

falling off in Scotland, among others that of Sir William Hamilton, were quoted. The Lancasterian system was a merely mechanical one. There was once a Lancasterian school in this city, and a branch of it still existed under the care of certain worthy ladies who devoted themselves to the cause of educating the children of the poor; but the system they adopted was not by any means the Lancasterian one. This school was effecting a great deal of good. Two years ago Nova Scotia had adopted the Canadian system; for that reason he would say very little about it, more particularly as there was scarcely time as yet to arrive at a conclusion on the subject. But as regards New Brunswick, a worse system could not have been adopted if human stupidity had been taxed to its utmost extent. The Government of that Province expended a vast deal of money in the cause of education, but did not take the trouble to see that it was properly applied. It also insisted on loyalty and patriotism being taught in the schools, while the books used were nearly all American, and scholars are permitted to use any book they please. There was no uniformity in the process. These facts and a host of others were fully supported by extracts from the head School Superintendent's reports which the lecturer read from. Nearly all the remaining portion of the lecture was devoted to the Common Schools of the city. Our school-houses would compare favorably with those of any other of the cities in Western Canada, and in many cases they were superior; so would the attendance as well as the instruction in the various branches of education. He showed by comparing figures of certain past years, that the general school expenses were being gradually lessened, and said that they must of necessity decrease still more when the expense incurred by the erection of buildings and the purchase of sites has been wiped off. The expense per pupil, yearly, he stated to be \$4.40; in Toronto it was \$9.64; in Hamilton, \$9.52; in London, \$8.70; and in Ottawa, \$12.85. These figures showed that education in this city was fifty per cent. cheaper than in any other city of the province. The education of the poor was the weak spot in our Common School system, and the defect must be met and grappled with; something must be done, and the sooner the better. The mode of electing country school superintendents in Canada West he said was altogether political, and should be condemned. Mr. Woods closed an able and well-delivered lecture with a few timely words of advice to school trustees, teachers and parents. At the close of the lecture, the Chairman, Mr. John Creighton, Police Magistrate, called the attention of the trustees and the city fathers to the many idle children of both sexes and all ages, who wander about the city, and for whom something might and should be done. What was most wanted was a suitable teacher who would be devoted to the work. Votes of thanks were tendered to the chairman and the lecturer.—*Kingston Chronicle and News.*

—CONVOCATION OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.—The annual Convocation of the University was held May 2nd, in the William Molson Hall, the Hon. James Ferrier, the senior Governor, in the chair. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, regretted that the Chancellor, Mr. Justice Day, was unavoidably absent. He then called upon the Rev. Dr. Leach to offer up prayer. The Registrar, W. C. Baynes, B.A., read the report of the last convocation. The following gentlemen were elected fellows for the ensuing year: *Faculty of Law*.—Professor Torrance and Mr. C. Peers Davidson, B.A., B.C.L. *Faculty of Medicine*.—Doctors Godfrey and Trenholm. *Faculty of Arts*.—Messrs. Brown, Chamberlin, and R. S. Leach. *Award of Prizes and Honours to Students in Arts* as follows, viz.:

John Spratt Archibald, Prince of Wales Gold Medal; Colin Campbell Stewart Sir William Logan Gold Medal; Alexander Duncan, James Carmichael, and John McKenzie. Valedictory delivered by Mr. Stewart.

The following gentlemen had the degree of M.A. conferred upon them:—O. Peers Davidson, L. H. Davidson, Archibald Duff, N. H. Trenholm, Lemuel Cushing, R. A. Ramsay, William Hall, David Ross McCord, John Redpath Dougall, and Donald Baynes.

