

STATEMENT

OF THE

Board of Royal Institution

GOVERNORS OF THE

M^cGILL UNIVERSITY,

MONTREAL ;

IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

1862.

JOHN C. BECKET, PRINTER, 38 GREAT ST. JAMES STREET, MONTREAL.

CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

VISITOR.—His Excellency VISCOUNT LORD MONCK, Governor General of British North America, &c.

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REV. DANIEL FALLOON, D. D., Principal of St. Francis College.

STATEMENT

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Board of Royal Institution.

In an educational point of view, the growth of this University under its new charter, has surpassed the most sanguine expectations of its friends. It is in the present session instrumental in the education of 889 persons, of whom 256 are Students in Law, Medicine and Arts; 62 are Teachers in training, 271 are pupils in the High School, and the remainder are pupils in the Model Schools. It has in the Faculty of Law, 5 Professors; in the Faculty of Medicine 9 Professors; in the Faculty of Arts, 10 Professors; in the High School Department 7 regular masters and 6 occasional masters. There are also two Professors, two teachers and four assistants, in the McGill Normal and Model Schools.

In its buildings, the University has long been inadequately accommodated; but recently by the exertions of the Board of Governors, and the liberality of one of them, Wm. Molson, Esq., this disadvantage has been in a great measure removed.

The University now challenges comparison with any other in North America, in the efficiency of its staff and the thoroughness of its courses of study, and is prepared to carry the scientific and literary education of young men to a degree of perfection not heretofore at-

tainable in Lower Canada, and comparable with that of the British Universities.

While these results, so creditable and useful to Canada, have been attained, the Board of Governors have, from the first, had to complain that the important objects committed to their care, have not received an adequate amount of Provincial pecuniary support, and that their labours have, in consequence, been prosecuted under many disadvantages.

The total expenditure of the University for the past year, including \$320 of interest on its debts, and repairs, &c. of buildings, \$1930, (but exclusive of the Normal School and of Fees paid to Professors in Medicine and Law,) may be stated at \$30,560 ; and that an institution of this character, with 33 instructing officers, should be supported on such a sum, must be regarded as an instance of economy scarcely equalled in any other similar case.

Of the above sum, \$10,106 are paid by the revenue of the original endowment of Mr. McGill, and the interest of the Endowment Fund contributed by the citizens of Montreal, and \$8,597 by the fees in the High School and the Faculty of Arts. Toward the payment of the balance the legislature contributes as follows:—

(1.) A sum of \$1000 per annum to the Medical Faculty, being the same amount paid to each of the other Medical Schools, none of which equals that of McGill in the number of Professors and Students.

(2.) The sum of \$1,128 to the High School Department, on condition that it shall educate, free of expense, 30 pupils appointed by the Government, and whose education at the annual rate of fees would cost \$1200 ; the High School being distinguished from every other superior School in Lower Canada by receiving no free grant. The injustice of this is referred to in the Report of the High School Committee.

3.) The sum of \$2,862, 28cts. to the College, in aid of the University generally, and of the Faculties of Arts and Law. The sum thus granted has been progressively diminished from 1854 up to the present time, as stated in the following table, though in the mean time the number of students at the University and its annual expenditure for their benefit have largely increased.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MCGILL COLLEGE, FROM
1854 TO 1861, WITH THE ANNUAL GRANTS FOR THE SAME YEARS.

STUDENTS	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861
in Arts,.....		38	42	47	47	60	58	65
in Medicine,.....		57	96	90	97	108	124	146
in Law,.....		15	16	30	30	37	47	45
.....								
Total Students,.....	97	110	154	167	174	205	229	256
Teachers in Training in } Normal School,..... }			52	70	83	76	61	62
Pupils in High School,.....	185	215	225	242	250	252	281	271
" in Model Schools,....			210	230	300	300	300	500
.....								
Total,.....	282	325	641	709	807	833	871	889
Grants to the University,....	\$7000	\$4167.77	\$3071.06	\$3001.07	\$2932.82	\$2932.82	\$2862.28	
" to the High School, } for Educating 30 } free Scholars,.... }	\$1128	\$1128	\$1128	\$1128	\$1128	\$1128	\$1128	

Taking into account all these sources of revenue, an annual deficiency remains of over \$6,000, not provided for by the income. This deficit proceeds not merely from the diminution of the annual grant, but from the demands made by the growth of the University; which the Board is very unwilling to arrest in its present stage, more especially as it is hoped that in a few years the annual increase of the revenue from the estate will

cover this deficiency, could adequate aid be obtained in the mean time.

