

British Association for The Advancement of Science

67th Annual Meeting, to be held at Toronto, Canada, 1897.

Chairmen of Special Committees :

Finance,	MR. B. E. WALKER.
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President,	PROF. A. B. MACALLUM, M.B., PH.D.
Treasurer,	JAMES BAIN, JR., ESQ.
Secretary,	ALAN MACDOUGALL, ESQ., C.E.

Toronto, March 19th 1896

My dear Sir,

Thank you for your note of the 16th.

It was not possible, in a brief article, the limits of which were strictly prescribed, to do justice to all those who have helped to make Mr. Gill what it is. The historian of the future will doubtless be able to record at length the evidence what I had to summarize. Yet he must, I submit, if he draws a true perspective present a similar picture to mine. No doubt every great general or leader of a movement has valuable assistance from able coadjutors, but the judgment of posterity always awards him the palm.

I would have you believe that the article was written with an honest desire to state the facts and that I cannot find anyone (who has gone over the records) who dissents from my conclusions. Mr. E. A. Meredith who is, I believe, preparing some data connected with his brief tenure of office, tells me

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2

Toronto,

1897

that a study of the matter convinces him that you are the "second founder of the University." That opinion, I find, prevails amongst the Mc Gill men I know. I tried to divest myself of all partiality or prejudice. For instance, in dealing with the official return of 1849 which is in the Legislative Library here, I felt as a Presbyterian that the late Dr Bethune's connection with Mc Gill was a misfortune and that his efforts to turn it into an Anglican College were quite unwarranted. Yet in stating the case an effort was made to put myself in his place and consider the attendant circumstances.

With due deference, therefore, to your high opinion I must still maintain that nothing but simple justice was done to you. In fact, if the University ever has its historian who can go into details during the period

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3

Toronto,

189

from 1855 to 1885, say, he will necessarily bring into stronger relief the enormous sacrifices made by the Principal in its belief. I hope the later benefactors of McGill will see that a monograph of its history is prepared, so that the lessons of the past maybe handed on to the future.

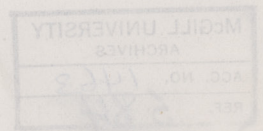
Please excuse me for troubling you at this length, but I felt most unwilling to admit by silence that the feeble effort in the Canadian Magazine was not just.

I remain, My dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully
A. H. U. Colquhoun

Sir William Dawson F.R.S.

Montreal



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189

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3

Cooper Johnson

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Sir William Dawson F.R.S.

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