

University, and secondarily, for all students of Natural Science and for the public, under such regulations as may from time to time be enacted by the Corporation of the University, with the approval of the Board of Governors. When the undertaking was commenced I did not anticipate any such ceremony as that which has brought this assembly together to-day. I am deeply sensible of the honour conferred by His Excellency the Governor-General in consenting to take a part in it, and I desire now, for myself, to thank His Excellency for his presence on the occasion.

Principal Dawson then addressed the Convocation and spectators as follows :—

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN OF CONVOCATION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It falls to me to address to you a few explanatory words respecting the munificent donation to the University which we have met to-day to inaugurate. And first, I must return the thanks of the McGill University to Mr. Redpath for his generous gift, one of the largest ever made to the University or to the cause of education in Canada, standing next in amount to our original endowment, and ranking with the noble gift of the late Mr. Wm. Molson in 1861. It may indeed seem a large amount to be devoted to one branch of University work ; but, viewed in this way, it may serve as a measure of the greatness of that work in the aggregate. It must be borne in mind that a University Museum is not merely a place for the exhibition of specimens, but a teaching institution and a laboratory of original research. This Museum will indeed be a great Natural Science Department of the University, in which the classes in Geology and Biology will receive their instruction, and in which will be carried on with advantage those honour studies which will train original workers in all departments of natural science. From this place will go forth the men, and I trust the women also, best fitted to interrogate nature and bring to light the hidden treasures of our Dominion, and to avert by the aid of science the injuries with which any of its industries may be threatened. From it may emanate from time to time new discoveries tending to the honour of our country and the advancement of science. By its means we shall be enabled to extend the cultivation of a taste for the study of nature, beyond the limits of our regular classes, and to do much in the education of special students and of the public generally in those