It is farther to be observed, by way of contrast, that while the principal University in Lower Canada is thus slenderly supported, that of Upper Canada has a princely provincial endowment, and the Universities of Queen's College and Victoria College in Upper Canada have had their grants raised to \$5,000 each, beside the usual aid to their medical schools.

The Board would farther state that an inspection of the accounts will show that the utmost economy has pervaded its expenditure, and that its efforts have been steadily directed to the provision of means of education not otherwise accessible in this country, and of a higher character than those afforded by the ordinary Academies and Colleges; thus fulfilling the wise and benevolent intentions of the founder, and giving to our young men the opportunity of raising their mental culture to the level of that in older countries. It has further been an object of solicitude with the Board of Governors to promote practical scientific training bearing on the more important professions, and they would gladly do more in this direction did their resources permit.

The following statements contained in a former memorial of the Board, may be here repeated, as enforcing its claims to public aid.

First :—The late Mr. McGill undoubtedly made his bequest under the expectation and implied promise that a further and sufficient endowment would be made by the Provincial Government. This is apparent, from the circumstances under which the bequest was made. The Governor General in 1801 laid before the Provincial Parliament a message in the following terms :

“ That His Majesty had been graciously pleased to give directions for the establishment of a competent number of Free Schools, for the instruction of children in the first rudiments of useful learning, and in the English tongue, and for foundations of a more enlarged and comprehensive nature, and that His Majesty had been further pleased to signify His Royal intention that a suitable proportion of the lands of the Crown should be set apart, and the revenues thereof appropriated to such purposes.” As a preliminary step, the

Act incorporating the Royal Institution for the advancement of learning was passed, containing this message in its preamble, and thereafter, it was intended that the "liberal grant of Crown Lands," referred to in the message, should be transferred to its control, in trust for Free Schools and "Foundations of a more enlarged and comprehensive nature,"—but no grant was ever made.

The late Mr. McGill was not only an active Member of the Legislature at this time, but an Executive Councillor, and therefore, must be presumed to have been thoroughly conversant with the intentions of the Imperial and Provincial Governments. By his last will he bequeathed a sum of money and his Estate of Burnside to the Royal Institution for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a University; but his endowment, liberal as it was, was yet quite inadequate for the object contemplated, and it is reasonable to infer that he looked beyond it to the Royal Institution, to whom he believed that a liberal Grant of Crown Lands was to have been entrusted for a kindred purpose.

His Endowment was long anterior to the establishment of any Protestant College in the Province, and still is the only one made in it for that purpose. Since that time hundreds of thousands of pounds have been bestowed by annual grants on Roman Catholic Educational Institutions in Lower Canada; while, in Upper Canada, several Universities have been founded, all of them participating more or less in the grants of public moneys. One of them, the University of Toronto, enjoys an endowment of 226,201 acres of land conferred by Royal Grant in 1828, from which a sum exceeding £293,883 has been already derived, and in addition to this, it received during many years for the College connected with it, a grant of £1,111 annually. Upper Canada College, established in 1832, was endowed by various grants between that year and the year 1835, with 63,805 acres of land, which has yielded £55,434, and has also received an annual grant of £1000, which still continues. Yet no permanent provision whatever has ever been made for McGill College; and all the moneys received by it from public sources (of which the first was in 1854) do not together amount to one-fourth of the annual revenues of the University of Toronto, or to one-tenth of the value of Mr. McGill's bequest.

The largeness of that bequest and the munificence with which the fund has since been increased in the sum of £15,000 by subscription in the City of Montreal, coupled with the character of the University, justify your Memorialists in the hope that a corresponding spirit will be manifested by the Legislature, and that after so much has been done by private beneficence, the work may be completed by granting the relief now sought, and providing for the future a permanent public Endowment.

Secondly :—Not only was the late Mr. McGill warranted in believing that his exertions to establish a University would be supported by a Grant from the Crown Lands, but the Members of the Royal Institution, subsequently, were led to expect that they would have been saved the heavy expense of erecting the College Buildings, and that the endowment would have been rendered available for its future support. In the early part of 1819, the Lord Bathurst, then Colonial Secretary, instructed the Governor General, the Duke of Richmond, to adopt, with as little delay as possible, the necessary measures for erecting upon Mr. McGill's property an adequate building for the instruction of youth, and His Grace was authorized to defray the expense thereof from the funds which might be in the hands of the Receiver of the Jesuits' Estates.

But for reasons unknown to the Governors, these liberal intentions on the part of His Majesty were not carried into effect.

