

the evening drew on, the ruddy glare of light from the many windows of the museum hinted to those in the snow without of the pleasure that was to be found within. At about six o'clock the number of guests was greatest. About seven hundred invitations had been issued, and four hundred acceptances received. Among the guests, who were received by Lady Dawson and the young ladies of the committee, were very many of our leading citizens. The Hon. Senator Ferrier, Chancellor of the University, was present for some time. Sir William Dawson, the Principal, to whom the ladies owe it that their course is independent of that of the men, was also present, as well as Mr. McDonald and Mr. Finley, Governors of the College."

—The Graduates' Society of McGill University held a meeting on Saturday, the 18th of February, to receive the report from the committee appointed at a previous meeting, and to discuss the question of the entrance to the study of the professions, and the proposed amendments to the curricula of the various councils more particularly of the Medical Council. The meeting was an enthusiastic one. Dr. Stewart, the President of the society, was in the chair. The substance of the report of the sub-committee was to the effect that the proposed Board of Examiners be organized in sections for all professions,—one section to supervise the English speaking candidates, and the other the French speaking candidates, and that it shall be competent for either section to provide by regulation for the recognition of the degree of B.A., as an equivalent for the preliminary examination. The report was adopted unanimously. Thereafter, the proposed Medical Act for the province, was discussed, and the opinion was unanimous, that the bill, as it stands, shows how unjust it would be to McGill, were it to become law.

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—As to the origin of the possessive sign, the apostrophe ('), or the apostrophe and s (s'), there can be no possible doubt. Though Ben Jonson, in his grammar, did attempt to show that it is an abbreviation of *his*, as in John Smith, his mark, no man of extended scholarship has ever seriously supposed that Jonson was correct; for, the moment the feminine gender is substituted, and the expression becomes Jane Smith, her mark, it becomes evident at once that if Jonson were correct, then in every case we should have to write the feminine possessive with an apostrophe and an *r*, as Jane Smith's book, Mary Thomas's apron, and the like. All are agreed that the apostrophe denotes simply an omission of one or more letters. Remembering that the older English denoted possession usually by the genitive termination *es* or *is*, as in "Kyngis crown," "Queenes right," "Widdowes habite," and like expressions, it will be seen at once that the dropping of a letter and the insertion of the apostrophe not only drops a syllable in each word, but also gives us the origin of the present possessive form.