

The price placed by Wycliffe on their property was \$60,000. Mr. Macdonald was unwilling to purchase at this price. Hence another considerable delay. The proposal as to the site finally selected was known to many prominent University men, and I am not aware of having ever heard any objection to it. On the contrary, during the very considerable delay that occurred before it was acted upon, I was urged by more than one prominent member of the University Board to press it to a completion. This I could not do, for the reason that the Wycliffe authorities and Mr. Macdonald had not agreed as to price. It was well known at the University Board that this offer of Wycliffe's was open for acceptance, and the delay was at times referred to, and I think always with regret.

During this period the attitude of the University Board towards the proposal was one of general approval. There was no action for the Board to take, as everything depended on Senator Macdonald and Wycliffe coming to an agreement.

Thus matters remained until I received an intimation that Senator Macdonald was seriously ill, and desired to see me. Accordingly, the next morning being the 1st of January, 1890, I called upon him and was shown to his bed-room. He there informed me that he had been dangerously ill, and though then apparently better, that he was in a most precarious state of health, that during the crisis through which he had been passing, his mind had continually dwelt upon his uncompleted promise made to his dying daughter to contribute towards the founding of a hospital the share in his estate which she would have received if she had survived him, and he had concluded to agree to the price placed on Wycliffe College property rather than risk further delay, and as soon as he felt able he would endeavour to place the \$40,000 forthwith at the disposal of the Trust, when he hoped I would press the matter to a conclusion without further delay.

He reminded me that he intended, as he had often told me before, to increase the amount by his will, and impressed me with the intensity of his anxiety for the earliest possible completion of the purchase, and with the danger arising from delay, concluding his reference to the condition of his health by informing me, to use almost his own words, that he felt that there was a very narrow border land separating him from his daughter, to whom on her death-bed he had made the promise in question. I assured him that as soon as he advised me that the cash payment of \$40,000 was at the disposal of the Board, I would use all possible despatch in pressing the purchase to a completion.

He made one further request of me, which I hope may be respected. He desired that over the main entrance, which he thought might be near the head of McCaul street, there be placed these words, "He cured them all."

Thus ended my interview, and I never after saw him alive. I felt that there was not a moment to lose, and that even a day's delay might jeopardize a scheme which appeared to me full of promise of usefulness, both to the suffering public, and to the University as a teaching body.