

growth continues in a natural manner we may hope that when the present sapling becomes a stately tree it will preserve its regularity and symmetry, and will be so adjusted and proportioned in its parts that no storm will uproot it or break it down, and that it will stand as a thing of beauty and of perennial fruitfulness, as "a tree planted by the streams of water that bringeth forth its fruit in its season." Let us bear in mind that its growth is to be promoted and its safety secured, not by continual attempts to bend it hither and thither, to lop off a branch here and there, or to cut into some shape that pleases present fancies, but by giving its roots due nourishment and allowing it freedom to develop itself in the air and in the sunlight. The three great enemies it has to dread are the borers and caterpillars that nestle in the wood and foliage, the ruthless woodman who would girdle its trunk or cut down its branches, and the lack of due nourishment from the soil which supports it.

To drop the figure, we have to dread in our circumstances : First, a selfish or reckless spirit growing up among ourselves, and a want of that enlightened devotion to the cause of education and the common good which characterized the founders and early friends of the university ; Secondly, the effects of such unwise legislation as that which has recently consigned the control of our faculty of law to the tender mercies of an irresponsible professional board, on which the university has no representative ; Thirdly, a failure of that aid and support on the part of the Protestant population of this city which has so far sustained us so liberally. I have space to say a few words only as to the last.

Hitherto McGill University has had the greatest cause to be thankful for the enlightened liberality of the citizens of Montreal, and it has often seemed as if that liberality was forthcoming just at the junctures when some pressing want was staring us in the face, without means of meeting it. The original endowment of Mr. McGill came at a great crisis in the affairs of this province, when there was danger that no adequate provision would be made for the educational wants of its English population. I can never forget the liberal subscriptions of 1856, which, headed by the endowment of the Molson chair of English, gave the first augury of success in