Thirdly :—The University of McGill College is the only one in Lower Canada which is non-sectarian. As such it possesses the confidence of the Protestant community of every religious denomination. This is shown by the list of subscriptions to the endowment fund, in which are to be found the names of Members of the English and Scotch Churches and of the Free Church, Methodists, Congregationalists, American Presbyterians and Unitarians; Members of the Jewish faith have also contributed.

Fourth :—The University is not a mere private Institution founded by individual benevolence, but is public and Provincial in its character. It is prepared to confer degrees not only upon the Students of its own Colleges, but, under just and salutary rules, upon those of any others which may be established in the Province,—thus rendering it unnecessary, as without doubt it is inexpedient, to multiply the number of Educational Institutions possessing that power.

The Governing body is appointed by the Crown and is removable at pleasure. The Governor General is its Visitor.

A large number of scholarships in the Faculty of Arts are at the disposal of His Excellency, and he has the presentation to 30 scholarships in the High School Department.

Fifth.—This Provincial character of the University, and the prosperity and influence which it has attained, mark it out as the great centre and support of the higher Protestant Education in Lower Canada. As such, the establishment and management of the Normal School has been confided to it with the approbation of the whole community; and the confidence has thus far been justified by a complete success. A further indication of the same nature is afforded by the affiliation with it of the St. Francis College (a flourishing Institution in one of the Eastern Townships) under the liberal terms provided by the Statutes of the University.

The affiliation of other Colleges and Theological Schools may be expected; and thus the aids to higher education, which this country so much needs, will always be available to all who may require them, and that in the amplest form; for it is to be observed that this University offers to its students not only an ordinary liberal education, but the means also of high scientific culture, and of thorough instruction in the professions of Law, Medicine and Engineering, and that its present position in this respect will enable it, with additional pecuniary resources, to extend itself still further in the direction of professional education.

The importance and claims for support of such a Central Institution are too obvious to require argument; and these, great as they now are, will be augmented by the increase of population, wealth and intelligence, bringing with them an appreciation of the value of learning and a demand for the means of its general cultivation. The University of McGill College ought not then to be confounded with the ordinary Schools and other Educational Establishments, sectarian or non-sectarian, which abound in Lower Canada. It stands alone in its character and objects, and requires from the Government a direct and special support adequate to its importance and its wants. To place it, in the distribution of Legislative aid, upon the same footing with those minor establishments which share in the fund placed in the hands of the Superintendent of Education, is an error and an injustice, not only to the University itself but to the whole Protestant community of Lower Canada.

APPENDIX.

Report of the High School Committee

OF THE CORPORATION,

TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS,

MARCH, 1862.

The High School Department has been connected with the University of McGill College, as its preparatory school, for seven years, and has in that time increased in its attendance from 153 to 264 pupils, and has been materially enlarged and improved in its staff of instructors and course of study.

During the whole of this time the income of the School has fallen short of its expenditure by sums varying from \$1,400 to \$3,000 annually, the whole of which deficiency has been borne by the funds of the University, nor has it been possible in connexion with maintaining the School in the necessary degree of efficiency, to render it self-supporting.

The Board of Governors would scarcely have been justified in sanctioning this use of the revenues of the University, but for the great importance of the High School in relation to the training of students for the College, and that the latter, while still in an infant condition, made comparatively small annual demands. There was also reason to hope that the just claims of the School on the public, would at length be acknowledged to a sufficient extent to render it independent.

Of late, however, the subject of the High School deficiency having forced itself on the attention of the Board as a serious impediment to the development of the College, by absorbing much of its

resources, at a time when these are imperatively demanded for the institution of new professorships and other purposes, your Committee were requested to take this subject into consideration, with the view of diminishing the expense or increasing the revenue of the school, and would observe that the following alternatives appear in the circumstances to be presented to the Board,

1st. The present staff of the School may be reduced.

2d. The Fees of instruction may be increased in amount.

3rd. Efforts may be made to obtain adequate public aids to the School.

With respect to the two first of these alternatives, the Committee are very reluctant to enter on the consideration of either.

The present staff, though consisting of men of the highest qualifications, is not more than sufficient for that efficiency, which the principal public School of such a city as Montreal should attain; and should its reduction be forced on the Board as a necessity, it will still be greatly to be deplored.

An increase of the fee might have a tendency to narrow the advantages of the School to a smaller number of pupils, and thus to defeat its own end, and would tend in any case to exclude some from the advantages of the School.

