

also be connected with a portrait to be hung in our convocation hall.

I may appear to have dwelt too much on the past in the previous remarks, but the present is the fruit of the past, and it becomes us to value highly the root and stem which have produced for us the pleasant fruits of learning. An educational institution is not like a dead structure which begins to decay so soon as it is completed, and may even, like some of the buildings one sees in the old world, have begun to be ruinous in its older parts before its newer parts are finished. It is rather like a perennial stream, or an olive tree ever green and ever fruitful. We may, naturally, then connect the yet living stem with its newer fruits.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Here I may present as a second and more modern picture, the privilege which this university had in the past summer in accommodating the British Association for the Advancement of Science within its walls. It is not too much to say that in the arrangements for the visit of the British association in this city, Montreal and the whole Dominion have done themselves honour. The meeting was well accommodated and well entertained, unexampled facilities were given for access to it, and for visiting in connection with it a large portion of America; and the hospitalities of all the other principal cities of the Dominion were tendered to the members, as well as those of Montreal. In this Montreal was true to its character, for it is less a provincial city, and sustains more a Dominion, or even Imperial relation, than any other in Canada. The meeting was also a success in a scientific point of view. The large attendance of the elite of the British membership, the presence of many of the leading scientific men of the United States and of most of those of Canada, gave to the meeting an unusually cosmopolitan character, and the number of papers read was very large and many of them of exceptional interest and value. All those best qualified to judge have pronounced the meeting one of the most important and useful in these respects ever held, and to this must be added the benefit to Canada of the visit of so many eminent, observant and influential men, and the opportunities given to those men themselves to enlarge their knowledge of this country and to hold intercourse with their American and Canadian confreres. But the question which concerns us is the relation

of our own university to all this. Looking at it with reference to preparatory causes, it is fair to say that the existence and position of McGill University had much to do in enabling this city to secure the visit of the British Association and to entertain it when here. The action of the university in conjunction with the Natural History Society in inviting the American Association to hold two of its meetings in Montreal, was an essential preparation for the reception of the British Association. Our buildings with those of the affiliated colleges clustered around them, afforded better accommodation for the sections than they usually enjoy, and our library, apparatus and museum gave additional facilities for the work of the meeting; and no small part of the preparation and of the actual carrying out of the proceedings fell to professors, graduates and even students of this university. In short, the meeting of the British Association here may be reckoned as one of the incidental results of the building up of the university and of the place given to scientific studies in its curriculum.

EDUCATION IN APPLIED SCIENCE.

I confess, however, that I could have wished that our visitors had seen a larger and more definite material provision here for training in practical science. Not that I undervalue our excellent and progressive Faculty of Applied Science, but it would be well if it were supplied with rooms and apparatus such as I have seen in many provincial towns in England. This matter of the higher technical education has taken deep root in the mother country. Almost every manufacturing town has now its college of technical science, often with noble buildings, always with the best apparatus, machinery, models, workshops and laboratories for carrying on the work. In these local colleges of England there are not only regular classes during the day, but evening classes in which young artisans and manufacturers can enjoy the instructions of the most eminent experts in the scientific principles and practical operations of industrial arts. I have visited a number of these schools, and in returning to Canada I cannot but lament our comparative destitution in this matter. Our young people are undoubtedly more quick-witted and versatile than those of England, and until the recent institution of the board schools in that country, they were perhaps better educated; but, with the addi-