

Shortt

LE

3

M213 D2

JAMES MCGILL AND THE ORIGIN OF HIS UNIVERSITY.

BY J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.

Condensed from papers in *Barnard's American Journal of Education*, 1859,
and *The Dominion Monthly*, 1870.

In young and progressive communities, the demands which material things make on the capital and labor of the people are too great to permit much to be done for the cause of literary and scientific culture. Hence, in the neighboring States of the Union, though a few great foundations, like those of Harvard and Yale, date from an early period, the tide of financial prosperity has only recently set in the direction of the Colleges, and no previous period of similar length can, like the last five years, boast of fifteen million of dollars given to educational institutions. In Canada the stream of this liberality has scarcely begun to flow, and the name which stands at the head of this article is still almost alone in its eminence in this respect. It is, on this account, all the more to be honored, more especially since McGill bequest can be shown to constitute the real centre and rallying point of English education in the Province of Quebec during the last half century.

James McGill was born on the 6th October, 1744, in Glasgow, Scotland. He received his early training and education in that country, but of these little is known. He arrived in Canada before the American revolution, and appears, in the first place, to have engaged in the North-west fur trade, then one of the leading branches of business in Canada. Subsequently he settled in Montreal, and, in partnership with his brother, Andrew McGill, became one of the leading merchants in the little town of about nine thousand inhabitants which then represented our commercial metropolis. His settlement in Montreal and his marriage with a lady of French parentage, the



OCT 24 1968

407572