

258 Oliver Ave. Westmount P. Q.
June 18th 25.

To Sir Arthur Currey, Principal McGill University, Montreal

My dear Sir Arthur:

Ever since I heard your address on education and its methods given recently at the opening of the new Hall in the High School I have had a strong desire to write and thank you therefor. One likes to hear those who harbor similar opinions. It is seldom that any one is found brave enough on such occasions as to speak so much sound sense. I do not think of a day since when my thoughts have not turned upon your words or found examples to confirm your views. For instance only recently did a pupil of mine who is a teacher in one of the city schools assure me that they had no time allowed them to teach "pupils to think". All the time, she said, was taken in "securing results" in other words urging pupils to memorise and "cram" in order to obtain marks at examinations. Those who encourage such false teaching do not take into account that mentally as well as physically we live upon that we digest not upon that we eat. What shame then in this day of Our Lord we squander so much money, strength, and time upon such false teaching. Had we only instructed our men and women of to-day to think, what a very different Government we would have at Ottawa. Now if you will only persist in using your influence in turning men's thought from the silly pursuit of "marks and the reward given for marks into the way of the thoughtful what a blessing will you prove to poor suffering humanity! Only recently did a graduate from Macdonald College tell me of a case in point. The girl who got the highest number of marks and the golden reward therefor did it in part at any rate by stuffing. She would rise with the proverbial lark and forfeiting breakfast cram away till examination time and continue doing so finally consuming midnight electricity and so obtained her goal but what for? We all know very well how little of all this will "stick". It would almost appear that some more sensible method could be devised and will you not Dear Sir set your self the task of devising some other method upon sounder and saner lines. Thanking you with all sincerity for your thoughtful address I am:

Sincerely yours:

Septimus Fraser.