

the battle of life, while he endeavours to avoid the formation of any habits inimical to the interests of his fellow-students or injurious to himself. In all this I proceed on the assumption that it is the business of a university to train young men and women for noble lives, not so much to teach them to do something as to train them to be something. Perhaps the tendency most to be feared in our age and country is that towards practical and profitable work without the previous education that should develop fully the mental powers and form the character. This tendency it is the duty of the university by all means to counteract, as one that will lower our national character and thereby prevent our highest success. This principle being kept in view, the cultivation of interest and enthusiasm for college work at once secures progress and peace. In short, the control of young men or young women is to be exercised rather in the way of inducing them to like their work and duty than by any influence of the nature of coercion or restraint. In this way only can they be trained to control themselves and, when their turn comes, to control others. They who would rule must themselves learn willing obedience. Of course, there is place here for all the elevating influence of spiritual religion, and there is scope for that most important power which arises from the example of punctuality, self-denial and honest work on the part of the professors. I fervently pray that the good traditions of McGill in all these respects may ever be maintained.

The religious life of McGill University has been of a quiet and unofficial character. We have not sought to make any parade of religious services as such, but by personal influence and example to foster piety among the students and to facilitate as far as possible their taking advantage of the religious privileges afforded in the city. In this connection I attach paramount importance to the spontaneous action of the students themselves, more especially as manifested in their Christian Associations. These have, I think, been sources of unmixed good, and have largely contributed to maintain and extend religious life. I could wish that they should have from the university or its friends means to provide proper accommodation for meetings and social reunions, and that the utmost aid and countenance should be extended to them by the college authorities.