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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL CONVOCATION

OF THE

M^CGILL UNIVERSITY,

MONTREAL,

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 2ND, AND THURSDAY, THE 3RD OF MAY, 1866.

Montreal:

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

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ANNUAL CONVOCATION
OF THE
M^CGILL UNIVERSITY.

M A Y, 1866.

FIRST DAY.

The Members of Convocation having assembled in the Library of the University, in the William Molson Hall, proceeded in the usual order to the Convocation Room. The Chancellor, Hon. Justice DAY, LL.D., President of the Board of Governors, took the Chair.

The following Members of Convocation were present:—

The Hon. JAMES FERRIER,

MR. DUNKIN, M.P.P.,

MR. ROBERTSON, Q.C.,

MR. W. MOLSON,

The Hon. JOHN ROSE, M.P.P.,

} Governors.

J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S., Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

REV. CANON LEACH, D.C.L., LL.D., Vice-Principal, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

HENRY ASPINWALL HOWE, M.A., Rector of the High School.

BROWN CHAMBERLIN, M.A., B.C.L.

GEORGE W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D., Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

REV. JOHN COOK, D.D., Principal of Morrin College, Quebec.

ALEXANDER JOHNSON, LL.D., Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, McGill University.

REV. GEORGE CORNISH, M.A., Professor of Classical Literature, McGill University.

P. R. LAFREY, B.C.L., Professor of Jurisprudence, McGill University.

REV. EDWIN HATCH, B.A., Professor of Moral Philosophy, Morrin College, Quebec.

ROBERT A. LEACH, M.A., B.C.L.

FREDERICK W. TORRANCE, B.C.L., Professor of Civil Law, McGill University.

WILLIAM E. SCOTT, M.D., Professor of Anatomy.

ROBERT P. HOWARD, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

REV. A. DESOLA, LL.D., Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Literature.

PIERRE J. DAREY, M.A., Professor of French Language and Literature.

W. C. BAYNES, B.A., Secretary and Registrar.

Edward H. Trenholme, M.D.,

Rev. Canon Bancroft, M.A.

Rev. Edwin Gould, M.A.

James Kirby, M.A., B.C.L.

David Leach, M.A., B.C.L.

C. P. Davidson, B.A., B.C.L.

L. H. Davidson, B.A., B.C.L.

J. H. Bothwell, B.A.

Rev. J. Davidson, B.A.

William Fowler, B.A.

Lonsdale Green, B.A.

E. E. Krans, B.A.

James McGregor, B.A.

R. A. Ramsay, B.A.

C. H. Kirby, C.E.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. the Vice-Principal of the University.

The Minutes of the first day of last Convocation were read by W. C. Baynes Secy.

Convocation then proceeded to elect the Fellows in each of the Faculties as follows:—

IN ARTS.—B. Chamberlin, M.A., B.C.L., and R. A. Leach, M.A., B.C.L.

IN MEDICINE.—W. Sutherland, M.D., and R. Godfrey, M.D.

IN LAW.—W. B. Lambe, B.C.L., and F. W. Torrance, B.C.L.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts in McGill College then read the Honour and Class List in that Faculty of the College, as follows:—

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FACULTY OF ARTS.

HONOURS, PRIZES, AND STANDING.

*Graduating Class.**B.A. Honours in Classics.*

ANDERSON, JACOB DEWITT—1st Rank Honours in Classics—*Chapman Gold Medal.*

WATTS, WILLIAM JOHN—1st Rank Honours in Classics.

B.A. Honours in Natural Science.

BETHUNE, MEREDITH BLENHARNE—1st Rank Honours in Natural Science, and *Logan Gold Medal.*

TABB, SILAS EVERETT—1st Rank Honours in Natural Science.

PERRIGO, JAMES—1st Rank Honours in Natural Science.

B.A. Honours in English Literature

BROWNE, ARTHUR ADDERLEY—1st Rank Honours in English Literature, and *Shakspeare Gold Medal.*

WILSON, JOHN—1st Rank Honours in English Literature.

B.A. Ordinary.

Class I.—GRANDY, JOHN.

Class II.—CHIPMAN, CLARENCE; MCLEOD, HUGH; HART, LEWIS A.; MORRISON, JOHN.

Class III.—BECKETT, WILLIAM HENRY.

* BANCROFT, CHARLES, (*Ægrotabat*); MACDUFF, ALEXANDER RAMSAY, (*Ægrotabat*).

CHIPMAN,—(Prize in German.)

Third Year.

ARCHIBALD,—1st Rank General Standing; Prize in Mental and Moral Philosophy.

FRAZER,—2nd Rank General Standing; Prize in Zoology.

HOLIDAY,—Prize in French.

BROWN, CHARLES,—Prize for a Collection of Plants.

Passed the Sessional Examination:—

ARCHIBALD, FRAZER, HOLIDAY, CARMICHAEL.

Second Year.

BROOKS,—1st Rank General Standing; Certificate in Classics; Prize in Botany.

MARLER,—1st Rank General Standing; 1st Rank Honours in Mathematics and Prize; Certificate in Classics; Prize in French.

* These Candidates were unable to attend the Examination from sickness, and were allowed private examinations, hence the special position they occupy on this list.

LAING,—1st Rank General Standing; 1st Rank Honours in Mathematics and Prize; Prize in Logic; 2nd Prize in Hebrew.

DART,—Prize in Chaldee.

Passed the Sessional Examination:—

BROOKS, MARLER, LAING; DART and SLACK equal, MOORE, KENNEDY.

First Year.

DAVIES,—1st Rank General Standing; Prize in Classics; Prize in Logic.

CRUICKSHANK,—1st Rank General Standing; Prize in Classics; Prize in English; Prize in History.

LEWIS, MONTGOMERY,—Prize in Chemistry.

KAHLER, FREDERIC,—Prize in Hebrew.

Passed the Sessional Examination:—

DAVIES, CRUICKSHANK, MACKENZIE, GREENSHIELDS, LEWIS (MONTGOMERY), HARRINGTON, LEWIS (ALBERT), KAHLER (FREDERIC), MCLEAN (JOHN), JONES, CLARKE, VENNOR, McRAE.

The Medallists—Mr. Anderson, Mr. Bethune, and Mr. Browne were called forward, and received their medals from the Chancellor.

The Diplomas of Honours were then handed to the Honour men by the Dean of Faculty.

Messrs. Anderson, Watts, Bethune, Tabb, Perrigo, Browne, Wilson, Grandy, Chipman, McLeod, Hart, Morrison, and Beckett were called forward, and, having made the requisite declaration, received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the Principal.

Messrs. Bancroft and Macduff were also admitted to the degree.

Mr. McLeod then delivered the Valedictory on behalf of his class, as follows:—

MR. CHANCELLOR,—The day of Convocation has at last arrived, that day which we as students so anxiously awaited. The hopes and fears which for some time agitated us are now set at rest; and we have attained the prize for which we struggled.

It has now become my duty and privilege to express, if possible, the feeling of the graduating class in bidding farewell to our *Alma Mater*—its benefactors, professors, and others connected therewith.

The means which man possesses for the benefit of his race are various: and among the most important of these is the right disposition of the wealth and influence which his Creator has been pleased to bestow upon him. All honour, then, is due to those who have so nobly stood forward for the cause of education, whose names

are engraven on the heart of every graduate and student of McGill, and whose memory will be honoured and blessed by future generations, long after we are surrounded by the silence of the tomb.— They have advanced the interests of their fellow-creatures, and they have built for themselves a monument in the walls of McGill College which will long tell of the liberality of the citizens of Montreal.

To our professors, we tender our most heartfelt thanks, as the only return we can make for the many favors we have experienced at their hands. Though compelled at times, by the rigor of collegiate discipline, to assume a reproving air, it was always tempered by that kindness which can flow only from warm hearts and genial dispositions. Without their assistance, always so willingly and readily given, many of us would, long ere this, have despaired of a happy termination of our labours; our own unaided efforts would have been of little avail when groping through the intricacies of Mathematics or Mental and Moral Philosophy, when travelling over the wide fields of Classical Literature, or when surmounting the obstacles which beset our path in the pursuit of the records of the past ages of this globe on which we exist. Their attainments and abilities have commanded our admiration. The benefits they have conferred upon us have excited our gratitude, and their kindness has won our love. We have now to bid them adieu; but at whatever distance from them we may be situated, our highest ambition will be to imitate the virtue, which, by example and precept, they have instilled into our minds.

And now, companions, brothers in labor and success, this is an occasion of great importance. We have entered this hall as students—we go out as graduates. But, though we have ended our College life, are we now to lay aside all thoughts of the work which we have begun? Are we to rest on our oars, and let the sail hang loosely in the breeze? Are we to prove false to our friends, to our professors, to our College, and to ourselves? Assuredly not. We must bend to our oars, and we must trim our sails, to explore the sea of knowledge which lies extended before us, inviting our adventurous keel to plough its waters, and bring to light its hidden treasures. What we have as yet done is but the means to the end. It has but prepared us for a useful and beneficial life for

ourselves and others. We are formed for action; our natures will not submit to the rust of inaction. And if, through indolence, we permit any part of our complex organization to remain unemployed, or unexercised, it will perish. This is a fact which is proved by universal experience. The finest physical constitutions soon become weakened and deteriorated, when left to the seducing influence of indulgence, when the nerves are not braced by danger, and the muscles hardened with exercise. So it is with mind, the noblest part of man. We have faculties within us capable of the most unlimited improvement,—and which, properly cared for, will reward every sacrifice of ease and enjoyment. And it is not merely our own advantage that bids us toil on: our country also commands it; and her interests should have the greatest weight with us. Nations are great, not in proportion to the bricks and mortar they contain, not in proportion to their forts and ships, but in proportion to the amount of mind concentrated therein. It is not so much the bravery and valor of her soldiers and sailors, nor the strength and number of her citadels and fleets, as the intellectual ability of her sons, that has made our mother country, Britain, the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

But swiftly-speeding time bears along in its course the hour of our departure, which reminds us that many of us may never again meet on earth; and that the ties of friendship, formed by years of almost constant companionship, must be severed. Thoughts such as these arise in our minds, and dampen the joy which each feels at the success which has crowned his own efforts and those of his fellow students. Each of us now goes out on his own path through the world, to make new friends, and to struggle through the dangers and difficulties with which fortune may surround him: and it may be that the happy days spent in McGill amongst one another may be forgotten. Nay, not forgotten! for when wearied and oppressed with care, when disappointed by the desertion of those whom we fondly imagined to be our friends, and when despairing and cast down with despondency, on account of any reverse, the memory of our College-life, and of the friendships formed there, will inspire us with new hope and vigor, and encourage us to renewed attempts, until we succeed in spite of opposition.

