

Underline nothing
with paper PR

Report of the Board of the
Royal Institution for the advancement of
Learning on matters relating to the University
of McGill College.

At a meeting held on the 14th
September last the Board of the Royal
Institution for the advancement of Learning
Resolved; - in the exercise of their functions as
Visitors of McGill College, - to institute an
-quiry into the affairs of that Establishment
for the purpose of ascertaining "if its Statutes
were faithfully acted upon;" - "if the course
of study pursued in it were susceptible of
improvement;" - "if the Books of Accounts were
kept in an orderly and correct manner"; -
and if any means could be devised of raising
that highly important Department, of Collegiate
~~Instruction~~ - The Faculty of the Arts - from
the state of ~~almost total~~ prostration in which
it has ~~now~~ so long remained.

The first meeting of the Board,
in their Capacity of Visitors, took place on the
26th of October last, within the walls of the
College, - when, after examining the Build-
ings, state of the Records, Account Books
&c.

So, they adjourned.

At their next meeting, however, and with the view both of facilitating and expediting their intended investigation, the Board resolved themselves into a Committee appointing Hew Ramsay Esq. to be the Chairman thereof; and under this arrangement, numerous meetings have been held, and much evidence taken on all the principal points embraced in the enquiry.

The Result of their labors in Committee, as reported at the usual monthly meeting of the Board, held on Tuesday the 4th Instant, and unanimously concurred in and adopted by the members present, is as follows:—

The Committee of the Board of the Royal Institution for the advancement of Learning, beg to report.

That, in conformity with the Resolution of the Board, passed at their meeting of the 7th Decem^r last, the Committee proceeded to enquire in detail into the affairs of St. Gill College, which for their own convenience as well as to facilitate future reference, they have classed and considered under the following Heads.

- 1st The state of the Buildings and Grounds.
- 2nd The condition of the Faculty of the Arts.

- 3rd The condition of the Faculty of Medicine.
 4th The state of the College Discipline.
 5th The state of its Revenue, Bursar's
 accounts &c.

1st State of the Buildings and Grounds.

After a minute inspection of the College Buildings, the Committee are satisfied that — after making due allowance for wear and tear, and the purposes to which a part of them is appropriated — their condition is as good as could reasonably be expected.

They consider, however, that the Original plan of the Structure far exceeds what was either necessary or, under the circumstances of the ^{Trust} College, prudent; and they have also to lament that, from this cause, the Front of the Centre Building remains unfinished, and in a state in which, if not speedily completed, dilapidation must inevitably ensue. ~~not only to the great detriment of the Building itself, but also that of the College Revenue.~~

Before, however, even this very necessary work be undertaken, the Committee are of opinion that the Grounds should be put in a better condition than they are now or ever have been. In truth, they are almost in a state of nature, and roamed over at pleasure. The proper remedy for this latter

evil

evil is, the Committee would suggest, the erection of a substantial wooden fence around the College Grounds; — an expense which, they think, should be defrayed out of the first available Funds.

To guard the property against intrusion or injury a small Porter's Lodge ought also to be erected at the principal Entrance on Thebrooke Street. —

2nd Condition of the Faculty of Arts.

From the evidence of the Principal and Vice-Principal, whose connection with the College commenced respectively in April and July 1846, it appears that the largest number of Students at any one time has been "seven", and that at present there are only "six".

At the period of the Visitation made by the late Board, — in 1844 — they stated in their Report that "although the College had been a little more than a year in operation it had rapidly declined, and lost public confidence & respect. In that period more than half the number of the Students at one time on the Books had left the College, and at the time of their writing only nine remained, — although, with the mistaken view of keeping up the number, the qualification for admission had been lowered."

Not

Not only has no improvement taken place in this respect since the time of the last Visitation, but, on the contrary, - as has already been shown, - there has been a great falling off in the number of the pupils. In attempting to account for this lamentable fact, some weight may properly be attached to the absence, in the cases of the Learned professions of Law and medicine, of any standard whereby to judge of the proficiency of Students previously to their entering upon a course of study in either profession; and also to the absence from the College course of study of many of those important Branches of Education now taught in most Schools of Repute, - such as "Moral Philosophy," - "Political Economy," - "Civil Engineering," - "Agricultural Chemistry" &c.

