

the control of our faculty of law to the tender mercies of an irresponsible professional board, on which the university has no representative; and of similar legislation which has threatened the like fate to our faculty of medicine: Thirdly, a failure of that aid and support on the part of the Protestant population of this city which has so far sustained us so liberally. I have space to say a few words only as to the last.

Hitherto McGill university has had the greatest cause to be thankful for the enlightened liberality of the citizens of Montreal, and it has often seemed as if that liberality was forthcoming just at the junctures when some pressing want was staring us in the face, without means of meeting it. The original endowment of Mr. McGill came at a great crisis in the affairs of this province, when there was danger that no adequate provision would be made for the educational wants of its English population. I can never forget the liberal subscriptions of 1856, which, headed by the endowment of the Molson chair of English, gave the first augury of success in the revival of the university under its new charter. The completion of our University buildings by Mr. Wm. Molson in 1861 came at another critical time. The endowment of the Peter Redpath, Logan and John Frothingham chairs in 1871-73 gave another stimulus and accession of force when our progress seemed arrested by want of means. The foundation of the Peter Redpath museum in 1880 placed one important department in advance of every other Canadian university, and made way for extension in other directions. The Scott, Mills and David Greenshields endowments of 1882-84 were just in time to prevent contraction of our work under the great diminution of income arising from the fall in the rate of interest. The large endowments to the medical faculty in 1884-5, met the necessary expansion of its teaching power and of its rooms and laboratories, demanded by the great extension of its course and increase of its students. The last great endowment, that of the Hon.

Donald A. Smith, for the higher education of women, was offered at the moment when the university seemed called on to enter on this work without adequate means. Many such instances rise to my remembrance, and impress me with the belief that a kind Providence has watched over our efforts, and has intervened to sustain us just when hearts and hands were beginning to fail. I cherish the faith and hope that it will be so in the future, and look forward to the time when our law faculty will be adequately endowed, when our unendowed chairs in the faculty of arts will be suitably provided for, when our heavier chairs will be divided or furnished with assistance, when we shall have enlarged accommodation for our library, when we shall have a larger convocation hall, a dining hall and college offices, and rooms for college societies; when we shall have a college plant-house and botanical garden, a mechanical workshop, and a new university gymnasium, and when our special course for women will have grown into a well appointed Royal Victoria college, co-ordinate with McGill. All these things and more are now desirable, and I have no doubt they will be provided, but not perhaps until our faith and self denial and self sacrificing industry are a little longer tried. They may not be realized in my time or the time of the older workers of to-day; but the university will not die with us. The history of college endowments in the Mother Country shows that these are the most permanent of all investments, outliving revolutions, changes of dynasty and even civil wars, and tending constantly to attract fresh means to themselves. May McGill university equal them in permanence, and at the same time be exempt from the defects which have sometimes marred their usefulness, and from the abuses which for a time have grown up around them. We may, I trust, hope that in our new and young society, and in the greater light of a cultivated and progressive age, this may, under God's blessing, be our happy destiny.