

in this respect shew more the high spirit of a nation conscious of a great destiny, and anxious, above all things, that no short-comings of the present generation shall interfere with the teachings their children have received."

A decree has been promulgated declaring the electoral period opened in Spain. During the time prescribed the Press is free to discuss all constitutional questions except that of monarchy, and public meetings of a political character may be held. The decree concludes by expressing the hopes of the Government for the re-establishment of a representative régime, without which there can be nothing but anarchy.

The Paris *Moniteur*, in an editorial referring to the course taken by the British Government during the recent war alarm, says: England by raising her voice in favour of peace has naturally recovered her just authority and influence in Continental affairs, and the present Ministry has acquired a degree of strength and power which will procure for it the grateful respect of Europe.

Official despatches from the interior of Cuba state that Government troops attacked a body of insurgents, numbering 600 men, commanded by Ruloff, at Chario Agul, on the 14th inst., and again at Hayo De Manicaragua on the 16th. In the encounters nineteen of the insurgents were killed and ninety of their horses captured. The Government loss was five soldiers killed.

—Mr. Jefferson Davis, in an address to the Texas veterans of the Mexican war at Houston lately, entreated them to be as loyal now to the Stars and Stripes as they were zealous and brave in defence of their first flag.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says the Russian Government will await the replies of the several States to its communication in relation to the conference upon the usages of war.

THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF THE DOMINION.

II.—THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

The McGill University has the honour of being the oldest in Canada proper, and the oldest but one in the Dominion—Kings College, Nova Scotia, having precedence by a number of years in the date of its Royal charter. McGill has also the credit of having developed its courses of study and public usefulness to a greater extent than any other of our Universities.

I

It numbers 38 Professors and other instructing officers, and these are distributed in three Professional Faculties or Departments as well as in the Faculty of Arts or College proper. The Faculty of Arts provides a wide and liberal course of study extending over four years. Connected with it, though constituting a separate branch, is the Department of Practical and Applied Science, including Schools of Civil Engineering, of Mining Engineering and Assaying and of Practical Chemistry. The Medical Faculty has long stood at the head of such Schools in Canada, and there is also a well equipped Faculty of Law. In addition to these branches of the University proper, the Morrin College, Quebec, as an affiliated College, sends students to the University examinations. There are in Montreal two large and flourishing affiliated Theological Colleges, the University not teaching theology directly, but affiliating with certain privileges such theological Colleges as may desire this benefit. The McGill Normal School which is the Provincial Institution for training Protestant teachers for Schools and Academies, is also affiliated to the University and under its immediate control.

The buildings of the University are plain and unpretending in exterior, but commodious and spacious, and their situation at the foot of Mount Royal with extensive grounds in front, is both beautiful and salubrious. The main building is occupied principally with the Class-rooms of the Faculty of Arts, while the Convocation Hall, Library, Museum, Laboratory and Residences occupy the wings and connecting buildings. The completion of these buildings by the erection of the West wing and the connecting buildings is due to the liberality of the late William Molson and in commemoration of which the west wing bears his name, and an inscription on a white marble slab in his honour. The medical Faculty occupies the large detached building at one extremity, and at the other is the Observa-

tory, which is at present used wholly for meteorological observations, made in connection with the government system of telegraphy and storm signals. The Library now contains 12,000 volumes and is constantly being enlarged. It is open under liberal conditions to citizens as well as to members of the University. The museum is arranged with special reference to the use of students; and is especially remarkable as containing the collection of shells of Dr. P. P. Carpenter, one of the finest in its department on this continent. The apparatus is very good, and includes many of the best and most recent appliances for illustrating Physical Science. There are extensive and well-furnished chemical laboratories. The grounds in front afford space for cricket and lacrosse, and for the annual athletic sports of the students.

According to the last Report of the University, the number of students, was three hundred and there were besides one hundred and eighteen teachers in training in the Normal School. The University has now more than a thousand graduates in various parts of Canada, and many of them occupying the highest positions in Political and Professional life.