The Committee are also aware that the College has suffered by having come to be regarded, by many persons of other religious denominations, as an exclusively "Church of England" Institution. After making every allowance, however, for the operation of the different causes enumerated, the Committee believe that if the College had had the benefit of an energetic Resident Board of Governors, whose supervision and control could have been conveniently and constantly exercised; - if a better understanding and a more harmonious co-operation had subsisted among the Professors themselves; - if a less extravagant

and

and heedless expenditure of the College property had been made, a widely different and a much ~~less~~ ^{more} ~~more~~ ^{more} satisfactory result would have been presented.

Some of the Gentlemen examined before the Committee, - in endeavouring to account for the small number of the Students in attendance at McGill College, - stated that there were perhaps fewer youths in Canada than in almost any other Country, whose previous studies properly qualified them for a University Education. This is a reproach which, the Committee trust, each succeeding year will see gradually disappearing. Already, have some vigorous efforts been made to establish superior Schools in this ~~Country~~ ^{Province}, and among these may be enumerated the "High Schools" of Montreal and Quebec. The former is attended by upwards of 200 pupils, many of whom will, doubtless, require a University Education; and it will depend wholly upon the conditions in which "McGill College" shall be ^{re-established}, whether their education be perfected in that or some other similar Institution.

So satisfied are the Governors of "King's College," Toronto, of the necessity there is, in the present circumstances of the Country, for a Nursery for the Students who are afterwards to be educated within its walls, that they have, - under the name of the "Upper Canada College" - a preparatory School attached to their Institution, and under their own control. Nor do the Committee deem it at all impossible that

That an arrangement might be effected between the Authorities of Mc Gill College and those of the High School of Montreal, by which the Latter would be placed in a similar relation to the Former as Upper Canada College now is to King's College. From such an amalgamation the very best effects might, the Committee are assured, be reasonably expected to result to both Institutions: and this view of the matter is, to a certain extent at least, supported by the accompanying evidence both of the Principal and the Vice-Principal of Mc Gill College.

With respect to the Education of the Six Students under matriculation, it appears from the testimony of the Vice-Principal that they are occupied with Classical Literature 2 hours and Mathematics 1 hour each day; - Logic, History, & Geography, 1 hour each on 2 days of the week; - and French Literature 2 hours on 2 days of the week. No regular course of study has, however, as yet, been positively prescribed, the pursuits of the Students having, hitherto, been accommodated, temporarily, to the degree of their advancement; and up to this time no Student has completed his studies or graduated in the College. An improvement in these respects cannot reasonably be looked for until an augmentation in the number of the pupils shall permit of a proper Classification of them.

Too little attention appears to have been paid to the Study of Law within the College, - one
course

8.

This important ~~subject~~ ^{cause} of Lectures only on ~~the~~ ^{same} subject has been delivered since it was opened. The Committee are of opinion that if Two Chairs were established in that Faculty, a large influx of Students might be expected, - many of whom, probably, would not limit themselves to attendance on the Law Classes only, but would also avail themselves of the opportunity afforded of extending their Studies to the other ~~Literary and Scientific~~ ^{Scientific} Departments of Knowledge.

Before a "Student in medicine" can be admitted to an examination for his Degree, he is required to produce evidence of having attended a certain number of Classes, and the Committee think that a similar regulation in the case of Students in Law - throughout the Province - is a subject not unworthy the best attention of the Legislature.

In venturing this suggestion, it is by no means the aim of the Committee to oblige all Students in Law to attend Classes in "McGill College", exclusively, but merely to render it imperative on them, previously to their admission to an examination, to give proof of their having attended a certain number of Lectures in any College of Lower Canada where Chairs for this Branch of Study shall have been established. Under such an arrangement, McGill College would, of course, only receive that amount of countenance and support, to which, from the character and quality of its Instruction in ^{this as in any other} ~~any~~ branch of Study it might be considered to have just claim.