Principal Dawson stated that the only degree other than ordinary, granted in the past session, was the *ad eundem* degree of B.A., to Rev. O. Fortin, B.A., of Bishop's College, Lennoxville. He then proceeded to say:—The past session has been one singularly uneventful. We have no great gains to record and no great losses to deplore. Our number of students has maintained itself at its former standard, but except in the faculty of Medicine has not increased. Our number of graduates will be somewhat larger than on any previous occasion, though in Arts, owing to special causes, it is this year exceptionally small. In these circumstances I think it my duty to direct your attention not to the past but to the future, more especially in connection with the great political change on which this

country is about to enter. That change appears to be in its general character of the nature of a new and more independent national existence, and may therefore be fitly compared here to the removal of the student from tutelage of his college profession to the position of a graduate retaining little more than a nominal connection with the University. Whether this country has satisfactorily passed its examinations—whether it has gone through a sufficient course of preparatory training to fit it for that diploma of nationality which has been obtained for it at the hands of the mother country—are questions which I may leave to those who have sought the degree and to those who have granted it. Our concern is with the farther question of the bearing of this change on education, more especially on education in Lower Canada, and more especially still on the higher education with which we are here more immediately connected. These questions I desire shortly to discuss in as plain and practical a manner as possible, in order that the attention of our graduates and of our friends particularly directed to them. In the first place I would refer to the fact that a weighty additional responsibility is thrown on us in this matter of education. There has been no union of the educational systems of the various provinces. On the contrary in our case there has been disunion. Heretofore we have been at least nominally allied with the people of Upper Canada, now we are separated from them. We stand alone in Lower Canada as an English minority; and the responsibilities thus thrown upon us, relates not merely to the provision of education for our own children, and the perpetuation of the means of instruction to coming generations, but also the example which we are to exhibit in Lower Canada, and the position which we are to take as helps or hindrances to education in British America in general. On our due performance of the duties devolving on us, depends more than upon any other consideration, the rank which our children and their descendants are to hold in this province, and in the future realm of Canada, to be constituted under the new Act of Union. Nor can we hope that we shall be materially aided either by those of our fellow subjects, who upon religious and national grounds differ from us as to the methods of education, nor by the majorities in the other Provinces who naturally look with jealousy and dislike on the assertion of the rights of minorities. We may next consider the conditions under which our Protestant education is to exist, and the demands made upon us by these conditions. I believe that the provision for general education in Lower Canada, made under the new constitution, is as favourable as the circumstances would permit, after the failure of the Amended School Law last summer. I believe they are more favourable than it would have been possible to secure, but for the exertions of leading and influential friends of education in this Province, among whom may be mentioned Mr. Galt, Mr. Rose, and our Chancellor. It is provided that the existing privileges of minorities in the matter of education shall not be diminished, and that under certain circumstances a right to interfere on behalf of minorities shall remain in the hands of the General Government and Legislature. In our case more particularly it is provided that the same rights as to separate schools which are possessed by the Roman Catholic population of Upper Canada shall be extended to the Protestants in Lower Canada. These are important safeguards which fairly and fully carried out might not only effectually protect our interests, but remove some at least of the existing legal disabilities of Protestants in Lower Canada in regard to education. Their practical effect, however, depends very much on the manner in which they shall be reduced to practice, and this again on the amount of interest which we as a people exhibit in the welfare of our institutions of education. I would especially indicate the following as fairly deserving of others: 1st, It was in the nature of the case impossible that any constitutional guarantee could be given for the continuance and amount of educational grants. Yet upon this will practically depend in great part the effect of the law. Let us suppose for example that while in Upper Canada the liberal provision for common schools, normal schools, grammar schools, and colleges should be continued, that in Lower Canada these aids, or any portion of them, should be removed or greatly diminished, the equality of the minority here with the majority there in respect to educational rights would at once be destroyed, though the law might in other respects remain the same; and while the majority here would be able to fall back upon its rich educational and ecclesiastical endowments, the minority would be left solely to the precarious recourse of voluntary contributions. I do not say that it is likely to be the case, but I would invite the attention of the friends of education to its possibility, and that any such result may be averted or provided for. Again, we have always maintained that our case is unlike that of the minorities in the other Provinces in several essential respects.