

procured to illustrate the lectures of Dr. Skakel, one of the pioneers of Canadian science, and which, with some additions, served for several years as our only means of illustration in experimental physics; but the good use made of it by our professor stimulated that truly handsome gift of the members of our Board of Governors, by which it has become probably the most modern and serviceable apparatus in the Dominion. If not otherwise, I have no doubt that before a very long time has elapsed, those who have by its means acquired an insight into the wonders and triumphs of modern physical research, will establish in connection with it a physical laboratory with ample means for practical study, and special endowments for experimental physics. The establishment of our Faculty of Applied Science and the appointment of able professors to carry on its work, at once called forth handsome gifts and subscriptions. It has only recently received a large bequest; and the attempt, under certain disadvantages, to train some of our students as mining engineers, has not only led to important donations of specimens, but also to the presentation of that beautiful set of mining models, unique in this country, and which will be suitably lodged and displayed when our specimens in Geology shall be transferred to the new Museum.

The lesson as to the future which I would deduce from all this, is that to appreciate beforehand the educational wants of our country and to enlist competent and earnest men in successful effort to meet these wants, will secure means and materials, and attract students. Thus, in our circumstances, every step must be taken in faith, and must look to the future as well as to the present.

Perhaps this thought may better prepare your minds for some subjects to which I next turn, and in which we have as yet been able to make little progress beyond that of sowing a few seeds which may some day germinate.

Under this head I may first refer to what, by rigid educational conservatives, are somewhat contemptuously called fancy chairs or fancy subjects of education. As an illustration I may take History, or if you prefer this, Modern History, not excluding the History of Canada.

if you will consult that now somewhat antiquated publication the Calendar of McGill College for 1855-6, you will find there