State

3^d State of the Faculty of Medicine.

It is agreeable to the Committee to turn to the consideration of the state of the "Medical Faculty" in connection with McGill College, - for many evidences were presented to them of the vitality and energy that characterize its management, and of the benefits accruing from it to the community.

The Faculty consists of One Professor and nine Lecturers in the different Departments of Medical Science. The number of the Students in this Branch of Study has varied from 24 to 30. At present there are 26 attending the Lectures. The falling off in the number of the pupils is not, however, in any degree, ^{neglect, or incapacity on the part of} attributable to the College authorities, but solely to the ~~unfortunate~~ recent establishment of a New School of Medicine, which appears to have absorbed all the French-Canadian Youths studying the profession.

By an amicable arrangement between the Two Schools, the Fees exacted in each are declared to be similar in amount, while the Lecturers in the College have agreed to conduct their lectures entirely in the English Language, and those in the New School in the French.

It has appeared to the Committee to be a subject well worthy the consideration of the Governor whether a Union of the Two Schools might not be advantageously

advantageously effected and both embraced within the College. Thus, - instead of appearing in opposition to each other, - they would present a combination of Scientific Ability and Intelligence, not to be surpassed in any medical School on this Continent. The effect, both directly and indirectly, on the welfare of the College, could not fail to be highly beneficial.

The Statutes of the medical Faculty differ in some respects from those subsequently sanctioned for the College generally, and some inconvenience has been felt from their occasionally conflicting. This difficulty would, however, in all probability, have been ere now adjusted, but for the delay consequent upon appealing to Her Majesty, for the Royal sanction to any alteration in the Statutes of the College.

As the medical Faculty has, by far, the most numerous Staff of Lecturers, whose prelections are attended by a very large number of Students, it is the opinion of some of them that they ought to be represented in the Caput by more than One Professor, - as is the case at present.

To the Committee, this view of the matter appears but reasonable. At the same time they do not recommend that the Caput should be composed of Professors in exact proportion to the present number of pupils in the different Faculties. The Committee are hopeful that the Faculty of the Arts may yet, and that ere long, assume a much higher position in the College

College than it has yet taken, and be attended by a largely increased number of Students. In the meantime they are disposed to recommend that Two additional Professorships in the Faculty of Medicine be instituted; - thus securing to this important and prosperous Branch of the Establishment a more equal representation in the Caput.

The Medical Faculty have felt keenly, on different occasions, the inconveniences arising from the want of Regular meetings on the part of the Governors.

At the present time, while the course of Study prescribed for Students in Medicine by the Act of the Provincial Parliament is extended to Four Years, the College course remains, as before, at Three years, - thus lowering the qualification for a Degree, instead of, if possible, raising it. This subject has been brought under the notice of the Governors of ^{the} College, at intervals, since 1846; - but, for want ^{of} a Quorum of that Body, nothing has yet been done by them to remove this great and hurtful inconsistency.

4th State of Discipline.

Committee

The ~~Board~~ examined attentively the Books of the College, and are satisfied that, considering the number of the Students in the two Faculties of Arts and Medicine their offences against discipline have been neither of frequent occurrence, nor of

of aggravated character. At the same time it is proper to remark that many offences on the part of the medical Students are probably adjudicated upon by the Professor and other members of that Faculty without coming before the Caput; and owing to the inconsistency already noticed in the two sets of Statutes (viz. the one for the College generally, and the other for the medical Faculty in particular) and from the circumstance of the latter Body being represented in the Caput by one member only, it is to be feared that, overlooking the Caput, the Lecturers have summarily decided on certain cases themselves.

The Vice-Principal states in his evidence that he has "in several instances and from various causes" experienced difficulty in enforcing the Statutes; and from his replies to Queries subsequently put to him it would appear that in one particular instance in which a Resolution was passed by the Caput against the Residence ^{of females with their} or attendance on un-married persons within the College, it was set at naught for a considerable time. The Committee are aware that the case in question was ^{calculated to excite} ~~the occasion of~~ much scandal against the College, and they regret that the Caput, after a tardy assent had at length been given to their order - should have allowed the matter to rest, instead of visiting the delinquent with their severe displeasure, - if not even with dismissal from his Office.