Farewell brothers! the halls and class-rooms, which once resounded with our voices and footsteps, will know us no more; and others will fill the places we once occupied. They may do so more worthily, but never will there be a class who will feel greater regret at leaving their *Alma Mater*. Farewell, a long farewell.

In conclusion, I would feel that the most important, as well as the most pleasing, part of my duty remained unfulfilled, and I know I would be censured by those who intrusted it to me, if I did not return thanks to the ladies, who honour us and grace this hall by their presence on this occasion. The thoughts of home have cheered the student when laboring and fatigued with his midnight studies: for who among us does not consider the approval of a mother or sister as one of the greatest incentives to well-doing? And who would not strive and put forth his best endeavours to gain their good opinion? I know, therefore, that I express the sentiments of the graduating class, in saying that we are amply rewarded for all our labors by the presence here, to-day, of the wit and beauty of Montreal.—

Professor Hatch, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Morrin College, then read the following list of those who had passed to the degree of B.A. with honours:

Mental and Moral Philosophy.

1st Rank.—Messrs. HENRY C. SCOTT and IVAN T. WOTHERSPOON, equal; Mr. ROBERT CASSELS.

2nd Rank.—NEIL W. MCLEAN, THEOPHILUS H. OLIVER.

These gentlemen then received the degree of B.A.; after which Mr. Wotherspoon read a valedictory on behalf of his fellow graduates from Morrin:—

MR. CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

For my class-mates and myself to bid farewell to scenes and faces right dearly loved, with a heart overflowing with emotion, I stand before you to-day.

This day is the festival of our University—the day on which she yearly sends forth into the world those who have duly kept their studious vigil, to be her champion-knights in the cause of truth and knowledge. And for these, her sons, it is indeed an

eventful day—a day to which they have long looked forward—one to which we hope they may long look back—the day when they step forth in the full panoply of a University education, to take active parts in the practical duties of life; to enter, hopeful candidates, the ranks of those who are striving for honour and for fame in the Church, at the Bar, in the Hospital. And to whatever station they may be called, let us trust that the high lessons of moral philosophy which have been studied theoretically here may ever remain practical guides in the duties of life—that, whether they hold the helm of Church or State, or are scarcely known outside of a small circle of personal acquaintances, that still our Alma Mater may be proud of the integrity of her sons, and that they may ever uphold the dignity and usefulness of their University. And there is, indeed, need that they should; for in a new country like ours it is generally long before the necessity for an exalted standard of education is felt. Few University men from the mother country are willing to remove themselves from a high intellectual society at home, for the sake of advancing science in a country where their labors will be poorly appreciated and still more poorly recompensed: therefore, the more honour to those among our Professors and promoters who have nobly done this. But yet, for the spread of knowledge throughout the length and breadth of the land, we must rely upon the exertions of those among us who have tasted here of her sweets; and who, by precept and example, showing and impressing the beauty and utility of learning upon society at large, may lend their aid to dispel the thick mists of false views that are its inevitable attendants in a young country, where there is, unfortunately, too often a tendency to make wealth the sole criterion of position. But, thanks to the exertions of noble-hearted men in the land, the clouds that for so many years hung dark and heavy over the intellectual life of Canada are now steadily rising. In the Upper Province, as well as in our own, Universities and Colleges are now numerous; and at length in Quebec, through the liberality of Dr. Morrin, the energetic perseverance of Dr. Cook, and the intellectual labours of Mr. Hatch, there is now established an English College. True, its fame and resources are limited, its local habitation a hired building, little, I trow, resem-

bling those "gray classic cloisters which lie along the banks of the
 "Isis or the Cam—huge battered hulks, on whose weather-stained
 "decks great captains of learning have fought away their lives;"
 but yet the start has been made, the first great step been taken,
 and Morrin College has now become affiliated with a University
 that ranks among the foremost on the continent. Still, this is but
 one step in the great march of science in our midst, and we hope
 that other colleges springing up may join their forces to increase
 the power of what it is to be desired, will eventually prove the one
 United Protestant University of Lower Canada. In the mean-
 while let us rejoice together that the thin rill of science in our
 land, which sprang from the donation of Mr. McGill, is swelling
 out into a mighty river, whose branches come from far and near,
 and whose waters "*labuntur et labentur in omne volubile ævum.*"

And of these waters, my fellows, we have had a fair chance to
 imbibe. In the struggle for philosophical honours we have fol-
 lowed the stream of thought from its almost undecided source,
 scarcely to be discovered in the deep morasses of old superstition
 and ignorance, where Thales blindly floundered seeking a cause for
 the universe, or in its varying course by shoal and rapid, and
 sleepy water; seeing it sometimes flowing on deep and swift when
 directed into its channel by some giant mind, and again its waters
 almost lost in the sandy desert of a period of intellectual barren-
 ness. Large and mighty when Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle
 floated on its bosom—broken into half-a-dozen enfeebled streams
 by their successors—its waters again collected by the schoolmen,
 but muddy and discolored, until Descartes appeared and sent it on
 purified as from a fresh spring. Then we find its banks cut out
 clear and sharp by Spinoza. Anon it becomes sluggish and heavy,
 while the materialists and idealists are swimming in its current; till
 at length, directed on its course by the master-minds of Kant and
 his great successor Hegel, it sweeps by our feet in a mighty
 volume. And now with reluctant steps we turn from its banks,
 which we can no longer follow; for the river, vast with the accu-
 mulation of centuries, rolls on into the unknown future, and its
 secrets are left to the revelations of the ages.

Our minds have also been braced in the pure clear air of the

mathematics, and our tastes enriched by gathering to themselves the treasures of Epic, Hexameter and Attic tragedy. We have learned, too the real market-value of a University education—we have been taught by experience and observation that it does not lie in the accumulation of a mass of facts, very pleasant no doubt to con over while they last, but whose clear-cut outlines are too soon blurred when trusted to the treacherous keeping of unaided memory; and, after all, poet and philosopher strive alike in vain to

"Tell us
All the sacred mysteries of the skies;
Vainly they strive, the deepest beauty
Cannot be unveiled to mortal eyes."

No, the real value of a University lies in the *training*. It is a gymnasium where every mental faculty is brought into play and developed, where minds are inured to severe labour, and taught to grapple with great problems. It furnishes the firm base on which to rear the structure of our after-lives.

And in these after-lives, my comrades, when sore pressed in the world's fight, and faint with seemingly fruitless struggle, how often will memories of the old college days and friendships, stealing upon the tired brain, freshen and invigorate it, and lend men hope in shewing that life is not all coldness. But now we must separate, east and west, never perhaps all to meet together again, but as you take your several courses I wish you each God speed—"vix mea sustinet dicere lingua—vale."

One word of parting to our Professors. To them, one and all, we sorrowfully bid adieu, tendering our thanks for their patient kindnesses, their unremitting efforts and their helping hands so often stretched forth to direct us through dark and intricate problems; but more especially to the Dean of our Faculty, who has been our kind and able guide through the mazes of the mental and moral sciences; he who has directed our steps from the time when, at the commencement of our college course, we mastered the crude world-conceptions of the old Ionic philosophers, till now at its close we rise, if not the victors, at least not vanquished, with minds strengthened and braced from tough wrestlings with modern German critics. To him we offer more than thanks and mere respect. In

our close and constant relations with him he has excited but a single feeling in the breasts of every one of us; and I know that I but give utterance to the one thought that pervades our united tribute to his worth, when I say that I can only compare our sentiments with those that were entertained by the disciples of the great Kant for their wonderful master—Honour to the mind—to the man, love.

I now thank my non-college audience, and especially the fair faces and bright eyes I see around me, for their patient attention, and crave their grace if I have been somewhat prosy, begging them to remember that I am straight from the schools, and have scarcely yet got rid of the dust of the old and musty folios. Their presence, however, shews the interest they take in a noble cause, and adds one more incentive to its vigorous prosecution.

The following Bachelors of Art were then announced by the Dean of Faculty of Arts, McGill, to have complied with the regulations, and to be entitled to the degree of M.A., viz.:—

Rev. James Davidson, B.A., George Ross, B.A.,
Richard John Wicksteed, B.A.

And those gentlemen having made the necessary declaration, were admitted to the degree.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the Ven. Archdeacon Leach, then addressed the graduates as follows:

This Session of the University is remarkable on two accounts. On no previous occasion have so many graduates attained the object and received the honours of the long and severe course of study which the regulations render necessary. On no previous occasion have so many matriculated with a view to have the advantages of the mental training which the discipline that is here required supplies. There is no other Protestant University in Lower Canada which in either of those respects can lay claim to an equal measure of usefulness in all the great objects contemplated in the institution of Universities or Colleges. These facts ought to inspire us with feelings of pleasure and thankfulness. The position might have been quite different. We might have had, some few of us, to deplore a present state of insensibility to all the great ends of existence, and a widely extended reluctance even to acknowledge the

use of any of the higher kinds of instruction—perhaps to deplore even a loudly expressed contempt for them. The present state of things is significant of a prevalent conviction, on the part of English Canadians generally, that it is right and necessary to keep pace with the intellectual progress of the age—striving to traverse the great chasm that lies between man's creation and his end.