II

The following details as to the history of the University and the biography of its founder are mainly derived from articles and addresses by the present Principal, Dr. Dawson, and by the Chancellor the Hon. Mr. Justice Day.\*

James McGill was born on the 6th October, 1744, in Glasgow, Scotland. He received his early training and education in that country, but of these little is known. He arrived in Canada before the American revolution, and appears, in the first place, to have engaged in the North-west fur trade, then one of the leading branches of business in Canada. Subsequently he settled in Montreal, and, in partnership with his brother, Andrew McGill, became one of the leading merchants in the little town of about nine thousand inhabitants which then represented our commercial metropolis. His settlement in Montreal, and his marriage with a lady of French parentage, the widow of a Canadian gentleman, occurred a little before the beginning of this century; and from that time till his death in December, 1813, he continued to be a prominent citizen of Montreal, diligent and prosperous in his business, frank and social in his habits, and distinguished for public spirit and exertion for the advancement of the city. His name appears in several commissions relating to city matters—for instance, that for removing the old walls of Montreal. He was Lieutenant-Colonel and subsequently Colonel of the Montreal City Militia; and in his old age, on the breaking out of the American war of 1812, he became Brigadier-General, and was prepared in that capacity to take the field in defence of his country. He represented for many years the West Ward of Montreal in the Provincial Legislature, and was afterwards a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils.

Mr. McGill's resolution to dispose of his property in endowing a college was not a hasty death-bed resolve, but a mature and deliberate decision. He had taken a lively interest in the measures then before the Government for the establishment of an educational system in the Province of Quebec, and had mentioned, many years before his death, his intention to give, during his lifetime, a sum of twenty thousand dollars in aid of a college, if these measures should be carried out by the Government. But many delays occurred. From 1802, when the act to establish the "Board of Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning" was passed, until the time of Mr. McGill's death, the persistent opposition on the part of the leaders of one section of the people to any system of governmental education, and the apathy of some of the members of the Council, had prevented the appointment of the Board, or the completion of the liberal grants of land and money for educational purpose which had been promised. Mr. McGill was apparently weary of these delays, and feared that he might be cut off by death before he could realize his intentions. He had also the sagacity to foresee that a private endowment might force the reluctant or tardy hands of the members of Government to action. Accordingly, in his will, prepared in 1811, more than two years before his death, he bequeathed his property of Burnside, and a sum of ten thousand pounds in money, to found a college in the contemplated Provincial University, under the management of the Board of Royal Institution; but on condition that such college and university should be established within ten years of his decease. Three leading citizens of Montreal, the Honorable James Richardson, James Reid, Esq., and James Dunlop, Esq., and the Rev. John Strachan, afterwards Bishop of Toronto, were appointed trustees under the will.

The will was contested, and with the exception of obtaining a Royal Charter in 1821, no action was taken upon it until 1829. The first step toward the establishment of a University was the organization in that year of the Faculty of Arts and the Medical Faculty. The former met with many difficulties and made little progress; but the latter, being a professional school and composed of men ranking the first in their profession, has been and still is sustained with admirable ability and vigor.

III

In 1835 increased efforts were made toward the establishment of the Faculty of Arts,—and after

\* Bernard's Journal of Education 1859. New Dominion Monthly, 1870. Proceedings at Inauguration of William Molson Hall, 1862.

a further interval of some years it was formally opened, in September 1843, in the buildings erected for that purpose. The undertaking, however, was not successful. The College received no support, and at length its utterly prostrate condition attracted attention, and the Provincial Government was moved by a number of gentlemen to aid in an endeavour to place it on a better footing. A careful Report was prepared on the state of the University, and suggestions were made of the course which it was advisable to follow for its amelioration, which became the basis of much that has since been done.

