

from any benefactor save its founder. The opening ceremonies, which were held in 1861, called forth from the Chancellor, the Principal and other speakers, a rosy forecast of the University's future and the aspiration that others might soon be led to follow such an excellent example. Among the papers relating to the history of McGill which Sir William Dawson gave the Library in his last days, will be found a detailed account of these festivities, and there can be no doubt that the occasion was felt to be the greatest day till then in the annals of the Royal Institution. Looking back, we can see how clearly it marks off the day of small things from the period during which McGill has risen to the rank of a genuine University.

William Molson (1793-1881) was the first president of Molson's Bank, which was founded in 1853, and chartered in the following year. It is not for us to record in this place the phases of his business career, but rather to remember him as an enlightened, large-minded citizen, who, apart from his many acts of generosity to McGill, was never unresponsive to any good cause. Among other notable examples of his munificence are the tower and spire of Trinity Church and the endowment fund of the General Hospital. Those who stand first in supporting a great enterprise are always worthy of special commemoration, and McGill will not soon forget the donor of the Molson Hall. This building, hallowed by many examinations and public functions, is a lasting memorial of the age when the University was being transformed from a school to a centre of higher studies.

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