

benefactor, James McGill. He was the son of Scotch Presbyterians, attended Anglican service in a church lent by the Recollet Brothers, and married a widow—a Roman Catholic. With such a founder, as might be expected, the early Governing Body formulated most tolerant rules and regulations. McGill is also fortunate through being a private university, untrammelled by political influence. She is fortunate, too, in her location, which causes her to be influenced by, and to draw her students from, two great races with different cultural developments—and in the number of citizens who, though not university men, have realised the importance of such a cultural centre in the Province of Quebec, and have given generously of their wealth for her support.

From such modest beginnings, McGill has now expanded into an Institution with great influence upon national affairs. She owes her origin to the munificence of one man. In the early days, her welfare was the concern only of those closely connected with her. Later, she received the support of certain wealthy citizens who, as I have just said, though not graduates of the University, realised the necessity of such an educational Institution. The time has now arrived when the University can no longer rely entirely upon the generosity of a few benevolent friends, but must look more and more to her graduates for support, not only for financial support, but for the upholding of McGill traditions and ideals in the eyes of the public. Esteem by the public is perhaps the greatest asset that a university can possess, and if this is of value to the University, it is of still greater value to the graduates who hold the University's degrees. When graduates show that they consider invaluable the training received at McGill—are loyal to McGill and ever ready to help her—then, whether or not they are in a position to contribute money, they are contributing to one of the University's most precious assets. If the graduates do not perform this work for the University, they cannot expect the public to assume the duty, or, I should say, the privilege, they neglect. The product of McGill is her graduates. They, mixing in all branches of public life, can perhaps best appreciate whether or not the product of the University is best satisfying the demands of the time. Consequently, their constructive criticism and interest in the University should be of the greatest value in improving the usefulness of the product.

McGill's history, therefore, may be divided into three periods:—

- 1st. When she relied upon the benefactions of one man for support;
- 2nd. When she relied for support upon the few wealthy friends who contributed liberally to her maintenance and growth;
- 3rd. The period, entered upon in 1921, when McGill made her general appeal for support to her graduates and the public.

The appeal mentioned above was a recognition of the fact that McGill had grown too large to be cared for by a few individuals; that she had reached a position of national importance, and that if she was to grow and take care of the ever-increasing number of students knocking at her doors, she must have the sympathetic support of her graduates, and through them of the public in general.

The function of the Graduates' Society is to assist the University in the manner described above. The Constitution of the Society states:—

The object of the Society shall be to advance the interests and promote the welfare of the University and its graduates, and to bind both the graduates and non-graduates more closely to their Alma Mater and to one another.