

THE RECENT
HISTORY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

BEING THE
ANNUAL UNIVERSITY LECTURE,
FOR THE
SESSION OF 1882-3.

BY
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The charter of McGill University dates from the year 1821, so that it is really sixty-two years of age; but its actual history as a teaching institution began somewhat later, and the present is reckoned as its fiftieth session, in so far as its oldest Faculties, those of Medicine and Arts, are concerned. Owing to protracted litigation, the property bequeathed by James McGill did not come into the possession of the Board of Governors until 1829. On the 29th of June in that year, the University was formally opened in the old residence of the founder, Burnside House; the Montreal Medical Institute, which had already been in existence for some years, was incorporated with it as its Faculty of Medicine, and a little later its Faculty of Arts was constituted with a principal and three professors or lecturers. Many untoward circumstances conspired to check the growth of the infant institution, and it was not until the changes effected by the amended charter in 1852 that it entered on a career of rapid progress. Of the men who were then prominent in its coun-