

McGill a Union Club Building on the University grounds. If properly equipped and made attractive, this would be a rallying spot for University men. Such a building might have a library, reading-room, smoking room, billiard tables, parlors, debating rooms, refectory and many similar attractions. If cosy and nicely furnished, a spare hour could be spent very pleasantly there.

It was advised in a recent article on the subject that the club should be under the control of officers elected from amongst the undergraduate members.

In McGill, where there are relatively few students as compared with the older universities of Great Britain, it might be well to extend the privilege of membership to all such graduates as would be willing to pay the fee, although retaining at the same time the power of administration in the hands of the undergraduates. By this means stronger support would be given. Some years ago a University Club was started by some of our professors and graduates. A house was hired on University street, and furnished handsomely. For some reason or other the scheme was not well patronized, and in the second year of its existence it fell through, and everything had to be sold off at a sacrifice. At the present time, however, we think that a similar undertaking would be more successful, inasmuch as the number of students has greatly increased, and the desire for something of the kind is much more widely spread. One thing is certain, and that is, that the undergraduates must take hold of the idea and push it vigorously, if it is to succeed. Should they feel that they want a Union Club, a Union Club must come. As to ways and means, that is the difficulty. It is hardly likely that while their numbers are no greater than at present the students could, unassisted, erect and equip a suitable building. Still, were it seriously attempted, something tangible might result. Of course, if such a building could be partially endowed so as to meet a part of the running expenses, that would be an ideal state of affairs. Very likely a certain amount of help would be given by friends and alumni of the University. When we look at the magic transformations that McGill has undergone within even the last five years, it seems as if we only had to rub Aladdin's lamp and the good genii would appear and confer untold benefits upon us. Should we be so fortunate, however, as to get a building for a Union Club, it would lend a new zest to University life, broaden our views, dissipate unworthy prejudices, and do much to cement that good feeling amongst us which is so desirable. Such a state of things would throw new light upon our education, and do much to make that education more real and lasting than it has ever been in the past. The object of a University training should not be *instruction*, merely, important as that is, but also education, a drawing out of all that is grand and noble in a man's nature; in proportion as it fails to do this it fails to do its duty, and may even inflict a positive injury upon the student. Men as a rule come to a University at the most critical period of their lives, and on the quality of the training they receive then depends for the most part their future career, whether for weal or for woe.

We would therefore urge all the students to consider earnestly this project of a Union Club for McGill, and make their views known, so that we may before long welcome, in some measure at least, a realization of our hopes.

THE LATE SIR JOHN ABBOTT.

By the death of Sir John Abbott, K.C.M.G., McGill loses one of her most distinguished sons. In his life, time Sir John was the oldest living graduate of the University. Before he had left her halls many years, he was called upon to organize the Faculty of Law, and was its Dean for a considerable period. As a lawyer he soon made his mark, and his multitudinous duties in the political arena eventually compelled him to resign his immediate connection with the teaching staff of the Faculty. However, the advantages of his experience and wise counsel were not lost to the University, as he was appointed to the Board of Governors, where he rendered efficient service. On the death of the late Sir John Macdonald, Mr. Abbott became Premier of Canada, and soon after was knighted for his services to the country.

At that time was noted the gratifying fact that both the leader of the Government and the leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Wilfred Laurier, were graduates of McGill University, who, however they might differ on matters of policy, nevertheless were in perfect accord in the love which they bore to their Alma Mater. Of such men as these McGill is proud. It must always be for us a matter of congratulation that on the roll of our graduates are to be found the names of many men who have risen to high positions both in this and in other countries.

Sir John, owing to ill-health, was compelled to resign the premiership, after occupying the position for about a year and a half. A residence on the Mediterranean coast only relieved him temporarily, and he gradually sank, passing away on October 30th, at the age of 73.

Not only as Canadians but as members of the University do we mourn the loss of a distinguished figure.

The sympathy of all the members of McGill will be with the bereaved family and relatives, in the loss of one so dear to them—of one who shed so great a lustre upon our Alma Mater.

UNDERGRADUATES! ATTENTION!

We have great satisfaction in announcing to our readers that at a joint meeting of the Business and Editorial Boards of the FORTNIGHTLY held on the 4th inst., it was decided to offer two money prizes for the best original stories submitted to the paper.

The competition will be open to those undergraduates of the University who are or may become subscribers to our college paper.

The prizes are a first prize of twenty dollars and a second of ten.

Full particulars as to the regulations governing the competition will appear in our next number.