I think it will be allowed that McGill College has done something to bring about this result; and I am free to confess that there are other colleges that must be admitted in justice to participate in the honour of a successful service in the same cause. I never was of opinion that one who loved his country well and his country's friends, ought to regard with jealousy or any contemptible feeling of envy, the efforts made by the other Colleges in Lower Canada to promote the ends which they are intended to promote. All that they have done, I regard as a benefaction to ourselves; they have done their part, more or less successfully, to create in the country the spirit of inquiry, and the love of truth and goodness, which constitute the very cause we have at heart; and I say to them, "Thank you, gentlemen, you have our best wishes; and on all solemn occasions you have, as you may know, in our purest and most considerate moments, our prayers for your success." I allude particularly to the University of Lennoxville and Morrin College. The latter is affiliated with this University, and as to the former I may be permitted to say, I wish it were. We sometimes hear it said, and that with a tone of complaint; that the professions are oversupplied: that the number of young men yearly admitted to the practice of medicine and to the bar, are greater than society requires, and the respectability of those professions demands.—First, as to the profession of medicine; it is true, perhaps, that the inconvenience of this large supply may be felt in particular places; but the world is large enough, and the uncultivated places sufficiently extensive, to say nothing of the navigating of the seas, for the practice of all and many more than the University sends forth *fully qualified for the work*, so that society at large has cause to regard the fact of numbers with favour and thankfulness. And there is another consideration: can anything almost be more valuable to the individual himself than the knowledge of medicine in all its branches, which he has here acquired? Is that no

gain? Is that not worth all the time and study he has expended for it? With regard to the Bar, the field, it may be said, is much more limited in proportion to the supply. It may be so. Still the number of those who are passed into that profession is the last thing that men should complain of. There is no avenue of life in which a person, who has gone rightly through a course of law studies, walks or runs, that is not, in some degree irradiated and benefited by him. Such a person cannot have intercourse with his fellow-creatures, without, in some measure, redeeming them from some part of the ancient and hereditary barbarism that adheres to them. All are gainers, generally speaking, by his gain, and drink some drops or draughts of water that is pure, from the little fountains that open themselves in his common talk or graver counsels with others. I cannot imagine how such a person should not be better fitted for every duty of the man and of the citizen: and if it is worth while having jurymen who know their duty, magistrates who know theirs, and legislators who know theirs,—if it is worth anything for law to have a voice, and good order to have any prevalency, it seems to me that the study of law is about the best thing, and the most direct, for the attainment of these ends; and the increasing number of those who pass for this profession, notwithstanding the vulgar sentiment to the contrary, is one of the happiest indications of the state of things to be when the now ununited portions of this part of the Empire shall be confederate, or, indeed, subsist under any organised form.

With regard to the sacred profession, it is known that this University makes no provision for religious instruction, as such.—There is one religious College affiliated with it, and there might be others, at any time they please. They may avail themselves without the expense and difficulty of particular arrangements, (and these to be worth anything are always greatly expensive and difficult,) of all that is useful and necessary in the studies that belong to the Faculty of Arts, without the least apprehension of any attempt to trench upon their special opinions or forms. Let *them* be preserved, since, as we suppose, they must; but that need not and ought not to prevent the very desirable effects resulting from a full course in the Faculty of Arts—effects visible in greater mental

vigor and practical ability, and what, perhaps, might be still more appreciated—that larger charity to which all the better souls of the men here must, I think, advance in their progress through the curriculum. The process in regard to this last of the uses of affiliated religious colleges connected with this University, may be *slow*. It is, nevertheless, certain; and I suspect is the only *kind* of thing that will keep religious truth and expand religious charity together—unless, indeed, we are to expect the advent of some divine blessed Pentecost, as in the former days, to unite all the severed members of the Church of Christ.

Of several subjects which I have noted, as proper to be adverted to, I remark this as something peculiar to the youth who enter colleges in this part of Canada, probably in other parts, if not in all the colleges of America—that they very rarely show any tendency to exercise or cultivate the power of imagination in a literary direction. When they enter college, their minds seem to have received no bias directing their mental eye to the unknown realms of poetry and general literature. As compared with the youth that enter the colleges of the old countries, they are equally apt to learn in any field of knowledge that must have memory and ratiocination. It is very difficult afterwards, when so much is to be done by the understanding only, to inspire the sensibility and taste I refer to, and hence there is some danger that their intellectual exertions and attainments at college, though they never can be fruitless, may not be sufficiently so, and be wanting in the creative power that effects through literature the heart and consciences of men. I hesitate to try accounting for the peculiarity I have alluded to. Perhaps the fault lies with the parents and guardians of the young. Perhaps they have never had the leisure in this weary, hard-working world, to attend to the subject; but surely there are few parents who might not quote with marks of approbation some passages of Milton to their children, or point out the beauty of some sentence of Shakespere? Why not give them to learn a short passage of Tennyson, as well as a hymn of the Sunday-school hymn-book? Some one has said, speaking of Burke, the hero of Australian discovery, “From a new country must come a new literature. All the poetry of a new land will not escape in *action*. If a Burke *lives* his

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poem a Tennyson may yet write it." I hope the truth of this may be exemplified here.

I remark, with particular pleasure, the event of no less than five graduates from Morrin College, who have taken honours in Mental and Moral Philosophy and Logic. So far as we are able to judge, the majority of them have done their work well, and the laborious course of study through which they have successfully passed, must leave them in possession of powers infinitely more valuable, intrinsically, than any pleasure which the reflected honour of their fellow-creatures can give. Old Sir William Davenant said (if I do not quote him amiss)—

" And to conclude, I know myself a man,
Which is a proud and yet a dreadful thing."

It is a proud thing to stand upon the hill-tops of thought, and grapple with questions which engage profoundly the attention of the best men in the present generation—questions which the strongest intellectual powers uneducated have no chance of dealing with successfully; and it is not without danger. It is dangerous if it do not make us humble; and yet it tends to do so. All knowledge is limited, and the powers of man's intellect can hardly be supposed to increase, generation after generation; but to the cultivation of the moral powers, to their enlargement and vigor, age after age there is doubtless no end. It is a good thing to have all the instructions of "the master of them that know," (to use a phrase quoted by you more than once,) but it is good also to remember that there is another master, the crumbs from whose table are worthy to be gathered up as jewels of inestimable price. They were treasured up and so estimated by the Saints and Sages of the older times, who worked out most fully the knowledge of God, and who best recommending it to others by a life of self-sacrifice and obedience, won for themselves those crowns that sparkle eternally on their brows.

To all the graduates and students, we need not say how much happiness and success we desire for you. Take care what you read. Read nothing but the best and purest books in thought and style. Speak nothing but the truth, and act uprightly to the brink of your cold grave. Remember the obligations which the declaration

you make in the College Record imposes. And thus may the blessing of the God of peace dwell with you.

I cannot conclude without an additional remark. The success of this University, so far as it has gone, is, we have no doubt, a matter of satisfaction to all right-thinking persons, and to the officers of the College, and to all those who have supported it by their unwearied efforts and counsels, and by their substantial contributions, a very pleasant thing to see. Many are the causes that have combined for the production of this favourable condition of the University; and if I speak of one in particular I trust I may not be thought to detract from the efficiency of any of the rest. I yield to an impulse which I cannot but believe to be right, when I give expression to the conviction, that there is one to whose untiring zeal and administrative ability, to whose true Christian character, courtesy, and scientific reputation, this University owes for its present favorable state, and its happier prospects in the future, far more than we can estimate, and the individual I mean is Principal Dawson.

Rev. Dr. Cook, Principal of Morrin College, being called on by the chancellor, then spoke as follows:—

I feel happy to be present on this interesting occasion. My connection with McGill College is now of long standing. Only a few weeks after my arrival in this Province, I was appointed a member of the Royal Institution, and was for several years associated with the late excellent Bishop of Quebec, and other gentlemen, many of whom have now passed away, in the endeavour to carry out the benevolent intention of Mr. McGill; and though, for many good reasons, it was considered expedient to transfer the management of the affairs of the College to gentlemen resident in Montreal, I have never ceased to take an interest in its progress, or to advance its prosperity. Recently the affiliation of Morrin College has again brought me into connection with the authorities of the McGill University; and I fear I should be very wanting indeed in my duty did I not take this opportunity to express, in behalf of Morrin College, our strong and grateful sense of the promptitude of all connected with McGill College, to meet our wishes, and to permit us to share in every privilege which the Royal Charter, under which

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they act, confers. In particular, I would now express our special gratitude to the Principal and Vice Chancellor, who has uniformly shown the most friendly feeling to our infant Institution, and favoured us with the excellent counsels which his experience of the difficulties and discouragements of academic education in the colonies renders him so well qualified to give.

Of Morrin College I shall not say much. Our means are limited, and the English speaking population with us is not so numerous as to warrant us to hope, at least, for many years, for any considerable number of students. But it is something to bring even a few students under the influence and training of men of such ability and attainments as those who teach the classes in Arts in Morrin College. 'Tis something at this early stage of our progress to bring up even so many as have appeared this day to receive the university degree and honours; and it would be something, if year by year, even a few of our youths, who might never otherwise have enjoyed the benefits of a university course, be similarly trained and instructed, and so better prepared for the duties of public and professional life. Meanwhile we are very sensible of our deficiencies. We can by no means be disposed to rest satisfied with our present condition. In academical as in other matters, it is well both to have a high idea of what *should* be, and the disposition to make the most of what actually is,—at once to be doing all we can now, and to be laying plans for bringing about a state of things in which we shall be able to do more; and that, I think, is our case. We are not without expectations both from public and private munificence; and should these not prove fallacious, we will gladly extend our, at present too limited, course of instruction.

What is most to be dreaded, both here and in Quebec, is the indifference of parents and guardians of youth to the benefits of academical education. It seems to be the great object of parents to transfer their sons, as speedily as possible, from the work of the school to the work of the counting-house—as if any time were absolutely lost, which should be spent in attainments, which will not immediately and directly tend to the successful prosecution of commercial enterprise. One would pardon such precipitancy in the poor, whose narrow means naturally renders them

anxious to see their children earning for themselves an independent provision. But why should there be such precipitancy with the rich? In a city like this, in which are to be seen on every hand the tokens of abounding wealth, and growing prosperity, there must be many whose circumstances enable them, without inconvenience, to protract the period of education for their children, and so at once to give that amount of school education which they have received a firmer lodgment in their minds, and to give them the benefit of that higher academic instruction and training which the masters in this University are so eminently qualified to give. Yet how few comparatively do so. The number of the youth who have taken, or are now taking advantage of the benefits of this institution is inconsiderable, in comparison of what it should be, if there prevailed in the community anything like right views of the importance of education—if there prevailed in the community anything like right views of the aim of life—and of all that by which it is made a noble thing, and large additions given to its enjoyments, its dignity and usefulness. It is difficult perhaps, anywhere, most of all in a great commercial community like this, to keep alive the impressions of what by the highest of all authority, we have been taught, that “a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth,”—difficult to extend and to render effective the conviction, that next to the existence of right principles, and the exercise of good affections, the love of knowledge is to be prized, and a taste for intellectual pursuits and occupations. Were such impression and conviction general, there would be a higher appreciation of the benefits which this University offers to the youth of the city; the number of the students would be largely increased; and our young men, having had their minds enlarged and their tastes fostered and refined by study, would be seldomer found giving way to the indolent indulgence of a taste for low and trifling pursuits and pleasures. The citizens of Montreal have come nobly forward in behalf of this institution with pecuniary support. All honour to them for doing so, But they will give it a yet better support, by sending their children to receive the instruction and training which it furnishes, and by which it can and will repay

tenfold the most munificent benefactions which can be bestowed on it.

