

represented by two blocks of unfinished and partly ruinous buildings, standing amid a wilderness of excavators' and masons' rubbish, overgrown with weeds and bushes. The grounds were unfenced and pastured at will by herds of cattle, which not only cropped the grass, but browsed on shrubs, leaving unhurt only one great elm, which still stands as the 'founder's tree,' and a few old oaks and butternuts, most of which have had to give place to our new buildings. The only access from the town was by a circuitous and ungraded cart track, almost impassable at night. The buildings had been abandoned by the new Board, and the classes of the Faculty of Arts were held in the upper storey of a brick building in the town, the lower part of which was occupied by the High School." The Principal's residence "had been very imperfectly finished, was destitute of nearly every requisite of civilized life, and in front of it was a bank of rubbish and loose stones, with a swamp below, while the interior was in an indescribable state of dust and disrepair."

These are not words of complaint, but the statement of a condition. "The residence was only a type of our difficulties and discouragements, and a not very favourable introduction to the work I had undertaken in Montreal." On the other hand, Dawson was greeted in a spirit of hearty kindness by those who had summoned him from Nova Scotia, and he found in Judge Day, Judge Dunkin, Hew Ramsay, David Davidson and James Ferrier a band of trustees whose counsel and confidence proved of notable assistance. To the original Faculties of Arts and Medicine a Law Faculty had recently been added, with two professors and two lecturers. The Medical Faculty had ten professors and a demonstrator; the Faculty of Arts

four professors and a lecturer. Only one of the five, however, gave his whole time to college duties. Dawson in coming had stipulated for the creation of a geological department, and his own presence on the Arts staff raised the number of teachers to six.

At present the head of any institution which calls itself a university is either released from lecturing altogether, or contents himself with meeting one or two advanced classes. Of course when Dawson began at McGill the cares of administration were far from being what they are now. But the surprising fact is that, while the College grew and its scope vastly expanded, the Principal's power of taking on fresh burdens equalled all demands. Without giving up his lectures in botany, zoology or geology, he managed to preside at the meetings of four Faculties (after Applied Science was added), and to keep the whole routine of administration within the range of his own care. For many years he also gave up a large part of his time to the McGill Normal School. One could make a long list, too, of the charitable and religious societies which he founded or fostered. And yet, in spite of all his official work and miscellaneous activities, he continued to give fourteen lectures a week until he reached the age of seventy. The numerous books which he published are further proofs of his energy and of a remarkably good constitution.

More than one feature of Dawson's efforts for the advancement of McGill has an element of pathos. No detail which affected its interests could seem too trivial, and what he did with his own hands for the adornment of the College grounds many of his students still remember. He planted the shrubs, he set out the trees of the avenue, he improved