

education; but this infant Hercules was, according to the testimony of Abbe Ferland, in his life of Bishop Du Plessis, "strangled in its cradle" by a remonstrance written by Du Plessis. In 1801, the project was revived, and the Act for the establishment of the Royal Institution was passed; but the new scheme was for the time foiled by the refusal of the Roman Catholic clergy to act on the board; so that, as another learned priest, Rev. M. (now Bishop) Langevin, informs us in his "*Cours de Pedagogie*," it was without result, "thanks to the energetic vigilance of the Roman Catholic clergy." Mr. McGill was familiar with these movements, and no doubt was somewhat displeased with the "energetic vigilance" above referred to, and with the yielding of the Government to such opposition. He knew what colleges and a school system had done for his native country, and that the withholding of such a system from the new settlers in this province would involve semi-barbarianism, leading to poverty, discontent, superstition, irreligion, and a possible war of races. In so far as these evils have been averted from the Province of Quebec, he has certainly contributed to the result more than any other man of his time.

A second circumstance which may have aided Mr. McGill in his resolve was of a different and more personal character. In 1897, General Simcoe, the first Governor of Upper Canada, and his Executive Council had decided to establish a seminary of higher learning in that province. They had invited Mr. Strachan, a graduate of St. Andrew's, to organize this institution. He arrived early in 1799, but only to find that his patron, Gen. Simcoe, had been removed, and that the plan had fallen to the ground. Greatly disappointed by this, Mr. Strachan opened a school in Kingston, and subsequently occupied, as a clergyman of the Church of England, the mission of Cornwall, and commenced the Grammar School at that place, where many men, subsequently of note in Upper Canada, were educated. A year before McGill's death, Strachan was transferred to Toronto, of which diocese he was afterwards Bishop. The precise circumstances which introduced to each 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