Though

Calculated
to excite

Though only indirectly connected with this Branch of their Inquiry, the Committee are bound to notice the differences existing amongst the College Officers in relation to their respective rights and privileges. These have all along exercised a most prejudicial effect against the Institution, - for it would be unreasonable to suppose that persons who are always at variance in private, can co-operate with each other harmoniously and efficiently in a public Capacity.

The Vice-Principal complains ~~to~~ that the Apartments allotted to him are not those to which, in right of his Office, he is entitled; and which were occupied by his Predecessor. They are at present enjoyed by the Bursar of the College.

— This subject was, some time since, brought before the Governors but - so far at least as appears from their recorded proceedings - they have taken no steps to adjust the matter.

There are also other occasions of difference between the Officers of the Faculty of the Arts; such as the right to a Garden ~~possession~~, which the Vice-Principal conceives he has claim to, while the Bursar holds possession of it. ~~But~~ But it is unnecessary to load the Report with such Statements, enough having already been said to shew that there is both a laxity of discipline in regard to these matters which the Governors - if the Caput could not, - ought to have corrected; and also that little

harmony

harmony exists among the Officers themselves.

While examining into the state of the College Grounds; the Committee were forcibly struck with the impropriety of permitting, under the very walls of the College, the constant practice of athletic Games and Amusements by parties coming from the City for the purpose. At proper times, and when not calculated to interfere with the business of the College, the Committee would have been pleased to find that the Students recreated themselves with healthful exercises in the open air, but they cannot too severely condemn the practice that has obtained, — by whatever authority originated, — of permitting large numbers of persons to assemble at will upon the College Grounds for the express purpose of amusement. The Committee also perceived with regret that a large wooden Booth had been erected in front of, and at no very great distance from the College, in which, as they are informed, ardent Spirits and other liquors are habitually and openly sold while these Games are in progress. It is even alleged that permission to employ the College Grounds in this way had been granted by the Board of Governors, but it is certain that no record of such a permission can be traced among the minutes of their proceedings. It must be quite obvious, however, that in whatsoever manner it has been given, — whether formally, or informally, — it ought

ought at once to be recalled, as nothing can well be conceived more adverse to discipline than assemblies of the character referred to, and the sale of intoxicating liquors on the very Grounds of the College.

Had the Governors been in the practice of meeting regularly, and supervising the affairs of the College, Discipline would, doubtless, have been more effectually maintained, and disagreements of the kind already mentioned less frequent in occurrence and more speedily adjusted. The fault however, is not - as the Committee conceive - with the Governors, but with the "Charter" of the College" which has confided the Government of it to so many high Functionaries, who, from the very nature of their other Offices, and the residence of Two of their number in distant sections of the Province, could not, without ^{the} great inconvenience, efficiently discharge their duties to the College.

3rd State of the College Revenue and Bursar's accounts.

The Finances of the College, the Committee regret to say, are in an unsatisfactory state, the Revenue of the Trust being barely sufficient for the maintenance of its present Establishment, while a large part of that Revenue is necessarily absorbed in the reduction, by gradual liquidation, of the old debts of the College. Unless
Therefore

Therefore, its establishment be diminished, or measures be speedily taken to improve its condition by extending the sphere of its usefulness and securing for it public confidence and support, new Debts will have to be contracted, and its Interests must, in consequence, seriously suffer.

From what has been said in the earlier paragraphs of this Report, it must, the Committee conceive, be obvious, that the condition of the Faculty of the Arts is not such as to warrant the large expenditure now necessary for its maintenance; and they are moreover of opinion that the Offices of Bursar, Registrar &c. ^{for the present at least,} may be advantageously committed to the Vice-Principal.

A considerable and ^{an} almost immediate diminution in the expenditure of the College would thus be effected, while there is nothing in the nature of such an arrangement to prevent the future disjunction of these duties whenever either the ~~College~~ Debts shall have been discharged, or the College itself placed on a more popular and ^a more prosperous footing.

