

of us by this pushing back of the curtain of mystery. Perhaps the old-fashioned word "bowels" is the right one to use here. Sir William had 'bowels'; he could feel intensely. When interested his eyes glowed, and the slightly opened mouth, square as it was in all its outlines, told of quickened breath and a beating heart. The Rutherford dinner which Sir William gave, with characteristic shyness but/did not attend, was by far the most successful social function McGill has held in the last twenty years, perhaps in all her history.

Sir William's quarrel with the Church of his forefathers was a private affair, and of the intellect rather than of the heart. It was singularly free of the passion which might have led a man of his strong likes and dislikes into a rival fold. His great influence in the affairs of the University was not negative against religion, but positive for freedom of thought, and there was no little need of such influence at the time when it came to be exerted. Nothing in the nature of the British legislation of 1871 affecting religious tests at the Universities has even yet become possible in English-speaking America, north or south of the line, and writing in the first decade of this century, Professor J. B. Bury, in his "History of Freedom of Thought" was compelled to state: "It is notorious that free thought is still a serious handicap to an American even in most of the Universities."

We may recall the case, not twenty years ago, of a Toronto paper which solicited the advertisement of the University with the alternative of an "exposure" of McGill as a free-thinking institution, an exposure, which was accepted as the lesser evil, thus vindicating that liberty of conscience which is after all of the essence of the Protestant complexion provided for in the University charter, and which the devout of all creeds and degrees of belief connected with the institution would do well to ever bear in mind. Twenty years ago McGill could already claim the position of the freest Seat of Learning in North America as to matters of faith, politics and caste, a position very aptly symbolized by the appointment of the late Principal, then Dr.