

At McGill University, Dr. Fox considered the McCord, the Library, the Peter Redpath, and the Ethnological Museums as being of particular academic and popular value. Of these four, the Peter Redpath Museum is the parent of them all, and the part played by it in the development of the University during the past fifty years is notable and important.

When, in 1882, the Redpath Museum was presented to McGill through the generosity of Peter Redpath, one of the most decisive steps was taken in bringing the University and its work before the public. Through this gift Sir William Dawson's scientific collections were safeguarded and made available to generations of students. In addition, valuable and interesting museum material has been kept on public exhibition and this has resulted in an increasing stream of gifts of Natural History and ethnological objects. The material thus acquired is now quite beyond the capacity of the building and has had to be stored in every available corner of the galleries, the main floor, and the basement.

Peter Redpath's munificence placed McGill in the front rank of progressive Universities. At that time, probably not half a dozen others on this continent could have pointed to a building so admirably suited to its purpose. It is to be regretted, however, that in the fifty years since its erection the absence of benefactions, like that of Peter Redpath, for the development of museums has largely defeated the purpose of his gift. It is because the collections have grown so remarkably, owing to the generosity of numberless donors, that many of the exhibits have had to be removed and installed elsewhere. Whereas, to begin with, the Museum encompassed the whole field of Natural History and many other branches of knowledge as well, it now accommodates only the large collections of Geology and Zoology, and these so inadequately that their purpose and that of the Museum itself are in large measure thwarted.

To look back fifty years to the time when this "Mother of Museums" at McGill was the last word in museum building and planning and the most up-to-date in its appointments, must induce a feeling of pride in everyone acquainted with our history. But McGill cannot, and will not, be content to rest upon her laurels. "McGill had . . ." and "McGill was . . ." must give way to "McGill has . . ." and "McGill is . . ." and these conditions must only be considered as earnest of continuous progress. Without modern Redpaths, Macdonalds, Strathconas, McGill may have to be content to cling to the