According to a Statement furnished by the Bursar, the present annual expenditure of the College is as follows:—

Salary to Vice-Principal, who is also Professor
of Classical Literature £250.

Do to Bursar, Registrar & Secretary ——— 150.

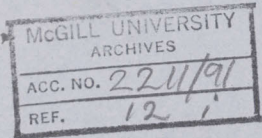
Wages to the Bedell ——— 30.

Fuel, ——— about 85.

Postages, Stationery &c. ——— about 10.

Taxes, Repairs &c. ——— about 7. 10. 0

Total £ 532. 10. 0



From £552. 10. 0

To which has to be added, - amount
of Annual Instalment upon Debts, at 260. . . .
Total expense of College £ 792. 10. 0

While the present Revenue, available
to the College is only about 540. 0. 0
Leaving a Deficit of £ 252. 10. 0

It is proper to mention here, that a small augmentation of the Revenue of the College will take place or soon as an arrangement, now in progress, to enable the Royal Institution to implement their engagements with the purchasers of certain Lots of the Burnside Estate, shall have been completed: and hereafter too, when an improvement shall have taken place in the affairs of the Province generally, a large increase to the Revenue of the College may be confidently looked forward to, from further sales of the Real Estate; but, at present, it would in the opinion of the Committee, be highly injudicious to expose any part of the property for sale.

In the meantime, it seems to them most desirable that the sum of £130, now paid to the Bursar &c. should be saved to the College, and the duties of those Offices (which are inconsiderable) discharged, for the time being, ~~and~~ as has ^{before} ~~already~~ been suggested, - by the Vice-Principal. They are further of opinion that the Expenses of the College ought, at all

X and that the Salary of this latter Office should ~~in the mean~~ ~~above~~ under existing circumstances be reduced

at all times, to be limited strictly to the amount of its Revenue.

From the general state of the Account Books, — the long period they embrace, — and the circumstance that they exhibited no trace either of having been Balanced or Audited, the Committee deemed it advisable to submit them to the examination of a Professional Accountant, whose Report thereon and Statements in support of it, together with Mr. Abbott's observations on the same, and Replies to the Questions proposed to him, accompany this paper. With respect to these, the Committee would observe that, — admitting that the Bursar's remembrance of the nature of the charges in his Books referred to by the Accountant as wanting support; and the production by him, subsequently, of some additional Vouchers, have enabled him, more or less satisfactorily, to account for many of them, — yet is there much, both in the manner and matter of his accounts, deserving of censure: — sufficient, certainly, to warrant the Committee in corroborating the opinion expressed after a former Visitation of Mr. Abbott's unfitness for the duties that devolve upon him in his Capacities of Registrar and Bursar.

The Committee deem it unnecessary, to go into an examination of all the subjects touched upon in the Accountant's Report; and content themselves with a few remarks on the more prominent points

points embraced in it.

In the first place then, they must remark that the accountship is imperfect, and that one large item, £907. 18. 10., paid to the Bursar in April last, was not entered in his Books in September, when they were presented to the Board for examination.

2^{ndly} The Individual Accounts are not so clearly stated as they should have been. This appears to arise from the imperfect mode in which they are kept, and from the mixing up, in one sum, of different items of account.

3^{rdly} The contingent expences appear to the Committee to be extravagantly large, nor does any check upon them seem to have been exercised. Most of the smaller payments on this account, and even some of the larger ones are wholly unsupported by Vouchers.

4^{thly} The Stewards' accounts, which are heavy, have been settled upon mere Memoranda, instead of upon authenticated Statements. Their correctness, therefore, rests upon the simple ^{aver} ~~Statement~~ of the parties concerned in them.

5^{thly} In many instances, payments would seem to have been made without due authority while in others that authority has been given. In this very important particular, no uniform system has been observed.

