

claim upon the support of their friends, which graduates and undergraduates alike will not be slow to acknowledge. The announcement is particularly welcome, as an indication that the students are in earnest, and that the question of a Union Club has, as the statesmen say, come within the range of practical politics. Other evidence is not wanting of the strong undercurrent of feeling which, as we believe, prevails among the students of the different faculties. At the Medical dinner, two at least of the speakers strongly supported the scheme, and the warmth with which their remarks were received showed how completely they had enlisted the sympathies of their audience.

The advantages of a Union Club are so well understood, that it hardly seems necessary just now to discuss them at any length. We trust that many who are now undergraduates may have an opportunity of experiencing them before they have finished their courses. Men who can look forward to only a few more months of life in McGill are by no means the less enthusiastic on that account. They believe that, as Dr. Adams has pointed out, the proposed Union will ultimately be of incalculable benefit, not only to the University, but to the country at large, and that anything they can do to forward it is worthy of their best efforts.

Other universities with smaller opportunities than McGill are making strenuous efforts towards a similar end. The following clipping from the *Medical News* speaks for itself:

"The movement for establishing a students' union at Queen's College, Belfast, continues to make satisfactory progress. The general subscription list now amounts to £3,700, and a committee has been for some time at work organizing a bazaar and summer fair, to be held in the College grounds next June, in aid of the proposed union. President Hamilton is pressing forward the movement by every means in his power, and is receiving much sympathy and support. It is hoped that the total amount realized will not fall short of £6,000."

It may seem no light matter for the Students of McGill to raise a similar sum, but we have great faith that, once they have shown themselves in earnest, they will not ask in vain for assistance from the graduates and friends of the University.

We heartily commend the suggestion, that a mass meeting of the undergraduates be held as soon as possible, to take some definite action. We hope that our readers will put on their thinking caps during vacation, and that with the New Year we shall be able to announce a still more satisfactory prospect.

FRANCIS PARKMAN, LL.D.

On November 8th, 1893, the eminent historian, Dr. Francis Parkman, died at his home at Jamaica Plains, aged 70 years.

Dr. Parkman was born at Boston, September 16th, 1823, graduated at Harvard University in 1844, and two years later he travelled the Western plains with a view of studying the manners and characters of the Indians. On his return he published his observations

in a series of papers in the *Knickerbocker Magazine*, and subsequently embodied them in a volume under the title of the "*Oregon Trail*" (1849).

While yet at college, as we are informed by a note in one of his later works, he followed on foot the trail of Rogers the Ranger in his retreat from Lake Memphremagog to the Connecticut in 1759, and his subsequent expedition demanded as much courage as endurance; he penetrated what was still the Wild West, as far as the Rocky Mountains, living for months among the Dakotas, as yet untainted in their savage ways by the pale face. The privations of this journey were too much for his vigorous constitution, and left him a partial cripple for life.

The criticisms on this first published volume of the author serve to show the success it achieved. It was said: "He writes with much vivacity and good taste, and his story has all the air of truth with the attractiveness of fiction; it is one of the few books from which we can obtain anything like accurate information of the character of the country between the Mississippi and the Pacific. The volume throughout is instinct with the spirit of the wild life which it describes."

This was followed by the *Conspiracy of Pontiac*, published in 1851. This is an uncommonly meritorious work. It gives a more complete and accurate picture of Indian life and character, and of Indian warfare such as it was a century ago, than had before appeared in print, and it is written with so much spirit and picturesque effect that it is as entertaining as a nursery tale. We have, in the form of authentic and detailed record, exactly such incidents as make the materials in the most delightful of Cooper's novels.

His subsequent works may be named in the order of publication as follows:—

France and England in North America.

The Huguenots in Florida, 1865.

Pioneers of France in the New World, 1867.

The Jesuits in North America, 1867.

La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West, 1869.

The Old Régime in Canada, 1874.

Frontenac and New France under Louis XIV, 1877.

Montcalm and Wolfe, 1884.

A Half Century of Conflict, 1892.

They form a connected series, in which, however, a gap remains to be filled, between Frontenac and Wolfe. They have all passed through several editions, and have also been translated into the French and German languages.

This series is known to every student of Canadian history. The collection of the necessary material involved an immense amount of labor. The chief sources were the archives of France and England, the use of which required repeated visits to those countries. Many documents were also obtained from the collections of societies and private individuals on both sides of the Atlantic.

Candid and impartial, with an insight into character unclouded by any mists of prejudice, there are few