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To the Friends of Queen's:—

AS Chancellor of Queen's University, I have felt it incumbent on me to place before the entire constituency of Queen's the following brief explanation. The unexpected action of the General Assembly at Vancouver in 1903 and at St. John in 1904, affords proof of the re-awakening of an intense interest and feeling in favor of the aims which inspired the founders of Queen's.

The Presbyterians of Canada, following the tradition of their fathers, have always sought to foster liberal education. Nearly three quarters of a century ago the Scotch settlers began a movement which eventually led to the establishment by Royal Charter at Kingston of a seat of learning, where education, while not divorced from Christian influence, would be open to every Canadian of whatever race or creed.

Some years later a grave division, known as the Disruption, arose in the Mother Church in Scotland, and spreading to Canada interfered seriously for years with the work and progress of the University. This difficulty is now happily ended, and at least in this country the Church has again become one. In more recent years the progress of the University, owing to the foresight of its founders and the wise guidance of far-seeing men, has been distinctly gratifying. Evidence of its rapid development may be found in the steady increase of students and the yearly necessity of enlarging the staff of Professors. At the date of the Disruption there were in all 13 students in attendance under three Professors. At present the students number 897 and the teaching staff has been increased from three to sixty-four. With thirteen students a small frame dwelling afforded sufficient accommodation. There are at the present time nine buildings, which form an imposing group within a spacious college park of twenty acres. A special interest is attached to the last building, completed only a few weeks ago. It stands on the western side of the quadrangle, and its lofty campanile adorns the whole group. On November 7th the students, numbering with their friends more than two thousand, assembled within its walls to present it formally as a free gift to the University, and to ask that it be dedicated as a Memorial Convocation Hall in honour of Principal Grant. The erection of this magnificent Hall resulted from a spontaneous movement of the students who earnestly desired to express in this form their regard and affection for their late beloved master. The building was formally received from the students, was solemnly dedicated, and will be known as Grant Hall. It is a fitting monument to the memory of a man who, imbued with the spirit of the founders, laboured to carry out their patriotic aims. It is a tribute of affection for one who was an inspiration to the graduates, and has left behind him an influence for good which will long endure.