A new Charter was applied for, and was received in August 1852, differing favorably from the former one in many of its most important provisions. Upon the reception of the Charter the newly-appointed Governors immediately entered upon the labors of their trust. They began by reforming the Statutes of the University, in a manner to introduce a more simple administration, and absolutely to do away with all religious tests and privileges. The College was involved in debt, and its income fell far short of its expenditure. Measures were at once taken to stop the increase of the debt, and in various ways to improve the financial condition of the College; but with only partial success. An appeal was consequently made, in December of the year 1856, to the Protestant population of Montreal, and was met, as such appeals always have been by its leading citizens, in a spirit of ready and unrestrained generosity. An Endowment Fund, amounting to £15,000, was subscribed by a number of gentlemen, not exceeding fifty. Of this sum £5000 were given by Messrs. MOLSON (the three brothers) for founding a Chair of English Literature, the remainder was made up in sums varying from £500 to £150. It will be gratifying to the subscribers of the fund to know that their help, both in money and moral support, came at a time of great need, and has been of incalculable benefit.

These subscriptions have been followed in subsequent years by others, and by large individual benefactions too numerous to be detailed here. Prominent among them are the following:—The Peter Redpath Chair of Natural Philosophy, the Logan Chair of Geology, the John Frothingham Chair of Mental and Moral Philosophy, each endowed with the sum of \$20,000; the Henry Chapman, Prince of Wales, Anne Molson, Shakespeare, Logan, Elizabeth Torrance, Holmes and Earl of Dufferin Gold Medals; and the Scholarships and Exhibitions founded by Mrs. Redpath of Terrace Bank, Mr. W. C. McDonald, Mr. C. Alexander, Mr. T. M. Taylor, the Board of Governors and the Caledonian Society of Montreal.

The wise liberality of a good man is often far more fruitful than he could have anticipated. Mr. McGill merely expressed a wish to found a college in connection with a university already provided by the generous grants of land promised by the British Government. But in Lower Canada these grants were not actually given; and eventually Mr. McGill's endowment became the sole dependence of the English population of Montreal for the establishment of a national university.

The value of the property bequeathed by Mr. McGill was estimated, at the time of his death, at £30,000; and it has since become much more valuable, owing to the growth of the city. The sum was not large in comparison with many other educational bequests; but it would be difficult to estimate its value to Canada in general, and to Montreal in particular. Gathering around it the gifts of other liberal men, it has sustained the McGill University, and carried it on to its present point of usefulness and success as a source of literary and scientific culture. Hundreds of professional men, in all parts of Canada bear testimony to its value; and the city derives from it much of its higher character as a centre of learning and practical science. Indirectly, it has benefited the cause of common and grammar-school education, through the action of the Royal Institution, through the services of students and graduates as teachers, and through the McGill Normal Schools, which, though supported by Government, would scarcely have been established but for the influence of the college. Those who have in these ways received its educational benefits are to be found in all parts of the country, contributing by superior skill and intelligence to the common good. If the future may be anticipated from the past, its utility will, in the time to come, go on increasing and widening, growing with the growth of our country, and pervading all departments of useful and honorable occupation. An endowment of this kind is, probably, of all investments of money, that which yields the richest returns and most surely advances the welfare of mankind. The experience of older nations has shown that such endowments survive changes of religion, of dynasty, of social and political systems, and go on bearing fruit from age to age. It will, doubtless, be so here also, and the time will come when the original endowment of McGill will appear but as the little germ from which a great tree has sprung—the spring which gives birth to a mighty river.

Already, through Mr. McGill and those who have followed his example, as benefactors to this University, the English of Montreal may boast of having created a collegiate institution, second to none in the Dominion; and no one who knows them can doubt that, with God's blessing, they will carry their work forward in a degree commensurate with the growth of the city, and with the many demands of society for higher culture, more especially of those kinds, which can be made directly applicable to the spiritual, intellectual and material progress of mankind.

THEATRE ROYAL, MONTREAL.

Whether the reputation of Mr. J. L. Toole, the English Comedian, was overwrought, or whether Montrealers expected from him more than his talents warranted, or whether, as some pretend, his star is on the wane, his visit to this city has resulted in a general feeling of disappointment. The prediction of one of our daily contemporaries has received partial fulfilment; and although the Theatre Royal was filled several evenings last week, if we are to believe the disparaging expressions uttered after the performances by some of those who were present, Mr. Toole did not appear to them the great comedian he had been represented to be. Some accuse him of vulgarity, some complain of his tameness.

