

January 13,
1931.

Dr. F.M.G. Johnson,
Chemistry Building,
McGill University.

Dear Dr. Johnson,

For some time past Principal Parker of Westmount High School has been arranging that I go and address the school on the reasons why some boys should begin Greek at school; and Mr. Worsfold came yesterday with a view to the same thing and also to point out the difficulties of the options at present required by McGill Matriculation. He tells me, among other things, that Chemistry is more popular than Physics because it is easier, and much more popular than Mathematics, for the same reason. In Westmount there is now actually a proposal that if boys take Greek they should be let off Mathematics and Physics and allowed to do Chemistry.

We insist, at present, on Mathematics, and I hope will continue to do so. No Greek professor, certainly, would advocate dropping Mathematics, for some of the most valuable Greek authors simply cannot be read unless one has had advanced mathematical training.

For years I have heard you and Dr. Eve and Dr. Lloyd say that if you could be sure McGill students had plenty of Mathematics at school you would be quite ready to begin at the beginning with them in Science.

Would you address a letter to the Principal of the Westmount High School in corroboration of this statement which I have quoted from you? Mr. Worsfold, the Classics master, assures me that such a letter would be useful and that those boys who are at present contemplating beginning Greek in the 10th year could be persuaded to carry on with Mathematics.

I make bold to ask this, because just at present there are many movements afoot indicating a willingness to cooperate with us, on the part of those teaching in the secondary schools; and we should not discourage any enthusiasm of the kind.

Yours faithfully,