

is divided on the matter of separate or co-education; that it has not yet come to a decision; and that meanwhile an attempt is being made to create a set of circumstances by which it will have virtually 'drifted' into a system of separate education. Whether there has been any interference with its privileges, or whether the promoters of co-education are themselves to blame for the present confusion of ideas as to its whereabouts on the question, it is impossible to tell. Sir William Dawson and his assertion of the willingness of the university to take the public into confidence notwithstanding, there is no authoritative report of its proceedings to which an appeal can be made."

That such misconceptions should exist no one can regret more than I. In so far as the university is concerned, however, I may plead that our statutes are the property of the public; that my report states substantially what I have said above; that our advertisement of the classes was very full; that information was given to reporters of the press, and that our printed announcement of the special course was widely distributed. Further, I had stated the facts of the case very plainly a few days previously in the same newspaper from which the extract is taken, and the writer might have had access to personal sources of information if he still failed to comprehend the situation.

Before leaving this writer, however, and before dealing with the questions as to our classes for women which remain for the decision of the Faculty of Arts, I must refer for a moment to another statement which seriously affects the question in hand, and the general interests of the university as well. He says:—

"While the work in the junior classes of the Arts Faculty does not rise above the level of a good High School, it would be absurd to run the risk of its standard being further reduced by saddling the teachers with the additional duties of a Ladies' College."

To the latter part of this it is sufficient to reply that those more immediately concerned are probably best qualified to judge as to what they can undertake, and as the question is now before those gentlemen as a faculty, we may be content to await their

decision. The public may in any case rest assured that they will do nothing to jeopardize that college course which it has been the work of their lives to build up, and of whose integrity in all its parts they are most jealous. But when a writer, living in the city of Montreal, and having access to the calendar and examination papers of the university, ventures to say that our junior classes, or one-half of our whole course in Arts, does not rise above the level of a high school, he can scarcely plead the excuse of ignorance. I need only say in opposition to such a statement that of the young women now in our classes several have been educated at the girls' high school of Montreal, one of the best schools of its class in the Dominion, and they are yet, with one brilliant exception, only barely at the educational level of our examination for entrance into the first year. Is it conceivable that after two years' training under seven or eight of our professors, they will not have built much on this foundation? We who know the difference between the school and the college, and the extent and variety of the studies of our two junior years, believe that the young man or young woman who has passed the intermediate examination has laid a good foundation of solid learning, and has attained to a standard which represents two years of hard work and skilful training, added to what he may have learned in school. Owing to the want of special preparation, there can be no question that some of the members of our classes for women have advanced farther than was necessary for entrance on some of the subjects, while deficient in others; but this affords the opportunity to allow them to give more attention to the subjects in which they have been less perfectly prepared, and constitutes no just ground for disparaging remarks as to the course of study of our first year.

THE PLAN OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AS
PRESENTED IN THE REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL.

In further evidence of the definiteness of