

higher education. No investment has had richer result; it is like a spring widening into a mighty river.

For thirty years the University struggled on, and in 1852 a noble band of men undertook its renovation under a less cumbersome charter. Let us record their names:—Day, Ferrier, McGill, Anderson, Holmes, Davidson, Coffin, Robertson, Ramsay, and Dunkin.

The new charter brought the institution directly under the influence of Imperial patronage by creating the Queen's representative its visitor, thus placing it beyond the reach of locality and party. Next in order comes the Board of Royal Institution, whose president is *ex-officio* the Chancellor, and whose functions at one time extended to all the schools in the Province. The Board is self-perpetuating, and whatever may be said of the principle of the system, the fact remains that the University has prospered under the management of this body of men. The experience of the Scotch Universities teaches that an Academic Board is not productive of the best results; indeed, a Bill is now before Parliament to arrange their Government on much the same basis as that of McGill. After the Governors in authority stands the Principal, who, except as a member of Corporation, has no legislative function, but he has general superintendence of the University, and is the ordinary medium of communication between the University and other bodies and the public, and between different portions of the University itself, and he acts for the University in the public conferring of all degrees. Some of his opportunities for usefulness depend on his personal influence, and it is just here Sir Wm. Dawson has succeeded; he has smoothed asperities, he has prevented conflicts of jurisdiction, he has extended hospitality to friends and strangers, and he has aided students and graduates individually and personally. When Sir Wm. Dawson came to McGill the Museum collection consisted of one stone, in the secretary's drawer, and until now he has had a personal supervision over every detail of the whole institution. It is not to be expected that his successor—long may his advent be deferred—can take up these multifarious duties, and some division of labour should be made. At present there are twenty-nine Fellows, and the Corporation numbers forty-four members, whose function is purely educational, with no control of property income, salaries, or appointments. During this time McGill has taken a firm root in the nation's life, and has spread its influence in every direction through the main channel and the affiliated schools.

JOHN READE—POET AND ESSAYIST.

There are few men in whom the body so reveals the soul as in Mr. Reade. With slender hands, thin wrists, lithe frame, active in all its movements, and always restive; a face strangely lined with thought, square brow, surmounted with hair as incurable as his soul, and arching a pair of piercing eyes; he is the beau ideal of the poet of the heart.

He was born at Ballyshannon, County Donegal, Ireland, on the 13th of the closing month in the year that steeped Canada in Canadian blood, 1837.

He has been a student all his life, passing through Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, into Queen's College, Belfast, and studying law and theology after his visit to Canada. Of newspaper work and school teaching he has done his share, and for seventeen years has been on the staff of the *Montreal Gazette*, his position as literary editor dating from 1874.

At the age of nineteen Mr. Reade came to Canada, and young as he was, established, with some friends, the *Montreal Literary Magazine*, which had the fate that most of its successors have suffered. Three years later he took up the study of law, but dropped that for the position of rector in the Lachute Academy, which he held until 1862.

But study was his mistress, and he prepared himself for the English Church, being ordained by Bishop Fulford in 1864-5, and labouring in the Eastern Townships. In 1868-9 the old *cacoethes scribendi* seized him, and as a compromise between his calling and his literary inclinations, he took the editorship of a Church of England journal in this city.

In 1870 appeared his first and, unfortunately, his only volume of verse so far. It was entitled "Merlin and other Poems," and for a copy sent to Her Majesty, he received a warm letter of thanks, while we believe the Prince of Wales, then travelling in Canada, expressed great delight at the ode, "Dominion Day."

As a poet Mr. Reade ranks high. His verses have a subtle charm, and his lyrics have all the tenderness that at times one thinks only an Irishman can express.

He seems never to have forgotten his native land, and in his poem "Thalatta!" sings sadly, and yet how sweetly, of his old home:—

I.

In my ear is the moan of the pines—in my
heart is the song of the sea,
And I feel his salt breath on my face as he
showers his kisses on me;
And I hear the wild scream of the gulls, as they
answer the call of the tide,
And I watch the fair sails as they listen like
gems on the breast of a bride.