

THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OF MCGILL.

BEING THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY LECTURE OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, FOR THE SESSION OF 1893-94.

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Having been invited by the acting Principal and the Corporation to deliver once more the annual University lecture, this has appeared to be an occasion on which you would bear with me in tracing some of the footsteps of the past, as a suitable close to the official work of nearly a lifetime, and as a farewell address to the friends and colleagues with whom I have laboured so long and with so much happiness to myself. We may have perfect faith in the practical wisdom of the apostolic maxim, "forgetting the things that are behind, press forward to those that are before." Yet we may have equal faith in recalling the memories of the past, in "remembering the mercies that are of old," as well as the errors and shortcomings of former years, that we may draw lessons from all as to the present and the future. It may, for instance, be interesting, perhaps even useful, to young men, to know how I first became connected with McGill.

My plans for life lay in an entirely different direction. I had prepared myself, as far as was possible at the time, for field work in geology; and my ambition was to secure employment of this kind; or next to this, to have the privilege of teaching my favourite science, with sufficient spare time to