any pretence to logical understanding. Whether our criticism will avail anything remains to be seen. That it has been felt by the authorities we know, since one of them has made anxious attempts to put a stop to it. We do not expect much, however, nor have we much hope for the future, unless a radical change be made in the constitution of the governing bodies. It is too much to ask that men who have never had any real connection with the University, who have little interest in, or knowledge of, educational problems, who have advanced to that stage of life when the affairs of the world are regarded with calm indifference, it is too much to demand that such men should take that vital interest in the University which alone can raise it to eminence through all the obstacles that now environ it. The only reform that can be of lasting benefit to McGill, is one that will substitute her foster children for the cold representatives of the city's wealth, who now perfunctorily rule over her. Unfortunately, a long course of neglect has chilled the warm affection which our graduates should feel for their Alma Mater, and they go on their way with a despair of being able to do aught in her service, which too often ends in utter callousness. If they only would consider how great is their number, and how powerful their combined influence and ability, they might join together in an effort which would raise them to their proper place, as regards McGill, and rescue her from the half-