I scarcely know how far it is becoming, or expected that I should address a few words to the students, who are only on the way to such academical distinctions, as have this day been conferred. I shall only say, that having finished the business of the session, they are now entitled to a season of relaxation, and no one should or does deny them the enjoyment of it. Yet is it to be desired, that they should employ that season wisely. It is not necessary, or desirable, though they may relax their exertions, that they should altogether cease from study. Nor will they do so, if they have profited by the instruction which they have been receiving—if they have been touched with any feeling of admiration for those ancient classics, which have furnished to the world the most perfect examples of taste and genius, if they have attained any apprehension of the value and importance of those severer sciences, into the knowledge of which they have had masters profound and enthusiastic to guide them, if they have had any just appreciation of the speculations to which they have been listening on the intellectual and moral nature of man. Not by constraint, but willingly, and of choice, for the gratification of the higher tastes which they have acquired, they will endeavour in the vacation to make themselves more completely and permanently masters of what they have acquired, and if possible to proceed on the line of study on which they have entered. It is desirable, that whatever literary and scientific attainments they have made, should become, as it were part of themselves, by that sustained and sober reflection, for which solitary rather than social study is most suitable.

To such, then, I say, make good use of your time. You know now that the longest life affords but short space to become acquainted with the wonders which science is daily unfolding, and no life can be devoted to learning alone. Nor can the life of most men be devoted to it much. It is mainly in the few precious years which you are now enjoying, between boyhood and maturer manhood, that the whole energies of the mind can be devoted to the pursuits of learning and science. Soon the necessities of life will require that these be exchanged for the business of the world.

Now then, I trust, you will improve as well as enjoy the time of comparative leisure, and that you will return refreshed, and invigorated for the labors of another session.

The Vice-Chancellor then announced that the Corporation had conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. upon Henry H. Miles, Esq., M.A., Professor of Mathematics and natural Philosophy at Bishop's College, Lennoxville. Professor Miles had for many years taught with eminent ability in that institution—his connection with which, he regretted to hear, was about to cease. This university desired, in this way, to recognize his long and faithful labors in the cause of education in Lower Canada. The Corporation had also conferred the honorary degree of M.A., upon Mr. Daniel Wilkie, of Quebec, Senior Master in the High School there, and Secretary to Morrin College. He also had been long and most usefully engaged in promoting the cause of the higher education in Lower Canada. In connection with these degrees he would remark that the University felt it its duty to be more and more chary of conferring its honorary degrees, more especially that of M.A. Yet in the present immaturity of our scientific and literary development, in the rudimentary condition of the work of education in this country, there is no department of mental exertion which we can more properly acknowledge by our honorary degrees than that of educational usefulness, and there is no class of men whom our graduates should be more pleased to welcome among them, than those who, amid many difficulties, have been laying the foundations of our educational fabric, and sowing the seeds of liberal culture.

He congratulated the friends of the university on the large number of graduates in Arts this year. It was the largest they had yet had, and they were not, for special reasons, likely to have for two years to come so many again. After that he hoped to see this number again reached and maintained, if not surpassed. And he could truly say that the men sent out this year, were in all respects such as the Professors could wish them. They were to be congratulated, not on their numbers alone, but on their attainments. He was glad to welcome the first graduates from Morrin College, and hoped henceforth, annually, to have a like pleasure; and he also hoped that next year another affiliated College, St.

Francis, would send up men for the intermediate examination. One of the most distinguished of the McGill graduates has been made Professor of Mathematics in that College, and it had also secured a competent teacher of Natural Science. He had felt very much moved and gratified by the kind and unexpected compliments paid him by the Ven. Vice-Principal and the Rev. Dr. Cook. To him it was a pleasure to have worked with men so true and earnest as those with whom he had been associated. When he looked back upon the work they had accomplished, it seemed, notwithstanding several failures and drawbacks, a great one. And to such a work he would cheerfully devote the remainder of his life as he had given the last ten years. It should be the hope and ambition of all of them to make this in the future, as he believed it to be in many respects now, the greatest University of British America.

The proceedings of Convocation were then closed with the benediction pronounced by the Rev. Professor Cornish, and formally adjourned to Thursday, at three o'clock, P.M.

SECOND DAY.

At 3 P. M., the Members of Convocation entered the Hall in the usual order, and the Chancellor took the chair.

The following Members of Convocation were present:—

The Hon. Justice Day, LL.D., Chancellor of the University.

<p>The Hon. JAMES FERRIER, A. ROBERTSON, M.A., Q.C., CR. DUNKIN, M.A., M.P.P., Hon. JOHN ROSE, Q.C.; M.P.P.</p>	}	Governors.
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J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S., Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

VEN. ARCHDEACON LEACH, LL.D., Vice-Principal and Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

H. ASPINWALL HOWE, M.A., Rector of the High School.

HON. J. J. C. ABBOTT, B.C.L., Dean of the Faculty of Law.

G. W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D., Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

B. CHAMBERLIN, M.A., B.C.L.

R. A. LEACH, M.A., B.C.L.

PROFESSORS HALL, FRASER, SCOTT, WRIGHT, HOWARD, MCCALLUM, CRAIK
AND FENWICK of the Faculty of Medicine.

PROFESSORS TORRANCE, LAFREYAYE AND LAFLAMME of the Faculty of Law.

PROFESSORS SMALLWOOD, MARKGRAF, JOHNSON, CORNISH, AND DAREY, of the Faculty of Arts.

W. C. BAYNES, B.A., Sec. & Regist.

W. H. HINGSTON, M. D.

F. W. CAMPBELL, M.D.

E. H. TRENHOLME, M.D., B.C.L.

D. S. LEACH, B.C.L.

C. P. DAVIDSON, B.C.L.

N. W. TRENHOLME, B.A., B.C.L.

G. DOUTRE, B.C.L.

E. KRANS, B.A.

A. R. MACDUFF, B.A.

BECKETT, B.A.

S. TABB, B.A.

Hon. E. Hale, Vice-Chancellor of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, was also present.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Reverend the Vice-Principal.

The minutes of the second day of the last year's Convocation were then read by W. C. Baynes, Secretary.

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (Dr. Campbell) then read the prize list of that faculty as follows:—

The total number of students in the past session has been 178.

From Canada East.....	93
Canada West.....	72
New Brunswick.....	3
Prince Edward Island.....	2
Nova Scotia.....	3
Newfoundland.....	1
United States.	4

The number of students who have passed their primary examination for the M.D., C.M. degree, which includes Anatomy, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Institutes of Medicine, and Botany or Zoology is 39, as follows:

John R. Smallwood, Montreal, C. E.	John S. Proudfoot, Chatsworth, C. W.
Emery Allard, Belœil, C. E.	Henry McGowan, Kingsey, C. E.
Albert Roy, St. Hyacinthe, C. E.	Edward J. C. Roberts, Fredericton
James O'Leary, Kamouraska, C. E.	N. B.
George Dickinson, Ottawa, C. W.	Wm. B. Malloch, Ottawa, C. W.
Richard King, Peterborough, C. W.	Clarence R. Church, Merrickville,
Richard S. Markell, Osnabruck, C. W.	C. W.
Clinton Wayne Kelly, Kentucky,	James W. Oliver, St. Catharines,
U. S.	C. W.
Wm. McCarthy, Henryville, C. E.	John A. S. Macdonald, Charlotte-
James Howard, St. Andrews, C. E.	town, P. E. I.
John M. Wanless, Montreal, C. E.	John Brandon, Warwick, C. W.
Peter A. McIntyre, Charlottetown,	Wm. Grant, Williamstown, C. W.
P. E. I.	Charles O'Reiley, Hamilton, C. W.
Wm. H. Fraser, Perth, C. W.	Edmund Paradis, St. Denis, C. E.
Edward K. Patton, Quebec, C. E.	John Gillies, Morristown, C. W.
Robert L. McArthur, Martintown,	James A. Nesbit, Hemmingford, C. E.
C. W.	John Madill, W. Essex, C. W.
Francis L. Howland, Arcona, C. W.	W. Dougan, St. Catharines, C. W.
Daniel M. Cassidy, Montreal, C. E.	Arch. MacLean, Port Sarnia, C. W.
Donald McDiarmid, Newington, C. W.	John Bell, M. A., Kingston, C. W.
John Vicat, Montreal, C. E.	Hy. Harkin, Montreal, C. E.
Lafontaine B. Powers, Port Hope,	Calixte Ethier, St. Joseph, C. E.
C. W.	

The following are the names of students presented for the degree of M.D., C.M., their residences, and the subjects of their theses:

George Ross, M.A., Montreal, C. E., Asiatic Cholera.	William Wakeham, Quebec, C. E., Treatment of Mania.
Samuel Campbell, Glengary, C.W. Pneumonia.	Alexander C. Savage, Ottawa, C.W., Typhus Fever.
Alexander Falkner, Lancaster, C.W. Croup.	James Hayes, Simcoe, C. W., Anes- thetics.
Edmund C. Walsh, Montreal, C. E. Excision of Joints.	Philip Burrows, Ottawa, C. W., Pneumonia.
Edmund Longley, Waterloo, C. E. Arterial Hemorrhage.	Benjamin F. Burch, Fort Coddington, U. S., Dyspepsia.
William Fuller, London, C. W., Nu- trition.	Emery Allard, Belœil, C. E., Cho- lera.
John McCurdy, Chatham, N. B., Fatty Degeneration.	John Bell, M. A., Kingston, C. W. Acute Rheumatism.
Thomas D. Laney, Owen Sound, C. W., Pleuritis.	James O'Leary, Kamouraska, C. E., Hysteria.
James A. Knowles, Cookstown, C. W., Some of the Causes of Disease.	Jonas J.G. Hervey, Brockville, C.W., Tetanus.
John Corsan, Milwaukee, U.S., Evils of Tight Lacing.	James C. Irvine, Montreal, C. E., Peritonitis.
Julius Leavitt, Melbourne, C. E., Functions of Plants.	Charles S. Parke, Quebec, C. E., Pneumonia.
Charles E. Hickey, Williamsburg, C. W., Carcinoma.	George Duncan, Montreal, C. E., Abortion.
James B. Hall, Montreal, C. E., Asiatic Cholera.	Thomas Gendron, Beauport, C. E., Hernia.
Rufus S. Parker, Newport, Nova Scotia, Stricture of Urethra.	Benjamin S. Wilson, Roslin, C. W., Typhoid Fever.
Alexander R. Ferguson, Williams- town, C. W., Hydrophobia.	John Adsetts, Assist. Surg. R. Ar- tillery, Quebec, Delirium Tremens.
Alexander Anderson, Georgina C. W., Scrofulous Ophthalmia.	Jas. T. Halliday, Vernonville, C.W., Circulation of Blood.
Charles H. Cooke, Mount Pleasant, C. W., Chloroform.	Charles E. Graham, Ottawa, C.W., Acute Rheumatism.

