

Can. Dawson, John W.

T.

# THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN,

IN CONNECTION WITH

McGILL UNIVERSITY.

The letters reproduced in the following pages were written under the pressure of what seemed an urgent necessity. I have always endeavoured to avoid controversy respecting the affairs of the University, though earnestly desirous to keep the public accurately informed as to all our proceedings. In the present case, however, a new and important work, and one from its very nature delicate and liable to misapprehension, was attacked in a manner that seemed to indicate a determination to discredit it with our friends, and thereby to cause its entire or partial failure. It seemed therefore a public duty to lay the whole of the facts as clearly as possible before those likely to be interested in such questions.

There is the more need for the republication of these letters, that the Editor of a city newspaper sent reporters to members of the Corporation of the University armed with a series of leading (or more properly misleading) questions, and has published the answers given to these. The greater number of the gentlemen applied to very properly declined to answer the questions, and the answers given by others show, as reported, some discrepancy both as to matters of fact and opinion. They should be taken in connection with the following general points in the history of the matter. (1) Up to September last, the University had arrived at no decision on the question. (2) The endowment of the Honourable Donald A. Smith was given expressly for separate education, at least in the junior years, and was accepted in that sense both by the Governors and Corporation. (3) The work has been going on, in good faith, as a special course in Arts, under that arrangement, ever since. (4) The methods to be employed in the third and fourth years remain for decision, after report of the Faculty of Arts. All these matters are more fully explained in the following pages, in which, however, I have avoided any reference to discussions in Corporation which are necessarily confidential.

J. WM. DAWSON,

Dec. 6, 1884.

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