

1893

LOYALTY.

A LETTER TO MCGILL STUDENTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

I had hoped in the present session to be among you as usual, doing what I could officially and personally for your welfare, but was suddenly stricken down by a dangerous illness. In this I recognize the hand of my Heavenly Father doing all things for the best, and perhaps warning me that my years of active usefulness are approaching their close, and that it is time to put off my armour and assume the peaceful garb of age, in which perhaps I may yet be spared to be of some service in the world.

At the moment, I must be separated from the work that has always been to me a pleasure, and you will excuse me for addressing to you a few words on topics which seem to me of highest moment to you as students. I may group these under the word "Loyalty," a word which we borrow with many others from the French, though we have the synonym "leal," which if not indigenous has at least been fully naturalized both in English and Scottish. These words are directly associated with the idea of law and obligation, and with the trite though true adage that he who would command must first learn to obey.

I need scarcely remind you of that loyalty which we owe to our Sovereign Lady the Queen, and to the great empire over which she rules. I have had frequent occasion to note the fact that this sentiment is strong in the rising generation of Canadians, and nowhere more than in McGill. It is indeed