Before quitting this subject, the Committee desire it to be distinctly understood, that they
freely

Fully
 freely and ~~entirely~~ absolve Mr Abbott from any
 intention of keeping his Books and papers in the
 disorderly and unsatisfactory state in which they
 have been found; - evils which seem to have
 arisen wholly from his unacquaintance with the
 true nature and correct practice of accounts; and
 for these reasons, as well as on the score of Economy,
 they would recommend that that Gentleman's ser-
 vices in the College be discontinued from the end
 of the ensuing Easter Term. The Committee
 are inclined to urge this step the more strongly
 from the circumstance that, - in consequence of the
 Medical Faculty keeping their own Register, - the
 contents of which, (altho' contrary to obvious intention)
 are merely copied from time to time into the College
 Books, - Mr Abbott's duties as Registrar and Bursar
 are almost wholly limited to such as are connected
 with the Faculty of the Arts, and must, therefore,
 be little more than nominal.

The Committee have thus summarily
 gone over the several subjects committed to
 their investigation. Further information respecting
 them, ^{however} may, as the members of the Board are perfectly
 aware, be derived from the Replies to the questions put
 to the different Officers of the College, and which
 accompany this Report.

The Committee now therefore proceed
 to express their opinion as to the means that ought
 to be employed to improve the condition of the College,
 and

and to meet the large and enlightened views of
 Its benevolent Founder.

From the present constitution of the
 Board of Governors, it is not to be expected that
 any regular and systematic control over the
 College, or care for its Discipline can proceed.
 Only Two of them (The Chief Justice of Montreal
 and the Principal of the College) reside within the
 District. The other members of the Board, are
 His Exc^t the Gov^r Gen^l, The Chief Justice of Upper Canada and the
 Bishop of Montreal, ~~both of whom~~, — residing at
 such a distance from the College, ~~and~~ ^{or} having their
 time ~~so~~ fully occupied in the discharge of the import-
 -ant duties confided to them in their respective ~~capa-~~^{stations}
~~cities~~, are prevented, except at rare and extremely
 uncertain periods, ~~from~~ ^{from} attending the meetings ~~of~~
 in their capacity of Governors of McGill College.

It is understood that the Governors
 themselves are aware of the disadvantages arising
 from this circumstance, and are very desirous that
 a change in this respect should be effected. To
 this subject, the Committee have given particular
 attention, and they are of opinion that the number
 of the Governors should be increased to nine, or
 even eleven; — that they should all reside within
 the District of Montreal, and that they should be
 selected from influential and intelligent persons
 of different ~~Religious~~ denominations of Protestants.

A Board so constituted could meet at
 stated periods, and their prompt attention to the
 affairs

affairs of the College could not but have a beneficial influence upon the Institution generally, while the circumstance of their being taken from no one Religious sect exclusively, would ensure for them, as a Body, the confidence of the entire community.

Great inconvenience and hurtful delay has been found to arise from the necessity, under the existing appointment, for transmitting to England for Her Majesty's confirmation, the Statutes of the College, before they can go into actual operation. Abundant evidence of these truths may be found in the answers given to the Committee by some of the Professors; and the Committee are strongly inclined to the belief that, if the power of making Statutes for the control of the College ^{was} ~~were~~ entrusted to the Governors, and the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General in Council rendered necessary before they could become Law, ample Guarantee would be afforded against unjust or improper legislation in the matter, while tedious and embarrassing references to England would thus be avoided.

Any change in this important particular must, of course, originate with Her Majesty, but the Committee entertain no doubt, that if the inconveniences ~~arising~~ ^{experienced} from the present system were fully pointed out, a remedy for them would be provided.

Under the firm conviction that it
was

was never the intention of the late Mr. McC Gill
to create by his Will an exclusively Church of
England Institution, ^{some of} The Members of the
Committee dissent from all that has been done to
give it that character, ^{but they, in common with their colleagues are} They are, however, pre-
pared — provided all Tests and Discriminations
between Students of different Religious denominations
be withdrawn, — to accede to the Establishment, and
maintenance within the College, of a Chair of
Divinity, to be filled by a Clergyman of the united
Church of England and Ireland, under the
sole ^{prop. for as regards the office itself} Visitorship, of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese,
and independent of any interference on the part of
the General Visitors of the College: — at least as
regards the Doctrines promulgated and the course
of studies pursued.