The following gentlemen passed their examination, but are not of age. Their degrees will be conferred next meeting of Convocation:—

William Gardner, Beauharnois, C.E., Valvular Heart Disease.
Patrick Robertson, St Andrews, C.E., Scarlet Fever.
David M. Cassidy, Montreal.

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The Medical Faculty prizes consist—first, of the Holmes Gold Medal, founded by the Faculty in honour of their late Dean, and two prizes in Books for the best Primary and best Final graduation examination.

The Holmes Gold Medal was awarded to George Ross, B.A., of Montreal.

The prize for the best examination in the final branches was awarded to William Gardener, Beauharnois, C. E.; and in the primary branches to Clinton Wayne Kelly, of Kentucky, U.S.

The Professor's prize in Clinical Medicine, to John McCurdy, of Chatham, N.B.

The prizes in Natural History were awarded as follows:—

1st prize in Botany, Octavius H. Clarke; 2nd prize in Botany, A. A. Henderson.

IN PRACTICAL ANATOMY—DEMONSTRATOR'S PRIZES.

Senior Class.—For general excellence as a Practical Anatomist, for punctuality of attendance at the class:—Prize awarded to A. E. Spohn.

Students of the Second and Third Years' course who deserve honorable mention as good practical anatomists:—

W. H. Fraser, C. W. Kelly, L. B. Power, T. G. Roddick, J. Quarry.

Junior Class.:—Prize awarded between C. H. Clarke and F. F. Alloway.

Students of the First Year, who gave satisfaction for diligence and attention:

G. G. Bull, A. L. Wilson, T. D. Lucas, C. J. Hamilton.

Mr. Ross was then called forward, and received the Holmes Gold Medal, the Chancellor expressing a hope that he might prove as good a man and as devoted to science and the duties of his profession as the late Dean of Faculty, whose name the medal bore.

The Dean of Faculty then delivered the prizes to the prize-men.

The graduates were then called up, and having made the required declaration, the degree of M.D., C.M., was conferred by the Principal.

Dr. Hickey then delivered the valedictory on behalf of the new graduates.

MR. CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

Once to all things comes their hour. This may be considered ours, for we are told that times go by turns, and chances change by course. Change is the password of the hour—it is whispered in every passing breeze—with it comes joy and gladness, decay and death. Every hour the nuptial carriage is closely followed by the funeral car. One breath hurries us from the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud. Nor is this law of mutations confined to man. Astronomers have marked it in those silvery orbs which bound our sky—illuminate the night—guide the mariner across the pathless sea, and the weary fisherman to the shore. Philosophers, ever quizzing nature, have founded laws like that which pulls the apple to the ground, and keeps this world a sphere. The seasons of the year, too, bid us change. The forest leaf, so verdant in summer, indicates by its russet tinges that cold days are near—so the skeleton tree, by its bursting buds, reminds us of the heat of summer. We thus see that every hour is freighted with change; and with these vicissitudes man must rise or fall—and if opportunity be lost, the soul that was destined to soar will perhaps reach a lower level.

The tendencies of our age are onward. Literature, Art, Science—all are progressive. Every thought seems to suggest another; and so excellence is developed from the crude and immaterial. Truly wonderful has been the advance of art and science: the appliances of steam amply evidence this. Time was when countries were unknown to each other; now they are linked together by iron bands and the steam horse so closely, that border lines should only exist in state considerations, and questions of reciprocity become extremely selfish. Moreover the union effected by electric wires, through which they may whisper to one another, should make their traffic one. The Atlantic cable did bring shore to shore, only for a greeting it is true, but we have hope of its ultimate success in that one small message which traversed the briny deep, unmindful of and unmolested by its monsters, and gave to the heaving pulsations of two mighty nations a joyous thrill. Yes, the noble hearts of England and America swelled in harmony as their souls respired that pregnant exclamation,—“*Peace on earth, good will towards man.*”

Onwards is stamped upon our age; and we need only scan the

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scenes around to repeat the arrogant boast "that we are wiser than our sires." But the reason of so much success? It is mind—it is the influence of mind over matter. It is because an intellectual acumen, and an enlightened zeal have been brought to bear upon the natural objects of our lives. It is because the brain, no longer used to feed the passions wholly, analyses the images which fall upon its window, the eye. The rainbow which circles the heavens, and attracts, by its contrast and beauty, the ox's massive eye as he rolls it from the furrow to the sky, leaves no greater impression than the fence at the end of the field; but to man, whose mind is more than instinct, that rainbow is not merely a world of beauty—it is also volumes of thought.

This constant fluctuation in all things—this go-a-headativeness, fellow graduates, has important lessons for us who are about assuming the severer responsibilities of life. We have been but passive actors in the drama: to day the curtain rises and we must play our allotted parts on the same stage with accomplished performers, and before the scrutinizing gaze of a sometimes ungenerous audience. Now the question is, are we adequate to the task? If not, it is almost too late to learn. Competent judges have pronounced us fit, and so we appear hopeful and diffident, yet bound to do the best we can.

The profession we have this day won, is doubtless worthy of our fervent aspirations, and will merit our every effort to practise it honestly, scientifically and thoroughly. It has many fields for our industry—it offers every inducement for our skill. We have had good exhibition of its principles and application of our worthy Professors, whose labour-loving minds and abilities well fit them for their arduous duties, and from whom we have more than doubly learned that obstacles may become trifling when rationally attacked, and difficulties rightly managed will facilitate subsequent progress. We have been told by one of Canada's great ones, a brilliant star in her professional galaxy, that we are fortunate in being introduced to medicine at this period of her history; for she has many things to inform us of—many truths to communicate—and many suggestions big with future revelations—and abundant resources to place at our disposal.

To succeed, then, in being good physicians and surgeons is no mere chance. Fortune, it is true, may smile propitiously or not, as in other paths of life, but the secret of good luck is, I opine, "*à in gi'en attention.*" No; we have not chance to deal with, but a noble and magnificent science—not a complete science, we admit—nor is chemistry—yet who would question her right to that title. It is a science, too, that has winged its eagle flight against the forces of *homœopathy*, *hydropathy*, *hygèro-therapy*, and whatever pathy may have tickled the fancy or have pleased the taste. They each have a line of treatment they profess to adopt. We claim an acquaintance with each and all, and boast an intelligence that can choose the best.

To the healing art all sciences are tributary, and in it every power of the mind is exercised. Physiology involves acoustics, optics, and every law of physics and metaphysics; anatomy especially includes philosophy and mechanics, while she teaches us the various structures of that nice machine, the human body, which asks such frequent periods of repair. Chemistry has placed on our hands substances whose value is known even in atoms, and which in the economy of nature have been provided for man's exigencies. The human frame being complicated, multifarious are the remedies within our reach; and as there are many shades of difference in disease so these deviations require needful shades in remedies. No one remedy is ever efficient—we have no panacea—no one principle of cure. Experience makes worth the standard, and reason has supplanted credulity. The whole earth is rich in redeeming means; for *He* who artficed the physical condition of man also made abundant and careful provision for his wants. Your wonder, as my own, has been excited by the fact that in the *vegetable kingdom*, we should find another class of living things, imbued with various properties of diversified action, adapted to a world of living beings of a higher order. And how adapted? To diminish suffering, avert disease, alleviate pain, and to minister to the whole complicated catalogue of terrestrial woe. These compensations put the shallow sceptic to the blush. It is a wonder, too, that forces a belief into the mind that there is about the matter an unseen power replete with wisdom and beneficence—a Creator

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by whom must have been ordained these external and internal worlds of wonder; wonders which thus challenge our reason, awaken our admiration, which answer to our sorrow, and therefore kindle our gratitude.

With man we have to deal when the pulses of his passions beat wildly or feebly. Man in Eden knew no ills; *Infinite Wisdom* allowed him to sin—sin poisoned soul and body; the agony and bloody sweat of the crucifixion atoned for the one—disease, which thus seems to have been permitted, not contrived, as surely indicates the other. Might we not learn a lesson here with the theologian, in the constitution of man, which naturally would lead him “to look through nature up to nature’s God;” and perhaps it is only the blindness of ignorance and the perversity of arrogant conceit which sometimes sadly shrouds our ulterior and more glorious views. The anatomy of man evinces his maker, and our closer study leads us to exclaim with a divine philosopher of old, that we are *fearfully and wonderfully made*. I know you appreciate that exclamation, gentlemen; for the scalpel has filled you with amazement, whilst opening to your view the slender strings of human life, and which in the language of another is—

“Like a thought, or like a dream,
Or like the gliding of a stream;
E’en such is man,—who lives by breath,
Is here, now there, in life, and death,
The thought is past—the dream is gone,
The water glides,—man’s life is done.”

Truly we should approach the human body with a moral delicacy; for it is the shrine of the soul—the image of its maker—the crowning work of creation—and once in the fulness of its beauty was owned good, and received the *paradisiacal amen*. With these considerations our responsibilities culminate; while more than philanthropic fortitude is demanded when pain and anguish wring the brow, and the flickering pulse tells too plainly man is frail. When too, the mind inflamed with miserable hope, or shivering with the ague of expectation, he asks his lot, then a look or word may in that phantasmagoria of fate bear wretched disappointment or ecstatic hope. At the bed of death our wisest words, our noblest acts

will ever be required. There, as a dream poisons sleep, a neglect of duty will freeze the conscience; and when the cold hands, once friendly and kind, are folded over the quiet heart, and the deathless palate no longer rings with a voice of praise or blame, it will be well if *all* has been *done*.