Nor does it seem called for to adopt either of these alternatives, while it can be affirmed with truth that the School has not as yet received any free grant whatever from the Government; and that those parents who send their children to the High School are practically deprived of the advantages of the public grant for superior education, and are thrown upon the slender revenues of the University for providing for their children an education which in the case of other Schools is liberally supported by public aids.

A sum of about \$69,000 annually is given nominally for superior education in Lower Canada; but it will be easy to show in the first place that this sum is only in small part actually distributed for this purpose, and that of the sum really given for superior education the High School has not received any part as a free grant.

We may state as indisputable principles with respect to a grant

for superior education, that it should be distributed not on the ground of population or religious denomination, but in the first place to Schools capable of giving to their pupils an education sufficient to enable them to enter the University or to commence the study of the higher professions, and to such schools in proportion to their staff of instructors and course of study, and to the number of pupils actually receiving their benefits ; and in the second place that the facts in reference to such schools should be ascertained by competent inspectors appointed for this special purpose. In Upper Canada, if we may judge from the statements in the School reports, these principles are kept in view, but in Lower Canada no attempt seems as yet to have been made to bring them into operation, though in the passage of the Superior Education act, these objects were distinctly stated by the Government as those which were contemplated in the change of system then introduced.

From the report of the Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada for 1860, it appears that the superior education fund was distributed among about 250 institutions, the greater part of which, though perhaps deserving of support from the common school fund, had no proper claims to be institutions for superior education. Of the whole sum of \$69,000, only \$19,492 were given to Colleges proper and their preparatory schools. In Upper Canada, on the other hand, in the same year, about \$49,000 were distributed among 6 Universities and Colleges, and 81 County Grammar Schools, required, under the law, to be sufficient to train pupils for the University.

Making every allowance for those of the so-called Academies and Model Schools of Lower Canada, which rise to the standard of superior schools, it may be safely affirmed that more than one half of the superior education fund is really given to Elementary schools.

Again, in the grade of Classical Colleges in the Report for 1860, there are ten institutions, including the High School Department of McGill College. In so far as our information extends, we believe that not one of these surpasses the High School in its staff of instructors and course of study. Yet it receives, per pupil, less than any other in the list. Six of these are Roman Catholic Colleges, having an aggregate of 1376 pupils, and receiving \$10,260, or at the rate of

\$7.46 cts. per pupil, without condition. The High School, with 283 pupils, receives \$1128, or at the rate of \$3.98 cts. per pupil, and has, for this, to educate 30 free pupils, whose education is worth, at the ordinary rate of fees charged by the School, more than the whole sum received. This we hold to be nothing less than virtually to proscribe as unworthy of public support the superior English and Protestant education represented by the High School. It is further to be observed that all of the institutions above referred to, have, in former years, received additional grants for building purposes, while no such grant has been given to the High School, though the Governors of the College have erected an excellent building for it, and renewed this building, at great expense, after the calamitous fire of 1856.

Your Committee would not wish to be understood as desiring to exclude free scholars from the High School, but as insisting on the unfairness of representing as a grant to the School, the fees paid under an arrangement entered into with Government for the purpose of educating indigent and deserving pupils, long before the enactment of the Superior Education Act, and not considered as a free grant. What we maintain is that a grant should be given in addition to the fees paid for those pupils, and in proportion to the efficiency of the School. Nor do your Committee wish to attach to any one in particular the blame for the injustice which they have suffered. They are, however, decidedly of opinion that the time has fully arrived to add to their frequent and fruitless applications to the Education office and the Government, a more formal appeal, and if necessary to demand a parliamentary investigation of the application of the Superior Education fund, in connection with the injustice so long done to this University and its preparatory school.

Your Committee would farther state that the connection of the High School with the University should not cause the High School to receive less than its due proportion of aid from the Superior Education fund. The connection produces no pecuniary benefit to the College, but entails on it an expense equal to the amount of its own parliamentary grant, which has always been very inadequate, and the care extended by the Board of Royal Institution to this School, and the excellence to which it has in consequence attained, should surely be regarded as additional reasons for its liberal support.

It is proper to add that owing to the successive delays in payment of the annual grant under the Superior Education Act, a whole year appears to have lapsed, so that the Secretary has been this year required to sign a receipt for a year in advance of the payment actually made. This has been done under protest.

At the rate of aid received by other Schools, even on the improper basis of distribution already referred to, your Committee estimate that since the passage of the Superior Education Act, a sum of about \$9000 is due by the Superior Education fund to the High School; and we are of opinion that efforts should be made to obtain compensation for this loss, in addition to a future increase of the grant.

