

is now open to both sexes. Opinions are divided on the subject of the education of women, and many question the expediency of this step; but whatever may be one's opinion as to the propriety or fitness of opening the liberal professions to the fair sex and of allowing women to practice as advocates, notaries, physicians, engineers or surveyors, however much one may be impressed with the idea that woman's true sphere is in her home, from whence her influence, obtained by loving words and kindly acts in the family circle, can sway, by the actions and votes of those subject to it, even the course of public affairs, all must in truth agree, that the fair sex is equal in intellect to the other, and that women should therefore enjoy the same educational advantages as men. And seeing the influence exercised by the fair sex, which is felt directly within the family circle and indirectly everywhere without it, would it not be for the greater good of the community to give to women the widest educational facilities? The current of public opinion seems to be setting that way, and McGill has already opened one of her faculties to women, and, if it gathers strength, the current may yet break down the barriers which close the other faculties to them, as it has done in other universities in this and in other countries. I do not know that this will occur, but one thing I can predict, and that is, that should at anytime the barriers fall, the well-known liberality of the citizens of Montreal will at the same time supply the means to extend their facilities. The reproach has frequently been thrown at our fair city of Montreal that her citizens think only of her commercial advantages and of the accumulation of wealth, and that they altogether neglect literary culture. This slander is refuted by our institutes, our art associations, our schools and our colleges, and by the liberal endowments made by so many of her citizens to McGill and to institutions of a literary character. These men felt that the spread of education was for the common weal, and far from thinking only of themselves, they were willing to place a part of what they had earned by their own toil on joint account with their fellow-citizens in the interest of public instruction. And they were wise in their generation, for they knew that knowledge is power and that all advance in knowledge is for the general good. Graduates in arts—your knowledge will give you power to unravel the mysteries of nature, to study the skies, to discover the secrets of the land and the sea, and in every day of life to perform understandingly the work set out for you. Graduates in applied science—your knowledge will give you power to provide the requirements of modern society to carry us rapidly