Now, fellow graduates, while we are so near the future which may be full of hope and expectation, may we not stop and learn lessons from the past. There we can find consolation for fear—if we need such incentive to hope; and if ambition warms the bosom, the way is clear: for the great men of to-day were students like ourselves, and many perhaps commenced life with no better chances of success. We have many examples, then, of worth being acknowledged—of honest industry and toil receiving the records of genius and ambition. And this must ever be. Nor will we properly discharge our duty unless we practice our profession diligently, thoroughly and completely, and add, if possible, something to its store.

To-day we leave the lecture rooms of our alma mater, each for his home or place of future labours, where every thought and every hour should be selfishly devoted to the bettering ourselves; and if we are true to ourselves it must follow that we shall be true to our profession, and of use to our country. We shall doubtless have much to contend with as young physicians—many insults to bear—few praises to receive. Knowledge and integrity should be our armor: they will vanquish prejudice and win esteem. There is still a source of material aid to the physician, not because much of his reputation lies there, but also because of the inestimable good that source effects in the sick room, at the bed of death. What that source is I need not mention to you, gentlemen; you know it well. It is that being in whom the genius of *Heaven* was perfected. I speak earnestly—her name is woman. By her kindness and mutual aid we exist even from the moment of our birth to the hour in which the death damp moistens the brow of the dying. Her love is more than instinct, it goes beyond the span of life. Her hand will oft soothe the burning head when our best efforts fail. Her words and smile relieve the aching heart and cheer up sinking hope. No selfish motive hers while at the couch of infant beauty, or of

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“Tis hers a sacred charm to throw
Alike around the high and low,
The cottage and the throne;
To soothe our woes, or calm our fears,
To share our joys, or mingle tears
Of sorrow with our own.”

The hour has come, and I see anxiety upon your brow. In the bosom sorrow and joy are struggling for the mastery; a nobler sorrow or a nobler joy never warmed the breast. Let me, then, respected professors, as sponsor for my classmates, thank you for the kindnesses exhibited to us throughout our college course, and trust that you may long live to fulfill the responsible duties devolving upon you. In thought we will often visit the medical faculty of McGill, as well as its scenes and associations, but for the present, and as students, we must bid you, gentlemen of the faculty, *farewell*.

To you, fellow students, who have yet to struggle under the heavy burden of the noblest, still most difficult profession, we would offer you the encouragement that honest industry and persevering toil must be acknowledged; and would also remind you that “nothing great is lightly won, nothing won is lost.” With best wishes for your health and prosperity let us bid you, fellow students, a kind *farewell*.

Fellow classmates, we, too, must say farewell. Not long since we were strangers; but college days have cultivated friendships and woven pleasantries, never to be forgotten—never to be erased from memory. The same pursuit, the same interest, the same objects have made us more than respected by each other. But our associations have ceased; still thoughts of the past will repay with many a smile reflection's hour. To-day we set sail together on the same ocean, each the master of a craft similarly freighted, each wishing favoring breezes, each expecting storms, and all hoping to reach some distant port. The cruel surges of life may roll high and angry, and severely test the pilot's skill, yet if he has taken care to know his craft, and keeps an eye ahead, while a judicious muscle holds the

helm of fate, the storm will pass, and the vessel unharmed sail on. And now the sorrowful hand must be shaken, departing words must be said, but feeling suppresses language while the heart imparts a tempered glow to sadness. Let me wish you every success and happiness—*Gentleman, fellow classmates, Farewell!*

Professor Fraser then delivered the usual address on behalf of the Faculty to the new graduates.

GENTLEMEN,—This day's ceremony forms the climax of your professional studies—admits you to all the privileges and responsibilities of the profession of your choice. It consequently severs the connection which has existed between us as teachers and pupils. On such an occasion it is customary to offer the graduating class a few valedictory words by way of advice. That duty has on this occasion devolved upon me, and for your sakes, I wish it had fallen upon an abler man.

I will however endeavour briefly to point out, in the first place, what you may reasonably expect as the reward of your past labour on entering into practice; and in the second place, the mode in which you are most likely to attain that object.

Few members of our profession realize the princely fortunes so often acquired by those engaged in successful commercial pursuits—and seldom have they conferred upon them those honours that are so frequently bestowed upon eminent lawyers and warriors. On the other hand fewer members of our profession fail to make a fair and reasonable competency, than in either of the professions mentioned. A still greater reward is the usefulness of your services—the high satisfaction derived from the consciousness of being of use—of being able to do a service much in demand—the well doing of which involves great benefits, and averts great evils. There are few offices more appreciated by mankind than those discharged by the medical practitioner. The rewards which you may therefore reasonably expect from the studies you have gone through and the labours of your prospective practice, are, a fair competency, the satisfaction derived from a sense of the utility of your services, the gratitude of your patients and the respect of the public.

To attain these objects, there are certain fundamental rules of

conduct necessary for your self-regulation, and due to the public and to the profession.

As regards the first of these—your conduct should be such as is calculated to preserve your own health and command the respect of your fellow men. You, whose vocation it is to direct others in the preservation of their health and in the correction of their bodily derangements, are expected to know how to maintain your own. Familiar as you are with those hygienic laws by the observance of which health and life are maintained, nevertheless, I think it right to warn you as young practitioners against the ruinous habit, which too many members of our profession acquire, of indulging in alcoholic beverages, which is alike injurious to their health and professional prospects. The man who is afflicted with this infirmity can never be relied upon as a medical practitioner, and his best friends will soon cease to employ him, without his being apparently aware of the cause—often attributing their alienation to other reasons. To no class of men is bodily vigour and mental soundness more necessary than to those of our profession.—subject as they are to be called upon at all hours for professional assistance in cases the most intricate and dangerous. Therefore shun the cup that inebriates—that blears the eye and palsies the hand—destroys the intellectual and perverts the moral faculties.

Another point is this. To no class of men is integrity of conduct, truthfulness, dignity and suavity of manner more necessary. A great authority and a good man, Dr. Stokes of Dublin, has lately said in his address on medicine, delivered at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Leamington, in August last, "That the cause of medicine taken in its broadest sense,—whether as to its social, political, or scientific relations, is to be advanced more by the cultivation of the minds, the morals and the manners of those who are engaged in it, than by all other influences whatsoever." Entirely coinciding with the idea embodied in these great and good words, I commend them to your consideration and practical adoption as a sure way of advancing the profession at large and your individual success.

Before entering on the active duties of the profession, those of you who can afford to do so, should follow the example of the

father of medicine, who, after studying at the Aesclepon of Cos, travelled into other countries. In like manner you should visit Europe, to see the practice of its large medical institutions and hear the teaching of those renowned men of Britain, France, and Germany, who have so largely contributed towards the present condition of our profession. It is needless to point out the advantages of such a course, as they are universally acknowledged.

Another duty you owe to yourselves is to keep pace with the rapid progress which rational medicine is making in our time. The man who neglects this will soon find himself outstripped by his contemporaries and deservedly so. By means of periodicals and new publications, you should keep yourselves well informed of all that is going on in the medical world. For although you have ceased to be pupils you must still continue to be students—indeed your whole life must be one of study, observation and reflection.

There is another rule of conduct to which I desire to refer. Every medical man has often his patience sorely tried by being obliged to listen to long, tedious, and irrelevant histories of the maladies of valetudinarians and of persons labouring under diseases acutely painful or hopelessly incurable. With all such be gentle and forbearing. Remember the intimate relation existing between the physical and mental, and that derangements and diseases of the former often seriously affect the latter. Harsh and overbearing conduct towards invalids is not suitable to the present state of society. It never did any good and therefore serves no end either as regards the patient or physician.

For success in practice depend upon your own merits and the closest attention to business. Whatever your struggles may be, eschew all questionable or charlatanical devices for improving your circumstances by departing from the path of rectitude.

Towards the public your duties are of a special and general character. Prominent among the former is prompt attention to calls for your professional services, and when you have taken a case in hand do your utmost to save life and relieve suffering. In dangerous cases, when you have any doubt as to the correctness of the practice to be followed, hesitate not to call in the assistance of an older and more experienced practitioner.

To the poor be generous of your professional services and kindly in your manner. Although you receive no remuneration from them, your experience will be enlarged and your prospects in many ways advanced by such disinterested and humane conduct.

Let me also remind you of your obligation to be discreetly reticent in all matters coming to your knowledge as professional men,

As respects the public duties which a medical man of the present day is expected to perform, I may particularize disseminating amongst the community amidst whom he practises, a knowledge of those sanitary laws, which have been shown capable, when rightly understood and rigidly enforced, not only of preventing disease, but also of diminishing in severity that which is inevitable. In all climates and under all conditions of life, the purity of the atmosphere habitually respired, a good water supply and drainage are essential to the maintenance of that power of resisting disease, named by Cullen the *vis medicatrix naturæ*. It frequently happens that individuals continue for years to breathe a most unwholesome atmosphere, without apparently suffering from it, and when they at last succumb to some epidemic disease, their death is attributed solely to the latter—the previous preparation of their bodies for the reception and development of zymotic poison being altogether overlooked. That the fatality of epidemics is almost invariably in precise proportion to the degree in which an impure atmosphere has been habitually respired or impure water drank can be proved by the clearest evidence.

That an atmosphere loaded with putrescent miasmata favours the spread of zymotic poison by inducing an abnormal condition of the blood is beyond all question—nay farther, I am disposed to believe there is ample evidence to show, that in the crowded dwellings of the poor, diseases do in this way originate *de novo*. On the other hand, by proper attention to ventilation, water supply, and drainage, the fatality of epidemics that formerly terrified the nations, may be almost completely annihilated and the rate of mortality in disease in general largely decreased. It cannot be too strongly borne in mind, that the efficacy of such preventive measures has been most fully substantiated in regard to many of the very disenses in which the curative power of medical treat-

ment has seemed most doubtful—as for example cholera and malignant fevers.

The practical importance of this subject is strikingly illustrated by the following startling facts, brought to light by enquiries prosecuted under the direction of the London Board of Health, viz.: That the difference in the annual rates of mortality between the most healthy and the the most unhealthy localities in England, amounting to no less than 34 in 1000, is almost entirely due to zymotic diseases, which might be nearly exterminated by well-directed sanitary arrangements. The inevitable mortality, arising from diseases which would not be directly affected by sanitary improvements is 11 per 1000 in those districts which are free from zymotic disease. And the average mortality of all England in ordinary years, is about 22 per 1000, or just double that to which it might be reduced, so that taking the population of England and Wales (as by the last census) at 20 millions, the average annual mortality must be 440,000, of which 220,000 is inevitable, an equal amount being preventible.

