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J. K. KENNEDY, Box 344.
Contributions may be addressed to J. C. COLBY, 73 McGill College Avenue.

Editorial.

THE Governors have doubtless thanked Mr. McDonald, on behalf of the University, for the very timely Christmas-box that he has presented to us. THE FORTNIGHTLY feels sure that the pleasure of being a Governor, is at least doubled when one can feel confident that any gift of University equipment will be provided with an endowment amply sufficient for its maintenance. We rejoice also to think that Mr. McDonald realizes his self-imposed responsibilities, and has made his donations complete in this respect. We sincerely hope that neither "reckless expenditure" nor "frills" has necessitated this supplementary estimate—doubtless it has been a long-foreseen necessity—and pending an announcement of the endowment of the Royal Victoria College (which many regard as the "New Arts Building"), we shall not cry poor for Arts. And this leads us to confess that we read with a feeling of no little resentment the reflections called forth by our recent good portion in the *Journal of Queen's University*, published on Christmas day.

In a four column article "McGill University Present and Past," the writer observes that our latest benefaction but points to a prevalent tendency for "Merchant princes to spend millions on the founding and equipping the faculties of applied science in connection with universities, whose arts' faculties, their very soul and centre,

are starving for the bare necessities of life." We venture to think that, at McGill at least, the reflection must be regarded as beside the mark. Please, Mr. 'Varsity, is the arts' faculty at Toronto University starving for the bare necessities of life?

Further on we read "The prosperity of McGill of late years is one striking example of our national tendency. Originally the arts' faculty was its pride and boast, the central structure round which the other faculties were grouped. Now, however, the economic faculties, those which train the student for an income by their rich endowments, have completely dwarfed their alma mater, until, like some old mansion in a garden overtaken by the growth of a city and surrounded by modern sky scrapers, what was once a fairly imposing structure now occupies the bottom of a well." Surely our Faculty of Arts is not the deserted and pity-provoking body the writer has in his mind. Our Faculty of Arts is prepared to compete with the best in the classics and natural sciences. Our chairs of Mathematics and Philosophy may well be the pride of any Canadian College.

We cannot reproduce at length the extracts taken from the *Montreal Gazette* of June 24th, 1820. They remind us that our original endowment consisted of ten thousand pounds and the estate of Burnside.