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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 65 — THE MONTREAL DIOCESAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.

SEVENTEEN years ago the experience of Bishop Oxenden convinced him that a Theological College in Montreal was an absolute necessity for the well-being of the Diocese. Not because the Bishop took exception to the theological teaching given in any other institution, but because, as a matter of fact, existing institutions were unable to supply the increasing demand for men—a demand which advanced in proportion to the natural development of the Church in the new Diocese of Montreal after its separation from the Diocese of Quebec. Previous to that date the one College at Lennoxville was found to be sufficient. But since that time the growth of the Church has kept pace with the growth of the population, especially in the city of Montreal, and the demand for additional men was so increasingly great that the one College which formerly supplied the wants of the undivided Diocese of Quebec was found insufficient to supply the wants of the same territory when subdivided into two separate Dioceses. Hence the movement for a new College in the city of Montreal, a site which presented special advantages and in favour of which there were special reasons, which either are not known to the general public or may be overlooked.

In the first place a potent argument was derived from the presence in Montreal of McGill

University, whose development in recent years has been exceedingly rapid, and whose facilities for the impartation of a liberal education are unusually great. McGill University was found to present greater attractions, as an educational centre, to the young men of the Province of Quebec, and to many beyond its limits, than any other existing University, and the result was the conviction that the Church would be wanting in wisdom if it did not look to the students of McGill for a supply of its necessities and furnish the means of a theological education to those among

them who were desirous of entering the sacred Ministry. On enquiry it was ascertained that there were several who had this object in view, and their testimony was the principal factor in the determination of the question. They said "Yes, we would like to enter the Ministry, but we have no facilities for entering it here. There is no Theological College." And in reply to the question: "Why not go elsewhere to be trained in theology after your McGill course is over?" they said: "We have neither the time nor the money to do so. If we cannot be trained here we shall go into another profession."

In the next place another argument had weight with some, viz: A Theological College established in Montreal will be practically a revival for the Church of England of the Divinity Faculty of McGill University and a means of preventing the frustration of the wishes of the founder—Mr. McGill—who left his property for the benefit of the Church of England, and specially with a view to the supply of men for the Ministry. His will in this respect



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