

is interesting to know that Capt. Howe came to Canada with his regiment early in the century and was stationed for some time in Montreal, the home for half a century of his distinguished son. Dr. Howe was educated at the famous Elizabeth College School, Guernsey, and Trinity College, Dublin, in both of which seats of learning he distinguished himself. Afterwards he resided for some years in France, and acquired that perfect knowledge of the French language, which was of such signal service to him in his literary work in this country.\*

Soon after taking his degree, Mr. Howe became private tutor to the youngest son of the Earl of Ellesmere. This led to the offer being made to him in 1848 of the important post of Rector of the High School, Montreal. Mr. Howe, not being desirous of making teaching his profession, declined the offer. But Lord Ellesmere, knowing the great importance of the position to the well-being of England's most important Colony, and Mr. Howe's peculiar qualifications for the work, persuaded him to accept it. The nomination was then in the hands of Lord Colborne, and Professor Pillans, of the University of Edinburgh. Mr. Howe was promised by these gentlemen a good salary and a suitable residence. On arriving in Montreal, he was indeed kindly received by the Board of Directors; but he found that these two important material matters of a stipend and a house existed only in the imagination of the Patrons. There was a School House but no stipend and no Rector's Lodge. This was indeed disheartening. But with that indomitable courage, which was so great a characteristic of his whole life, he set to work to make the best of things such as they were; and soon produced order and discipline out of the chaos which he found. His admirable adaptedness to the position and work was soon seen and felt. The school flourished. But many years elapsed before the school finances sufficed to provide for the Rector even a tolerably fair income.

In 1860, the Faculty of Arts in McGill University was reorganized, and there being again no funds, Dr. Howe consented to undertake the work of the Professorships of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy without remuneration. And so, day by day, for months and years, when his school work from nine till four was over, his College Lectures began and extended from four o'clock unto any hour

of the night. When it is remembered that to this must be added all the other work, financial and otherwise, attached to these two positions, the marvel is that he did not soon quite break down under the burthen. But such was his mental vigour, his love for work, and his splendid physique that nothing seemed to hurt him. When the College was sufficiently established to pay its Professors, Dr. Howe made way for younger men, with the title of *Professor Emeritus*. One could have wished that the far-famed University of McGill, on his retirement after so many years of valuable and gratuitous labour, might have found some more substantial recognition of his benefits, so lovingly bestowed upon it, than an empty title *et proterea nihil*.

But this was not all for which McGill has reason to hold the name of Dr. Howe in grateful remembrance. He was also a fellow of the College and for many years Matriculation Examiner to its Medical Faculty. He was too for some years (though this was not strictly McGill work) President of the Board of Examiners for the Preliminary Examination of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec. One of the most touching incidents of his funeral was a beautiful wreath of flowers sent to be placed upon his coffin from Abbé Verreault, his old friend and fellow examiner, with the legend, *Avec les adieux d'un vieil ami*.

But his great work was that of Rector of the High School, Montreal, which he discharged for forty-three years. The importance of this position can scarcely be exaggerated. It brought him into the most intimate relations for nearly half a century with the great majority of the sons of the leading English-speaking men of the Commercial Metropolis of Canada, and that at the time of life when young people are most open to receive lasting impressions.

Dr. Howe's schoolboys and their parents were not slow to appreciate his great ability as a teacher, the many-sidedness of his intellectual gifts, and, best of all, the nobility of his character as a refined English Gentleman of the best type.

The justice and fairness of his rule, his keen insight into character, his singular freedom from self-consciousness and self-seeking, his devotion to duty, whatever that duty was, his never failing courtesy, could not but leave their impress upon the boys whom he taught and trained. And it is safe to say that he did for those