

which they look to enable them to make their way in the world.

As President Loudon so well said in his recent Convocation address: "Any movement in the direction of withdrawing the privileges of University education from the poor, and placing them in the power of the rich, is a national mistake. It is surely undesirable to bar the intellectual progress of the talented son of the poor man by the prohibitive fee, it is surely wrong to set up a standard which discriminates against the poor and in favor of the rich, and it is just as surely a national loss if the talents of any man fall short of their legitimate development. . . . Of course it is a rough and ready way of meeting objections to say, 'If people want higher education let them pay for it.' Many of those who use this argument are the very persons who have everything to lose and but little to gain by its application. If education were a possession which a man might acquire and use for himself alone the argument might have some force, though it still would be a mistake and an injustice to bar out the poor man's son; but in education no man liveth to himself, and what he acquires redounds indirectly to the profit of the community and the nation as a whole."

But, when all is said, \$50 or \$60 cannot be regarded as a very high figure to pay for such education as our Universities are now offering. So long as security is taken that the poor student, of adequate capacity or attainments, is not shut out by inability to pay even this comparatively small fee, there is little ground for criticism or complaint against the action which our Universities have recently taken under stress of financial difficulties. In McGill the offer of a considerable number of Entrance exhibitions makes it possible for the student who may not be blessed with much of this world's goods to surmount the pecuniary obstacles to a University course.

It may not be out of place to point out that in one most important respect McGill is at a conspicuous disadvantage relatively to the University of Toronto. The latter finds its constituency ready at hand in the whole population of the Province of Ontario and of the West. An excellent public school system provides an ever-open way which leads from the threshold of the primary school to the doors of the University. On the other hand the home constituency of McGill is practically limited to the Protestant population of the Province of Quebec, or about one-sixth of the total population of the province. But the character of its teaching and the fame of its Professional Faculties exact a large tribute from the country at large. A considerable majority of the men students in the University at the present time have come up from other provinces and the United States, while in the Faculty of Medicine the number of undergraduates who have come up from Ontario alone almost exactly equals the number from the Province of Quebec. In the light of such results it is conceived that McGill may legitimately aspire to be *the national University of Canada*. That aspiration has been made possible in great measure by the devoted services of the Board of Governors, and the open-handed generosity of many of its members. For a long time past the merchant princes and the leaders of the professions in Montreal have accounted it a high honor to be elected to this Board; and, once elected, they have shown their public spirit by untiring devotion to the welfare of the University, by lavish gifts of service, time, and money. None have been more animated by this spirit than the present Board, and the friends of McGill are confident that nothing will be left undone which reasonably can be done to strengthen and improve the high position which it has attained in the rank of Universities.