These facts show in the clearest manner the great importance of sanitary reform. In view of the epidemic which has already appeared in some parts of this continent, and which is almost certain to visit this country during the present season, a sense of public duty and a desire to benefit your fellow men, should induce you to take a deep interest in this subject hitherto so imperfectly understood by the majority of the people. By acting thus as preventers of disease you will convince the public of the purity of your motives and the sincerity of your efforts for its welfare.

In order that the profession may advance in all its departments—Sanitary, Medical and Surgical, it is the duty of each of you to record his experience and thus contribute according to your opportunities to its progress. By such work a large experience is made available to the profession at large and the writer is taught accuracy of observation and profoundness of reflection.

With your fellow practitioners cultivate friendly relations, and reciprocate kindly offices. Attempt not to raise yourselves by a brother's fall—nor by wily and unscrupulous insinuations to un-

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dermine his reputation and dispossess him of his patient. No man ever raised himself to eminence by such unworthy conduct. Medical etiquette is founded on the same principles, which characterise the conduct of every educated, courteous and honorable gentleman. It has for its basis to do unto others as you would that others should do unto you. And now, gentlemen, go forth on your mission—your time has come—perform your work faithfully and diligently, and you will be sure to reap the reward. For your success and prosperity you have the best wishes of your late teachers, the members of the medical faculty of this University.

The Dean of the Faculty of Law (Prof. Abbott) then read the list of prizes and of graduates in that Faculty as follows:—

LIST OF GRADUATES.

John Alexander Bothwell B. A., of Durham, C.E.
 Christopher Benfield Carter, of Montreal.
 Jean Baptiste Couillard.
 Henri Jules Tachereaux Duchesnay, of Ste Marie, Beauce, C.E.
 Pierre Nagel Duprat, of St Henri de Mascouche, C.E.
 William Owen Farmer, of Montreal.
 Christophe Alphonse Geoffrion, of Vercheres, C.E.
 Edwin Ruthven Johnson, of Waterloo, C.E.
 Robert Anstruther Ramsay, of Montreal.
 Emery Robidoux, of St Philippe, C.E.
 William Rose, of Montreal.

RANKING OF STUDENTS AS TO GENERAL PROFICIENCY.

Third Year—1st, John Alexander Bothwell, 1st in all classes.
 Christopher Alphonse Geoffrion, 2nd in four classes.
Second Year—1st. Asa Gordon, 1st in three classes and 2nd in one.
 2nd. John Rice McLaurin, 1st in two classes.
First Year—1st. James Robertson Gibb, 1st in two classes and 2nd in one. 2nd. John James McLaren, 1st in one class and 2nd in one class.

STANDING OF STUDENTS IN THE RESPECTIVE CLASSES.

COMMERCIAL LAW :—PROFESSOR ABBOTT.

Third Year—1st. John Alexander Bothwell.
 2nd. Christopher Benfield Carter.

CIVIL LAW :—PROFESSOR TORRANCE.

- 1st—John Alexander Bothwell.
- 2nd. Christopher Alphonse Geoffrion.

JURISPRUDENCE :—PROFESSOR LAFRENAYE.

- 1st. John Alexander Bothwell.
- 2nd. Christophe Alphonse Geoffrion and Christopher Benfield Carter, equal.

CUSTOMARY LAW AND LAW OF REAL ESTATE :—PROFESSOR LAFLAMME.

- 1st. John Alexander Bothwell.
- 2nd. Christopher Alphonse Geoffrion and Emery Robidoux, equal.

CRIMINAL LAW :—PROFESSOR CARTER.

- 1st. John Alexander Bothwell.
- 2nd. Christopher Alphonse Geoffrion.

PROFESSOR ABBOTT.

- Second Year*—1st. John Rice McLaurin, equal.
- 2nd. Alexander Edward Mitchell.

PROFESSOR TORRANCE.

- 1st. Asa Gordon, John Rice McLaurin, equal.
- 2nd. Alexander Edward Mitchell.

PROFESSOR LAFRENAYE.

- 1st. Asa Gordon,
- 2nd. George Robert William Kitson, William Dominick Drummond, equal.

PROFESSOR LAFLAMME.

- 1st. Asa Gordon.
- 2nd. Alexander Edward Mitchell.

PROFESSOR ABBOTT.

- First Year*—1st. James Robertson Gibb.
- 2nd. John James McLaren.

PROFESSOR TORRANCE.

- 1st. John James MacLaren.
- 2nd. John James Robertson Gibb.

PROFESSOR LAFRENAYE.

- 1st. William Warren Lynch.
2nd. John James MacLaren.

PROFESSOR LAFLAMME.

- 1st James Robertson Gibb.
2nd. John James MacLaren.

Mr. Bothwell was then called forward, and Professor Abbott proceeded to compliment him upon the fact that having been Logan medallist in the Faculty of Arts, he now carried off the highest prize—the Elizabeth Torrance Medal—(founded by John Torrance, Esq.), in the Faculty of Law. He regretted the medal had not arrived, and that, therefore, Mr. Bothwell could not on that occasion receive from the hands of the Chancellor. He felt called on, therefore, thus publicly to compliment him on having won it. And he would add this also, that the future career of one who had won so much distinction in the University would be watched hereafter with no ordinary interest by his late teachers and others.

The Graduates being then called forward, made the required declaration, and the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law was formally conferred upon them by the Principal.

Mr. Geoffrion then delivered the valedictory on behalf of the graduates as follow :—

MESSIEURS.

Au nombre des vertus qui sont l'apanage glorieux de l'homme de loi, il en est une dont il est surtout jaloux ; c'est ce respect pour les traditions et coutumes de ses devanciers dans la noble profession qu'il a embrassée, cette vénération pour les traditions d'honneur et de délicatesse sur lesquelles repose la gloire de sa profession.

Les Gradués de la faculté de Droit de 1866 n'ont pas voulu faillir à ce sentiment : suivant une vieille coutume je suis ici pour me faire l'organe de tous ; pour scruter un peu du regard l'avenir qui s'ouvre et saluer d'un dernier regret le passé qui se ferme.

Nous entrons dans une nouvelle arène dont il nous faut mesurer l'horizon : elle est belle et noble la profession de l'avocat, et c'est

parcequ'elle est belle et noble qu'il faut se sentir l'ambition de se montrer digne d'elle.

Avant de nous séparer, qu'il me soit permis, non pas de faire l'éloge pompeux de notre profession, en a-t-elle besoin à nos yeux pour nous la faire aimer ? qu'il me soit permis, dis-je, de rappeler la mission de l'avocat, afin que chacun de nous comprenne l'étendue de ses devoirs, afin que chacun de nous sache bien que ses études légales ne sont pas finies et de quel courage généreux il lui faut encore s'armer pour embrasser toute la science du Droit.

Quand on se prend à songer aux devoirs que nous impose le titre d'avocat, vers lequel nous venons de faire le premier pas, on se sent presque effrayé : à nous de faire régner la justice par le monde : à nous de donner l'empire à l'intelligence sur la matière : à nous la tâche de civiliser le monde en créant les notions du vrai et du juste, principes générateurs de tout progrès : à nous la sauvegarde de la liberté et du bonheur des peuples, puisque nous faisons les lois et qu'il n'y a pas de liberté sans lois !

Le domaine de notre profession paraît encore plus grand dans notre jeune pays que partout ailleurs. En Canada où personne ne fait une étude spéciale du Droit administratif, l'avocat est nécessairement appelé à gouverner. Le citoyen reçoit des lois une double protection, l'une dans sa liberté, l'autre dans sa propriété : les lois politiques ont créé la liberté, les lois civiles la propriété. Montesquieu dans son immortel ouvrage de l'Esprit des Lois dit bien quelque part qu'il faut se garder de confondre le droit politique du droit civil ; c'est vrai, mais ils ont tous deux plus de corrélation qu'on ne serait porté à le croire, de là la place naturelle de l'homme de loi à la tête du gouvernement.

Un gouvernement constitutionnel est éminemment le gouvernement du droit. Qu'est-ce qu'une constitution en effet, si ce n'est une collection de règles ou lois souscrites par un peuple, quant à la forme de son gouvernement. Ceci posé, c'est de suite admettre la nécessité d'hommes versés dans la science du droit pour veiller aux intérêts de chacun, soit que la voix parte du peuple pour protester contre un abus, soit du pouvoir établi pour réclamer la soumission à l'autorité. Il n'y a pas d'avocat là où il n'y a pas de liberté : l'absolutisme en fait de gouvernement, c'est le caprice du souverain

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comme critérium du juste et de l'injuste, puisque sa volonté fait et défait les lois.

Les peuples ont aussi comme les individus leur jeunesse et leur vieillesse, leur âge de minorité et de majorité. Comme l'enfant sans raison, le peuple ignorant et barbare a besoin d'un tuteur qui fait tout pour lui, c'est l'autocrate ; alors les peuples n'ont pas de lois ; quand la civilisation a fait vieillir une nation et qu'elle se sent capable de se conduire elle-même, elle se fait des lois, elle devient république ou se crée une constitution : alors les hommes de loi sont respectés et puissants. Démosthènes et Cicéron vivaient dans des républiques. Ainsi donc les honneurs dont on entoure le barreau : "cet ordre aussi ancien que la magistrature, disait d'Aguesseau, aussi noble que la vertu, aussi nécessaire que la justice ;" ce respect dont on l'entoure est donc la mesure des lumières de la nation. A Athènes, à Rome, en France, en Angleterre, partout l'histoire vous démontrera cette vérité.

Mais le droit politique n'est qu'accidentel à notre profession ; écoutez encore le Camus : "Faire le bien, soutenir les lois, défendre les opprimés, guider ceux qui ont besoin de conseils, telles sont les fonctions auxquelles les avocats se consacrent. Leur activité augmente-t-elle, c'est lorsqu'il s'agit de soutenir le faible contre le puissant, l'accusé contre un parti formidable. Le crédit qui fait trembler leurs clients, élève leur courage. La terreur qui abat les âmes vulgaires, met en action les ressorts de leur âme élevée. Plus il y a de péril à résister aux factieux, plus ils mettent de gloire à les braver."

