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## PROF. MACNAUGHTON'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.\*

**A**FTER a year's absence I am glad to find myself back in Queen's once more. Especially at a moment so characteristic of the best life and quality of the place as this is, the first evening meeting of the Conference of Theological Alumni, for the year, and the dedication of this Hall raised by the astonishing initiative, and largely by the generous liberality of the undergraduates to perpetuate the name that means so much to us, and Canada, of George Munro Grant.

Not that I found McGill uncongenial. Closer acquaintance with that institution has greatly added to my respect for it. Although, thanks mainly to their princely patron, Sir William Macdonald, they are comparatively free from our great difficulty, the want of money, they are working there under very serious difficulties of their own, a depressing unsympathetic plutocratic atmosphere, a small population of English-speaking Protestants amid an overwhelming majority of French Catholics to draw their students from, and a school system which though rapidly improving under their influence is still perhaps even less propitious for the welfare of a University than the school system of Ontario itself. And they are doing splendid work. Everyone knows the high

place they hold in medicine and applied science. Their School of Engineering attracts students from all quarters, quite a number from the British Isles. I suppose no Canadian University is nearly so widely known there as McGill. But what is not generally appreciated in Ontario and what we here would do well to note and look to our laurels, is the extraordinary energy and success with which Principal Peterson has raised their Faculty of Arts from what used to be its comparatively low estate, to a point of equipment and efficiency quite equal on the whole in my opinion to anything in Canada. I found in McGill a catholicity of tone, a freedom from parochialism, and academical in-breeding, which reminded me of Queen's. Although the dominant note of the place has hitherto been rather scientific and practical, I found a most refreshingly hearty recognition among my colleagues, not least among the men of science pure and applied of the claims of literature, and on the whole a very encouraging receptiveness in my pupils of my own attempts to illustrate and inculcate these. Altogether my year's work there was certainly a very pleasant and stimulating experience, and I should be ungrateful indeed if I did not always remember

*\*Delivered by Rev. John Macnaughton M. A., Professor of Church History, at the opening of Grant Hall.*