

The Royal Charter incorporating the governors and professors of the university, being placed on the table, His Lordship the Bishop of Quebec, arose and addressed the assembled body; he stated that he had received a letter from Sir James Kempt, Administrator of the Government, expressing the impracticability of his being present at the ceremony of opening the University of McGill College fixed for to-day. His Lordship then submitted to the Governors the statement he proposed to make previous to the reading of the Charter, and the course of the ceremonies to be observed on the occasion. He stated that in consequence of the absence of His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government, who was one of the Governors of the Corporation of McGill College, it became incumbent on him to make a few remarks on the present occasion. He would, however, first state that he was commissioned by His Excellency to express his regret that in consequence of the very late arrivals of the April and May mails he was unable to leave Quebec in time to assist at the ceremony of promulgating the Charter which had been conferred on the College. His Excellency in his letter was pleased to add that he would not fail to use all his exertions to promote the institution.

Having fulfilled this duty the Lord Bishop begged to observe that the bequest which had been made in favor of this college by the late Hon. James McGill, consisted of the valuable estate of Burnside, comprising the building in which they were then assembled and the garden and grounds adjoining, together with the sum of £10,000 in furtherance of his benevolent intention. This liberal bequest was made in 1811 (two years previous to the death of Mr. McGill), in trust to a corporation called the Royal Institution, which was contemplated by an Act passed in 1801. This institution was to transfer the bequest when a college, in pursuance of his views, was established and bearing his name. To this most benevolent legacy he could not help referring as characteristic of its liberal donor, with whom he had the honor of an acquaintance, and as furnishing an example which he hoped to see more frequently followed in the Province.

The late Mr. McGill who had amassed a very large and a very considerable fortune within the country did not, like many others, leave the Province and spend his money in some other part of the globe, but, having no direct heirs, he had left a very handsome legacy for the laudable purpose of commencing an university in a country where such an establishment was very desirable.

The institution was to bear the name of its excellent founder, and he firmly hoped that it might prove a blessing to many generations yet to come, that it might tend to immortalize his name and be the best monument that could be erected to his memory. The Royal Institution was incorporated in 1818, and through their instrumentality this college was, in pursuance of the will of Mr. McGill, incorporated in 1821, by a Charter which he read to them. Under that Charter the governors of the college were the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of Lower Canada, the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, the Chief Justice of Montreal and Upper Canada, the Lord Bishop of Quebec and the Principal of the college. It would be needful for him to refer to the detentions and obstacles which had hitherto prevented the college from going into operation; it was known that this arose from the residuary legatee under the will of Mr. McGill disputing the legality of the bequest, and carrying his opposition through