

"THE WORK OF A FACULTY OF LAW IN A UNIVERSITY."

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Principal, Members of Convocation, Ladies and Gentlemen :

When I was informed that I was to have the honor of delivering this year the University lecture, it seemed to me that it was an opportunity not to be lost, of explaining, in general terms, what I regard as the proper work of a University Faculty of Law. I have taken this, therefore, as my subject, though I am conscious that it is one upon which, perhaps, there is nothing very new to be said, unless indeed one is to purchase novelty at the expense of truth.

The Law Faculty of McGill looks back upon a past, of which it is justly proud. It includes among its graduates many men who have won for themselves distinguished positions at the Bar or on the Bench, and if you will allow me as a comparative stranger to say so, it seems to me to say much for the loyalty and affection of its graduates that eminent judges and lawyers should be so ready to sacrifice the scanty leisure of a busy life, in order to help their younger brethren to prepare themselves for professional life. I do not need to dwell here upon the noble and enlightened generosity of Mr. McDonald, but for whom I am afraid the Law Faculty would have a hard struggle for existence. Mr. McDonald has monuments scattered about the *campus* more conspicuous than the rooms occupied by the Law Faculty. But it is unnecessary to remind anyone here that he has been our greatest—almost our sole—benefactor, nor that only a week ago we received from him a further instance of his munificence, for which we beg to tender our grateful acknowledgment.

But if the past of our Faculty is not inglorious, we hope that a still greater future awaits it.

And it is not unprofitable from time to time to consider afresh what are the objects which we seek, and how far experience and observation might suggest any change in our methods.