

stantly increasing. The government of Canada, as already stated, have never adequately acknowledged the importance of the McGill endowment, or the efforts of the college authorities ; but the citizens of Montreal have, within the last few years, nobly emulated the liberality of the founder, by contributing, by voluntary subscription, an endowment fund of sixty thousand dollars, of which twenty thousand dollars were given by the Messrs. Molson, to endow a chair of English literature.

It appears, from the above statement of the history of the university, that its present prosperity dates from its reorganization under its new charter in 1852. The contrast between that time and the present is sufficiently striking. In 1851, the committee of the royal institution reported that the buildings were unfinished and threatening to fall into decay ; the grounds were uninclosed and used as a common. The classes in arts contained only six students. Even the students in medicine, owing to the establishment of a rival school, had fallen off to thirty-six. Only one course of law had been delivered in connection with the university. It had no preparatory school. Its total income was estimated at £540 per annum, while the expenditure, even with the small staff then employed, amounted to £702. There was consequently a large and increasing debt. The medical faculty was self-supporting, and maintained a high reputation. The faculty of arts was sustained solely by the exertions of the vice-principal.

In 1850, the university presents a different picture. Its original buildings are still unfinished, but are kept in use and in repair, and others more suitable to the present wants of the university have been added. Its grounds are inclosed and improved. Its faculties are fully organized and largely attended by students. It has a flourishing preparatory school, and affiliated normal and model schools. Its revenues from property and fees of tuition have been increased more than tenfold. A library, apparatus, and collections in natural history have been accumulated. It has a staff of thirty-two professors and regular teachers, and eight hundred persons derive benefit from its teaching. This great expansion has been achieved in seven years, by the ability and energy of the governing body, and by the liberality of the citizens of Montreal, sparingly assisted by public grants ; but the university must still be regarded as but in its infancy, and as destined, under the blessing of Providence, to attain to still greater usefulness and importance.

I have avoided dwelling on the early history of the university in detail. Its struggles and its failures are profitable now only for the lessons that they teach. But in this point of view they are not unimportant. The questions then agitated respecting the religious char-