Extracts from the minutes of Meeting of the Governors of M'Gill University held 29th June 1829.

"Present."

The Lord. Bishop of Quebec
The Hon.ble Chief Justice Reid
The Venerable Archdeacon Mountain

Meeting of Citizens & Medical Professors.

Royal Charter read by Rev.d Dr Mills Secretary of the Royal Institution.

The Venerable Archdeacon Mountain then rose, and stated that as the individual named to fill the honour-able office of Principal to the new College, it became his duty now to say a few words. He could not but express his sense of his own unworthiness for such a distinguished office, and he firmly hoped that he would be succeeded by a long line of eminent and learned Principals.

He had it in charge for colleagues to state their anxiety to put the College into immediate operation, and he might urge, as a proof of their wish that they had not been ~~[illegible]~~ idle in this respect.

With the assistance of the Hon.ble Mr. Cochran then present they had been engaged in preparing and modelling a Con-stitution and Rules for the Government of the Institution, Although it was not necessary to detail at present their precise nature, yet he could take upon himself to state that they were liberal in every sense of the word, imposing no test upon Professors or Students. In thus applying the word liberal he wished it to be distinctly understood, that he was not conveying the charge of illiberality against those noble and venerable Institutions of the Mother Country, in which a test was properly exacted of conformity to the National Religion; — but there were local circumstances which required local adaptation; and according both to the

terms

terms of the Will and the provision of the Royal Charter, all offices whatever in McGill College were left fully open either to Protestants or Roman Catholics, and students of all denominations would be permitted to attend. He deemed it necessary for him to explain how the present Professors happened

He then proceeded to explain that of the few persons who had been appointed, in order to organize the academical Faculty of the College,* happened ~~to belong to~~ to be members of the Church of England, this arose from personal and accidental causes and not from any ~~other~~ intention to limit the teaching staff of the University, to members of the Church of Scotland, or from whatever cause, — decided in favor of the former gentleman.

* interim of the Charter,

~~This circumstance was mentioned in proof that the original as well as the present intention of the governors was in all respects to shew due respect to the intentions of the Will of Mr McGill and the terms of the Charter.~~ It had been deemed necessary for the present to declare that the Professors should be graduates of some British University, but that a preference should hereafter be shown to those who had graduated within its walls. The governors would feel it to be their duty under all discouraging obstacles to push on the great undertaking, and never to cease in their exertions for its prosperity.

They hoped they would meet with general support, and they trusted with confidence that they would be assisted by all, when the very liberal terms of the Will and Charter were considered. It would be necessary for them to make a strong and powerful appeal to the Mother Country, and they also expected great pecuniary assistance from those residents near the establishment, and more directly interested in its prosperity.

She would as soon as possible establish a system of collegiate education, and there was a predisposition to engraft upon the College the well known and respectable Medical Institution

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terms of the Will and the provision of the Royal Charter, all offices whatever in M'Gill College were left freely open either to Protestants or Roman Catholics, and Students of all denominations would be permitted to attend. He deemed it necessary for him to explain how the present Professors happened all to be members of the Church of England. When found necessary to name Professors in value of the Charter of the College, his late Father, then Bishop of the Diocese, had submitted several names to His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie for these offices, among which, those of the Rev.d Archdeacon Strachan and the Rev.d D. Harmers having been proposed as eligible, either one or the other, to the same Professorship, His Excellency whether swayed by a feeling of delicacy and desire to avoid the appearance of partiality, on account of his being himself a member of the Church of Scotland, or from whatever cause, - decided in favor of the former gentleman.

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now in existence in the City. The door of the building was at length open, and it was the duty of all to proceed with vigour. They might at first complain of a great want of means for such an Institution, for it required much to place it on a respectable footing, but while they thus looked forward with confidence, they should not be unmindful that the Province was highly indebted to the very liberal disposition of Mr McGill, who had set such a praiseworthy example to his fellow Citizens, whose duty it now became generally to aid his work and follow up his munificent views

The Archdeacon concluded his address by expressing his conviction, that all who were present felt alike the dependence of every human undertaking for its success, upon the blessing of Divine Providence and would be therefore unanimously ready to join in the religious services with which it was proposed to conclude the business of the day; and in which he accordingly proceeded."

The public business having been closed the Governors of the Corporation held an interview with the members of the Montreal Medical Institution who had been requested to attend the meeting for that Purpose. During this interview it was resolved by the Governors of the Corporation that the members of the Montreal Medical Institution (Dr Caldwell, Dr Stephenson, Dr Robertson Dr Holmes) be engrafted upon the College as its Medical Faculty; it being understood and agreed upon by and between the said Contracting Parties, That until the powers of the Professor and the other Lecturers, shall they should immediately enter upon the duties of their respective offices.— All of which arrangements were agreed to.

Original
Inauguration
Ceremonies
1889

Address of
Archbishop Ireland

Dates
Appointments &c