

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
OBSERVATORY FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31ST, 1885.

*To the Corporation of McGill University.*

GENTLEMEN :—

I have the honour to present my Report on the Observatory for the year ending December 31st, 1885.

The usual meteorological observations have been continued, throughout the year, without interruption. These have been reduced, and the results for each day have been published in the *Montreal Gazette*. Summaries for each month and for the year have been distributed. The annual course of instruction in meteorological work was attended by six students, undergraduates of the Fourth Year in Arts and in Applied Science.

The time-service has been conducted with much care. Sidereal observations for clock errors were made on 108 nights. The noon time-ball has been dropped and other time-signals distributed, as described in the reports of the past two years. Intercomparisons of clock-signals with the Toronto Observatory have been made on every alternate Friday night throughout the year. The greatest difference which was found on any night between the clocks of the two observatories—after correction for error, personal equation and transmission time—was  $0^{\circ}.52$ , and the average difference for all the comparisons was  $0^{\circ}.26$ . The railway companies centering in Montreal continue to receive our time-signals without payment therefor.

A Sidereal clock has been purchased for the Observatory from the Ballou Manufacturing Company, Hartford, Conn., at a cost of \$500. As a condition of purchase, and through the courtesy of Prof. Pickering, a trial of this clock, during three months' running in the Harvard College observatory, was made. Its performance during this time was exceptionally good. The clock has a four-legged Denison gravity escapement and mercurial compensation for the pendulum. It is