

produce the best effects. McGill University has so far been more successful than any other in Canada, in this aggregation of teaching bodies. We have not only our four Faculties and Normal school, but two affiliated colleges in the principal seats of Protestant population in this Province outside of Montreal, and four affiliated Theological Colleges. Thus we have in all eleven teaching institutions united in our University system—not by force from without, but voluntarily. In these circumstances we can realize the benefits of union of colleges and examiners, while retaining our independence and avoiding the evils attendant on a single examining board. Looking forward to the future, our system seems much more likely to be successful than the crude and untried projects to which I have referred.

In the introduction to this lecture I have made some remarks regarding endowments, and have stated that the McGill endowment and the additions made to it may be considered as having reached the limit of their productiveness and utility, while the demands made on them are likely constantly to increase. We thus invite additional benefactions, whether by gift or bequest. That we shall receive these in increasing amount I have no doubt, and the experience even of the past year testifies to this. I could wish, however, that in this matter those of our friends who could afford to do so, would become their own executors, and thus enjoy the pleasure of seeing the effects of their liberality. This is especially desirable when benefactors are interested in any special object, since in the case of bequests, circumstances may so change before they become operative, as to deprive them of much of their value, unless they are devoted merely to the general uses of the College and not to particular objects. There is no doubt a sad and tragic responsibility attached to the gifts of the dead, which always weighs heavily on my own mind, and which I hope will ever be felt by those who have the management of the affairs of this University. In this connection I think it right to refer to two recent benefactions, that of Ann Scott to the Ross Institute, and that of her sister to this University. These two maiden ladies, bereaved of their near relatives, and alone in the world, of the injustice of which they supposed they had no small reason to complain, withdrawing themselves from society, and falling into those little eccentric ways which are natural to the aged and solitary, but of which only the