

Presented to the Corporation of McGill University, October, 1884.

REPORT
ON THE
HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

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BY PRINCIPAL SIR J. WILLIAM DAWSON, C.M.G., LL.D.

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In introducing this subject it may be well to recall the history of the movement in relation to the higher education of women in connection with the University. Our attention was first directed to it at the time of the establishment of the McGill Normal School in 1857, by which we were enabled to carry on classes for the preparation of women for the higher positions in the profession of teaching, and which has undoubtedly given a great stimulus to education generally throughout this Province. A little later the attempt was made to render the benefits of the Normal School and of our classes in the Faculty of Arts available to ladies not intending to be teachers; and at one time classes of ladies from the school of the late Miss Lyman, regularly attended my lectures in our old rooms at Burnside Hall. These efforts were, however, very imperfect, and could not be expected to succeed unless followed up with more definite provision for the work, and were not long continued. In 1870, when the University appealed to its friends for additional endowment, at a meeting held in the College library, in February of that year, the Rev. Dr. Wilkes moved a resolution to the effect that the University should, as early as possible, extend its benefits to women. The resolution was carried unanimously, and our late Chancellor, Judge Day,

Can. Dawson, John, W.