Marquer la ligne qui sépare le juste de l'injuste, savoir définir ce qui est équitable et permis, de ce qui est défendu, ne voyez-vous pas là une étude philosophique cent fois supérieure à ces spéculations vides de sens et sans but parcequ'elles sont inutiles ; n'y voyez-vous pas la fin des recherches du sage et du vrai philosophe ? Qui ne s'est pas senti meilleur après la lecture d'une page d'un Pothier, d'un Blackstone : où trouver une morale plus pure, une philosophie plus sublime que dans le traité des Obligations de Pothier : où le crime inspire-t-il plus d'horreur que dans le beau livre de Blackstone ?

Les esprits étroits et superficiels jugeant de tout sans raisonner,

ne peuvent comprendre la grande mission du jurisconsulte : ils voient en lui un instrument servile, prêt à se livrer à toutes les exigences d'un client honnête ou malhonnête. Ce n'est que trop vrai, de malheureuses exceptions ont pu faire croire à l'abaissement de la profession ; mais ceux-là ne sont pas dignes du titre d'avocat qui méconnaissent les maximes les plus sacrées de l'ordre : ils ne sont pas plus avocats que le bandit armé n'est soldat, que le charlatan n'est médecin.

Combien aussi, voulant juger de ce qu'ils ne connaissent pas, ont critiqué les formes minutieuses et prudentes dont s'entoure la justice. Ah ! c'est qu'aujourd'hui la justice n'a plus un bandeau sur les yeux, elle ne remet plus au sort la décision d'un procès : les ordalies étaient sommaires, oui, mais vous qui vous plaignez de la prudente lenteur de la justice, seriez-vous prêts à remettre à l'épreuve du feu la décision d'un procès où votre fortune, l'honneur de votre famille, votre vie peut-être seraient en jeu ? Quiconque connaît un peu le cœur humain, l'inextricable mélange de bien et de mal qui le compose, comprendra la mission sacrée du magistrat et de l'avocat, ces deux ministres de la justice.

Notre premier devoir est de venger la société des crimes commis contre elle, d'arracher l'innocent aux étreintes d'une justice quelquefois trop rigoureuse, de sauver l'honneur des familles, protéger le pauvre contre le riche, le faible contre le fort ; oui, Mesdames, protéger le faible contre le fort : l'avocat c'est votre défenseur généreux et zélé, c'est lui qui protège votre honneur, cette fleur qu'un souffle ternit, c'est lui qui réclame la protection de la loi pour vous, frères créatures, quand celui à qui vous avez confié vos destinées avec votre amour oublie les devoirs sacrés que Dieu lui a imposés. Jamais, Mesdames, il n'est si éloquent que quand il revendique vos droits. S'il s'agissait de disputer la palme du mérite entre les diverses professions, n'est-ce pas, Mesdames, que vous nous accorderiez vos suffrages, et si vous êtes pour nous, qui peut être contre nous ?

Mais à quoi bon, dira-t-on, ces efforts pour démontrer la beauté de notre profession ? Noblesse oblige, Mesdames et Messieurs, et c'est en examinant nos titres de noblesse que nous nous sentirons la force de ne pas déroger. Et le moyen d'atteindre à la hauteur de la

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tâche, le moyen le voici : travailler, travailler encore, travailler toujours, voilà la clef d'or qui nous ouvrira les portes de la science, Nous avons les moyens d'avancer toujours. L'imprimerie est pour la science ce que la vapeur est pour l'industrie. Depuis la découverte de cette puissance motrice, le travail de l'homme n'est-il pas devenu dix fois plus productif : depuis l'imprimerie l'étude n'est-elle pas devenue dix fois plus facile et conséquemment ses résultats n'ont-ils pas dû décupler ? La science est infinie, Messieurs, ne croyez pas pouvoir jamais atteindre à ses dernières limites. Tous les écrits admirables des Pothier, des Troplong, des Marcadé, &c., serviront à vous faire aller plus vite et plus loin : il ne faut pas s'arrêter là où les autres se sont rendus, il faut avoir l'ambition de les surpasser : il n'est aucun danger à viser plus haut que le but. et on est plus sûr de l'atteindre.

Lisons les archives de notre ordre, et nous trouverons des modèles parmi nos aînés. Eh ! qu'est-il besoin d'aller si loin, ces modèles ne les avons-nous pas autour de nous dans nos savants professeurs à qui je demande pardon de les citer ici comme les illustres exemples de ce que peut le travail joint à une noble ambition.

Ils se sont efforcés généreusement de nous rendre moins difficile cette science du droit si pénible à acquérir, ils nous ont aidés de leur expérience et du fruit de leurs veilles : je leur offre au nom de tous mes confrères nos plus sincères remerciements. La seule récompense que nous puissions leur offrir, c'est de prouver que nous avons profité de leurs leçons. Ils nous attendent aux nobles luttes du Barreau, nos premières passes d'armes seront peut-être avec eux ; ils seraient fâchés, je n'en doute pas, de la faiblesse de nos coups.

Mes dernières paroles doivent être pour vous, confrères d'étude. L'homme est ainsi fait qu'il n'est pas aussitôt rendu au terme de ses désirs, qu'il se prend déjà à regretter le passé. Ayant touché aujourd'hui le seuil de cette profession, l'objet de notre étude et de nos souhaits, nous ne pouvons dire adieu à cette folle vie d'étudiant sans éprouver une espèce de serrement de cœur qui fait souffrir. Nous nous séparons, c'est vrai, mais pour nous rencontrer bientôt dans la voie professionnelle où les liens de notre amitié se resserre-

ront encore davantage. A ceux qui restent en arrière, je leur souhaite bonheur et succès.

Et nous, maintenant, Bacheliers en Droit de l'Université McGill, le degré qu'on nous a conféré impose des devoirs devant lesquels nous ne reculerons pas : l'*Alma Mater* a droit de compter sur nous. C'est un moment solennel que celui auquel nous touchons, nous venons de faire le premier pas vers le glorieux ordre du Barreau, dans quelques mois, nous y serons tous entrés. Puisse le succès y attendre chacun de nous ; et dans dix ans, quand on désignera les sommités de notre ordre, que l'on dise : ce sont des Gradués de 1866.

Professor Laflamme then addressed the graduates in Law on behalf of the Faculty.

The Vice-Chancellor then delivered the following address :—

Mr. Chancellor : in closing this meeting of convocation, I desire as usual to mention a few facts relating to the session just passed. Our number of students in the past session has reached to 311, without reckoning those matriculated at Morrin and St. Francis, which amount to about thirty more. It is a cheering feature of our increased numbers, that the increase is chiefly in Arts, as many as eighty students having entered that faculty in McGill College in the past session.

Our graduates for the session, without reckoning those who have taken advanced degrees or honorary degrees, are 66 in number ; and here also it is to be noted that the increase is chiefly in Arts —the numbers being in Arts 20, in Medicine 36, in Law 10. It is further of importance to observe, as an indication of the value of the preparatory training in the High School, that out of seven graduates in honours, six received their preliminary training in the High School ; and that the High School has furnished four out of our five medallists. In some previous sessions, it has been otherwise, and it may be so again ; but it is evident that our students from other schools will henceforth require to put forth all their powers if they hope to surpass those from the High School. Again it may be remarked as an evidence of the value of the course in Arts for purely professional purposes, that both the medallists in the professional faculties are graduates in Arts who had previously taken the highest honours in that Faculty. I have no doubt that

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the superiority which has marked these men thus far will be apparent in their future professional life; and their example affords a strong inducement to all those who propose to enter on professional studies to prepare themselves by the course in Arts.

Another feature of the past session to which I may be permitted to allude, is the completion of the work, which has occupied the attention of the Board of Governors during the last fifteen years, of rendering the estate bequeathed by Mr. McGill, productive to the University. The whole of this property, with the exception of the portion necessarily reserved for the College grounds, is now yielding revenue, and I think it due to the Board of Governors thus publicly to state the obligations not only of the officers of the University but of the public generally to them for the skill and care with which they have administered their important trust, alike for the building up of the finances of the University and for the improvement of this quarter of the city. The position of comparative financial prosperity in which we have thus been placed, should, I think, furnish the best possible guarantee to those who may be able and willing still farther to endow the University; and it is proper to state in this connection that, in so far as pecuniary means are concerned, we have arrived at the limit of the resources furnished by the McGill endowment; and the future growth and improvement of the College must depend on the further benefactions of its friends: unless, indeed, even at this late period, the government of Lower Canada should prove sufficiently just and wise to redeem some of the pledges of public endowment made to this University, and to remove from this province the reproach of being the only one of the greater colonies of the empire in either the Northern or the Southern hemisphere that has made no permanent provision for the support of the higher education. Any of our public men who will take up this cause, and bring it to a successful issue, will earn a title to the gratitude of those who represent education, literature and science in Canada, through all time.

And now before parting with our graduates of this convocation, I would remind them that they carry with them our regrets that we must part with them, and our earnest wishes for their welfare; and that we have invested in them, and in their future success

years of our labor ; years which are the more precious to us, inasmuch as few of them may remain to us, and as they are years of our matured manhood. Yet, we hope that in the long career of active life before you they may be multiplied and reproduced with interest for the benefit of our country. That they may be so, I would ask you to consider a few of the general truths that you may have learned from the courses of study you have been pursuing. You must have learned from these the littleness of the individual man, relatively to the great mass of the known and the unknown in nature. How little can even the most gifted mind learn or do in its little space and time here. Viewed in this way even the acquisitions you have made should fill you with the deepest humility. Again : how much have you learned of the true greatness of man ? How great are those men who have added even a little to the mass of knowledge or to its applications for the benefit of our race. You should also be deeply impressed with the folly of that low materialism and sensuality in which so many men bury the hopes and utilities of life. How little would have been done for man, but for the greater and more self-denying minds which struggle against the current. You have learned too the value of truth for its own sake, independently of its mere external utility ; for it is the only food on which intellect and moral feeling can support and mature themselves, and those who follow truth purely for the love of truth, have been able to do the most for the practical improvement of the world. You have also learned to appreciate both in your more general and in your professional studies the common brotherhood of man. The subjects which you have studied belong not to one age or to one country, but are the growth of all ages and of all lands ; and if you have rightly appreciated this feature of the higher culture, you will be prepared to divest yourselves of the narrow prejudices of locality, and to regard yourselves as the debtors of all men in everything in which you can do them good. With such views and feelings, I trust you will go forth prepared to do honor to us and to yourselves, and to benefit the world ; and that your aim will ever be the highest good of man and the glory of God.

The proceedings were closed with the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Professor Cornish.