This week, Miss Emily Soldene, and a company of 40 performers are announced for five nights in Opera Bouffe.

At the present time of going to press, we can briefly notice only the first evening's performance. Herve's beautiful comic opera "Chilperic" was, on Monday night, presented in most excellent form. The leading rôles were well interpreted, the choruses effective, the *mise en scène* very complete, and the instrumental music was rendered with precision and good taste by a numerous and well-trained orchestra. The company musters strong, and all the incidental and secondary parts are well filled. The young ladies who represented Chilperic's Eight Pages have all the personal attractiveness required to lend interest to their parts, and several of them dance and sing with good effect. We have neither time nor space to particularise in this issue the respective merits of the several performers. Miss Emily Soldene must be seen and heard to be appreciated. What a rollicking, good-natured, absurd King Chilperic she personifies! With what mobile expression, and rapid action she flies into a passion, or falls into love, or goes off into eccentricities of reckless frolic! Her acting is just perfect, and her broad powerful voice has the faculty of being by turns comie or pathetic, at will. We anticipate a brilliant success for Miss Soldene and her company, during their brief visit to Montreal, and can assure our friends that no organisation so thorough and complete in the operatic line has visited us for years.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GRAPE IN QUEBEC.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

DEAR SIR,—I have noticed two letters, one signed "H. L.," Coaticooke, and the other "Ottawa," referring to some statements of my own contained in a paper read at the Agricultural Conference in the District of Bedford, on the subject of the culture of the grape in the open air. From the general tenor of the remarks made by these writers it is apparent enough that there is room for diversity of opinion between us respecting the relative superiority of the different varieties of grape, and the success attending their cultivation in Canada. My personal experience in the matter (which seems to be somewhat doubted by "Ottawa"), consists of a continuous experience of about twelve years with the results stated in the paper above referred to, namely, that the varieties of grape therein enumerated have been matured constantly, and without failure, and if either of these correspondents (whose skill I do not question) will do me the favour to visit my grounds in the months of September or October, they will, I hope, become assured of the fact, that grape can be grown in Canada for other purposes than that of adornment, and that it is substantially true that, with proper protection, they will mature in any place of the Eastern Townships, where the corn will ripen. I should also mention that by a typographical error the introduction of the Adirondac grape is said in the Bedford paper to have occurred four years ago, whereas "a few years ago" was the expression intended.

I am, respectfully, yours,

W. W. SMITH.

Phillipsburg, 15th May, 1875.

VARIETIES.

CASES of suicide are greatly on the increase in the Prussian army, it is supposed owing to the stern discipline.

THE Dover and Calais tunnel scheme seems to progress. The Chatham and Dover and South-Eastern Railway Companies have received permission to set apart £20,000 each towards ascertaining the feasibility of boring the sub-oceanic strata from the English side.

A LIEUTENANT in the Russian navy publishes a device for quickly stopping holes made in ships by collisions. It consists of a waterproof, pliable patch, with mechanism by which it may be readily adjusted on the outside of the leaking surface. The Russian men-of-war are being supplied with it.

SOME interesting relics have just been brought to light at Chatham Dockyard, where the discovery has been made of a portion of the sails of Lord Nelson's flagship, the Victory. They were taken from that vessel immediately after the battle of Trafalgar, and have since lain unthought of in the sail loft at Chatham Dockyard. The most interesting of the relics discovered is the fore-top-sail, which is in a good state of preservation. The sail is riddled with shot holes, there being as many as 90 holes made by the shot. A number of the sails—the main-top-sail, which is heavily damaged, has still the label attached to it when the sail was stored away; and this states that when the main-top-sail was removed from the Victory there were as many as 60 holes made in it, which were counted in it. On the sails may still be seen a part of the maker's name—"Miller, contractor, Portsmouth, 1803."