

other the future bishop and the Montreal merchant are unknown to me. It is certain, however, that they were friends, and that the young man who had come to Canada with such bright hopes of educational usefulness, destined for the time to be disappointed, and the wealthy citizen meditating how best to disarm the opposition which had so long deprived Lower Canada of the benefits of education, had much in common. It seems at least highly probable that Strachan had a large share in giving to Mr. McGill's wishes the form which they afterwards assumed, and there are some reasons for believing that Mr. McGill had hoped that his college might have attracted to it the abilities of the young teacher who seemed slighted in Upper Canada. It is also known that in the first attempt to organize McGill University in 1823, Strachan was invited to a professorship; but the career opening to him in Upper Canada was already too tempting to permit him to aid in this way the project of his old friend.

The value of the property bequeathed by Mr. McGill was estimated at the time of his death, at £30,000; and it has since become much greater, owing to the growth of the city. The sum was not large in comparison with many other educational bequests; but it would be difficult to estimate its value to Canada in general, and to Montreal in particular. Gathering around it the gifts of other liberal men, it has sustained the McGill University, and carried it on to its present point of usefulness and success as a source of literary and scientific culture. Hundreds of professional men in all parts of Canada bear testimony to its value; and the city derives from it much of its higher character as a centre of learning and practical science. Indirectly, it has benefited the cause of common and Grammar-school education, through the action of the Royal Institution, through the services of students and graduates as teachers, and through the McGill Normal school, which, though supported by Government, would scarcely have been established but for the influence of the college. Those who have in these ways received its educational benefits are to be found in all parts of the country, contributing by superior skill and intelligence to the common good. If the future may be anticipated from the past, its utility will, in the time to come, go on increasing and widening,

growing with the growth of our country and pervading all departments of useful and honorable occupation. The experience of older nations has shown that such educational endowments survive all changes, and go on, bearing fruit from age to age. It will, doubtless, be so here also, and the time will come when the original endowment of McGill will appear but as the little germ from which a great tree has sprung—or as the spring which gives birth to a mighty river.

THE AMENDED CHARTER.

I have referred at some length to these points, because they constitute an important element in the origin not only of the university, but of its constitution, as based on its royal charter. As already stated, 'his was granted in 1821, and under it were carried on for thirty years the early operations of the university—embarrassed by pecuniary difficulty, owing to the failure of the Government to give the promised public aid, and by the structure of the charter itself, which was cumbersome and unwieldy, and unsuited to a small college in the circumstances of this country. The result was that, after nearly thirty years of struggle, the university, with the exception of its medical faculty, was almost extinct, and that it was without sufficient income even to sustain the scanty staff which it then possessed in the faculty of arts. Its existence at this time seems to have been largely due to the persistency with which the late Vice-Principal, Ven. Archdeacon Leach, clung to its interests. It was then that several gentlemen, citizens of Montreal, assumed the responsibility of its renovation, and secured an amended charter under which its later work has been carried on.

Of the noble band of men who at that time undertook this herculean and, in the view of many, desperate task, Day, Ferrier, McGill, Anderson, Davidson, Coffin, Ramsay, Holmes, Robertson and Dunkin, none has left more of the impress of his mind on our constitution than the last named, the Hon. Christopher Dunkin. Dunkin was a man of high culture and eminent ability. He had passed through a somewhat exceptional university career. The son of a widow with limited means, he entered the University of Glasgow at the age of fifteen, and came off at the end of the session as the highest prizeman in his class. In the meantime the new University of London had been established; and as his mother resided in that