

MCGILL FORTNIGHTLY

A Fortnightly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Event.

VOL. II.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 19, 1894.

No. 8

McGill Fortnightly.

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The MCGILL FORTNIGHTLY is published by the Students of the University on the Friday of every second week during the College Session.

The annual subscription is \$1.00, payable strictly in advance. Remittance to be made to the Chairman of the Business Board, 38 McTavish Street, Montreal. Single copies may be obtained at E. M. Renou's, Wm. Drysdale & Co.'s and W. Fetter Brown's, Booksellers. Price, 10 cents.

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

A PROJECTED PLAN FOR A UNIVERSITY CLUB.

We publish in another column of the FORTNIGHTLY a communication, which we have received from Mrs. J. Clark Murray, on that interesting topic, "The University Club." For some months past Mrs. Murray has given a great deal of time and energy to the scheme. Like many others who are closely identified with University work at McGill, she is deeply convinced of the necessity for such an institution, for the purpose, not only of uniting more intimately the interests of the students, but of bringing McGill more closely into touch with the friends of education throughout the country. This is a consummation much to be desired. It is a lamentable fact that when her graduates leave the halls of McGill, the University loses her hold upon her sons, and as time goes on their interest in their Alma Mater too often wanes from lack of some bond of union apart from the merely sentimental one. We certainly need something more tangible and attractive.

It will be seen from a perusal of the scheme here submitted that the idea is rather more ambitious than the one already outlined in these pages. The object in admitting citizens outside the University to the membership of the club is to bring influential and

wealthy men into touch with University work, and make the University a centre of light and usefulness to the community at large.

We think that Mrs. Murray's estimate of the number of students who would join the club is too low. Certainly, if the meals were good and the price as low as is suggested, 250 to 300 students might be counted on. On the other hand, it is unlikely that 750 graduates would join especially at the beginning. Judging from the amount of interest they take in the FORTNIGHTLY as well as other College matters, probably only half that number would be available. As time went on, however, this state of things would improve.

The dining facilities would without doubt be the drawing card at the start. So many students are now at the tender mercies of the boarding house keepers, whose meat is about as tender as their mercies, that any improvement would be hailed with joy. The other features of the Club should also be attractive. One thing should not be omitted, and that is a room where the Debating Society could hold its meetings. This society is doing good work for the students and for the College, and deserves more publicity than it receives. All sections of the University should take part in its work, and this would much more likely be the case had it a room in the "University Club." The billiard room, smoking-room, reading-room and Library speak for themselves. So far the scheme has hardly progressed beyond the stage of debate, and some action should soon be taken.

First we must decide upon what we want, and how we want it. There is room for a great deal of discussion upon this subject, and Mrs. Murray's suggestion is simply placed here in order to give our readers food for thought.

It will readily be understood that the idea is merely a tentative one. Nevertheless, we present it as one possible solution of the problem. The scheme is placed as far as possible on a financial basis. Mrs. Murray has quotations for all the requirements even down to the spoons, and is firmly of the opinion that the Club would be a paying investment. We feel rather doubtful, however, if the institution should be run by a joint stock company. The *University Gazette* was run in this way and was run into the ground, owing to lack of interest on the part of the students, as soon as the bulk of the power passed out of their hands. In whatever way the Club should be managed, however, it should be run on thoroughly business principles, and must be