

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE VISITOR

The annual report of the University authorities to the visitor, His Excellency the Governor General, has been published, and we deem it not out of place to make a few remarks upon its most interesting features.

The first point to be noticed is the rapid increase in the number of the students attending the various Faculties of the University. According to the report of last year, the total number of students during the session 1874-75 was three hundred (300), while during the present session, there are three hundred and fifty two in attendance upon lectures. In the words of the Report, "the increase of students in the University is very gratifying, and testifies to the increased desire for a liberal education, and to the growing reputation of the University not only in the Province of Quebec, but beyond its limits". No one can doubt that the work done by the University is more than proportional to the funds at its disposal, and we venture to express a hope that ere long the endowment fund may receive substantial additions. Mention is made of the great loss sustained by the University in the death of William Molson Esq. of Montreal.

Mr. Molson was a member of the board of Governors, and owing to his munificent donations at a time when most needed, his name will be forever indissolubly connected with the History of the University. To him we owe "Molson Hall," the museum, the chemical class-room, and the laboratory. By him, aided by his two brothers, the Chair of English Literature was endowed, and, whenever funds were necessary for any specific object, he was a ready and liberal subscriber.

Notice is also taken of the demise of Sir William Edmund Logan, LL.D., F.R.S., a fellow of the University, and the benefactor to whom we owe the Logan Chair of Geology.

After treating of the various changes, and the increased number of students in the Faculties of Law and Medicine, the report turns to the Faculty of Arts, and first, mentions that important work, which is now, we believe, completed, viz, the publication of a catalogue of the Librar-

ry. The want of such a catalogue has hitherto been much felt, and we feel certain that all those who may hereafter have occasion to make use of it, will feel grateful to those who have laboured so assiduously to bring about its completion. That portion of the Report which speaks of the contemplated erection of college halls upon our own grounds, will be read with a great deal of pleasure by all those students who have occasion to board in the city, but without undertaking to dictate, we would venture to suggest that the time has already come for the erection of such buildings. In treating of the Science Department, the Report to a great extent resembles those speeches from the Throne in which the country is promised a great deal of legislation that, in reality, is never accomplished. We are well aware of the difficulties to be surmounted, before this department can be established on a satisfactory basis; but there are some minor reforms to be instituted before the course can ever be popular with the students. We have repeatedly heard promises of the erection of a work-shop and of a separate building for the accommodation of the science students, but as yet nothing appears to have been done, nor have the more glaring abuses been rectified. However we have every confidence in the good intention of the authorities and hope the experience of the past will aid them in their plans for the future.

Last, but not least, the Report refers to the restoration of the monument covering the remains of the Founder, and to the public spirit of Mr. R. A. Ramsay, M.A., in contributing the means necessary for the much needed repairs. Situated as the monument now is, it daily calls up to the students the memory of the man, to whom they owe an unbounded debt of gratitude, as the Founder of all the educational advantages they are enjoying, and it will tend, if a monument is needed for such a purpose, to perpetuate his memory for all time to come. But now that McGill can number her graduates by hundreds we think it would be but a fitting testimonial to the memory of the Founder of our "Alma Mater," were the Alumni to erect a more pretentious and stately monument over the remains of James McGill.