

71  
Dr. James F. Fowlie  
Professor of Spanish and Portuguese.

112 Durocher Street

Montreal, November 6th, 1922.

Dear Sir Arthur,

It may appear presumption on the part of an old traveller and practical educationist of over forty years standing to congratulate you on your recent utterances on the subject of higher education in Canada, but when I assure you that perhaps no man in Montreal has a better right to do so I believe you will graciously pardon my ~~apparent~~ temerity.

In the first place I am glad to observe that you have become more decidedly convinced than you were when you addressed the St James Literary Society last year that the cultural side of the present day university education must receive greater attention if our universities are <sup>again to become</sup> ~~as~~ they were wont to be the breeding places of distinguished scholars and big personalities as distinct from professional mediocrities.

You may remember perhaps that in speaking to your address I insisted on the fact that all round we are not producing the splendid type of university man to-day ~~as~~ we did fifty years ago when I was a student; and I particularly mentioned that <sup>in my country this</sup> ~~it~~ was the result of the old parish school system of education in Scotland ~~and~~ <sup>when</sup> as I knew it ~~as~~ a boy in Aberdeenshire. There every parish schoolmaster was a graduate of Aberdeen University and very often an honours man in classics and his crowning glory as a teacher was to send forward every year two or three lads to the bursary competition. Many of those farmer boys, most of them with very little cash in their pockets, gained bursaries and went direct from the parish school to the university; and it not infrequently happened that the boys from the country beat those educated in the swell grammar schools of the larger centres, even in-