

ciation and others, inviting their aid toward the establishment of classes for the young ladies who had applied, and who at that time were eight in number. I may add that several of the professors, indeed all those concerned in the work of the first year in Arts, signified to me their willingness to give all the assistance in their power, that Canon Norman entered very heartily into the project, and that the Rev. Dr. Wilkes and a number of ladies of influence, several of them connected with the Ladies' Association, were also most earnest in desiring to advance the interests of the candidates for higher education.

Let it be observed that there was nothing in these proceedings to commit either McGill or Bishop's College to any course with reference to separate or mixed education for women. The object was merely to provide for the candidates actually desirous for education, till the universities or one of them should undertake the work in any way that might be determined on.

THE ENDOWMENT OF THE HON. DONALD A. SMITH.

During the meeting of the British Association I dismissed the matter from my mind, intending to give it attention when the meeting should be over. But one morning, while I was in the geological section, I was told that a gentleman desired to see me, and on going out I found my friend the Hon. Mr. Smith, who asked if it was desired to establish collegiate classes for women, and stated that in that case he was prepared to give the sum of \$50,000 toward the object, on conditions which he would state in a letter which he proposed to write. I confess that the coincidence of the demand for higher education made by those who had so great claims upon us, and the offer of so liberal a benefaction by a gentleman to whom no application for aid had been made on my part, seemed to me to constitute one of those rare opportunities for good which occur but seldom to any man, and

which are to be accepted with thankfulness and followed up with earnest effort. From that time to the meeting of September 20th—whose results have already been stated—the subject occupied my closest attention as to the measures which might be taken, not now as an extra-academical effort, but under the statutes and regulations of the university, to provide with the least possible delay the educational privileges desired by the intending students, so that they might begin their work at the opening of the present session. I was not a co-educationist, but, had I been so, I am sure that I should have acted in the same way, and had the endowment been offered for co-education, I should have accepted it as a providential indication in the case, at whatever sacrifice to myself.

This completes the history of our effort for the higher education of women up to the point at which I introduced it in my first letter; and I thank God that we have been able to do what we have done up to this time, and desire also to express my sincere gratitude to the many friends and members of the university, from the chancellor downward, who have taken part in the work, or have diminished its labours and anxieties by their advice and sympathy.

I have introduced this little history deliberately at this point, because it enables us to contemplate with more hopefulness the difficulties which still lie before us and which I do not desire to underrate.

POSSIBLE PROVISION FOR THE WORK OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH YEARS.

In the third and fourth years our classes require to be conducted in a different manner from that which applies to those of the first and second years. Up to the intermediate examination all students take the same curriculum; but beyond this point they are allowed to select to a certain extent the subjects they shall study, and this causes our classes to divide in the senior years into several distinct lines of educational work. The