

ried out in the English universities, the Governors of McGill naturally counted on his aid in the arduous struggle on which they had entered. Accordingly, soon after Sir Edmund's arrival, a deputation of the Board waited on him, and one of the subjects on which they asked his advice was the filling of the office of principal, which was yet vacant. Sir Edmund mentioned my name as that of a suitable person. At first, as one of them afterwards admitted to me, they were somewhat disconcerted. They were very desirous, for the best reasons, to follow Sir Edmund's counsel, but with his knowledge of the available men in England, of some of whom they had already heard, they were somewhat surprised that he should name a comparatively unknown colonist. In the meantime, ignorant of all this, I was prosecuting a candidature for the chair of natural history in my Alma Mater, the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Prof. Edward Forbes, and in which I was strongly supported by the leading geologists of the time. By a strange coincidence, just as I was about to leave Halifax for England in connection with this candidature, intelligence arrived that the Edinburgh chair had been filled at an earlier date than my friends had anticipated, and at the same time a letter reached me from Judge Day offering me the Principalship of McGill. I had determined in any case to visit England, to attend the meeting of the British Association in Glasgow, and to thank the many friends who had promoted my Edinburgh candidature; but postponed my departure for a week that I might consult my family, and decided to accept the Montreal offer, provided that a professorship of geology or natural history were coupled with the office. Thus it happened that I became connected with McGill in its infancy under its new management, and the story forms a striking illustration of the way in which Providence shapes our ends, rough hew them as we may. Its lesson is that young men should qualify themselves well for some specialty, but should also be sufficiently general in their training to adapt themselves to new and unforeseen pursuits.

As I have referred to Sir Edmund Head, I may say that he continued to be an active friend of the University during his term of office and after he returned to England. This is true also of his successors, all of whom have shown a kindly inter-