Some time must necessarily elapse
before the two important changes suggested
can be brought about, and, in the meantime,
the Committee conceive it would be prudent to
economise the Revenues of the College to the utmost
possible extent, in order that, — should a New Board
of Governors — constituted in the manner suggested —
be created, they may be in a condition to commence
their duties with vigour and with Funds at their
command. At present, though, ^{as has before been shown} there are but 6
pupils in the Faculty of the Arts, the expense of
that Department absorbs the whole Revenue of the
College, ~~which that in~~ while Debts arising from
other

Some of

but they
in common
with their
colleagues
are

other causes, go on accumulating.

In short, the Committee are of opinion that it would be well that the College Expenditure be, for the present, limited to the Salary of the Vice-Principal and to contingent expenses, - for which latter the person acting in the Capacity of Bursar should be required to furnish accurate periodical accounts.

In conclusion, the Committee would remark that they entertain no doubt but that - judicious measures being taken - the Faculty of the Arts might speedily be placed in a position of much more prominency and utility than it has yet occupied, and that the usefulness of the Medical Department of the College might also be much increased. At present, however, they deem it unnecessary to include details of this nature in ~~their~~ Report, reserving the ^{particular mentioning} ~~expression~~ of them, ^{such a} ~~in this way~~, till an opportunity, ^{occuring} when it may be done with ^{more} advantage. ~~How will they have pleasure in fully communicating~~ Should a New & ^a more efficient Board of Governors be created ^{in common with their colleagues} all the members of their Society ^{will then have in part} ~~pleasure in communicating~~ ^{much} with them on all subjects affecting the interests of all Gill Coll. and ⁱⁿ exhibiting to them the views which their late enquiry has led them to entertain as to the means by which this desirable result might be attained, ^{improvements may most easily be effected}

Report by Mrs
F. W. Bennett
Refranged by Mrs
Fanning, 1852?

All which is submitted for the consideration
of the Board assembled

Memorial of the Gov^{rs} of the
Gill College in support of their
applicⁿ for a money Grant in aid
of that Institutⁿ -

The Gov^{rs} of the Coll. on
entering upon the duties of their Office
found the affairs of the Instⁿ in a
very unsatisfactory state. A debt
had been accumulating from year to
year till it had reached the sum of
£ 2275. The Buildings stood in
need of expensive repairs & the Grounds
required to be fenced & improved. The
annual income amounted to no more
than £ 400. -

The Gov^{rs} obtain from the
Legisⁿ an Act enlarging their powers for
the disposal of the land belong^g to the
Coll. & authorizing them to borrow a
sum not exceed^g £ 5000. The Legisⁿ
also granted a sum of £ 1000 to aid
in pay^g the debts of the Coll. - exclu-
sively of £ 500 to meet the current
expenses of that year & the usual
grant

grant to the ched^e Fac^y.

This grant was of great assist^{ce} but it was altogether inadequate to the import^t object of placing the Coll^g in an efficient condition. The sum applied for as necessary for that purpose was £5000.

The Gov^o nevertheless proceeded to re-organise the Coll. with the means at their disposal and in doing so they found it indispensably necessary to erect a new building in a more central part of the City. This has cost about £3000 & constitutes a debt which, added to the balance of the old debt, amounts to about £4000. The income of the Coll. has been increased by the sale of lands to the sum of £1084.7.0, and the follg. State^t will show how it is disposed of—

Annual Income & Expenditure
of St Giles College at date
Income

Rent of Land Houses &c	986	11	8
Allow ^{ce} to Sec ^r R. S.	67	16	4
Fees.	30	"	" 1084.7.0

Expenditure

Sovereign as expressed in the Message
of the Gr^o Gen^l to Parliam^t in 1801
in Law been carried out & a large
Supplemental Fund made avail^{ble}
for the support of the infant College.
His Excell^{ty}'s message was in the
folly. terms. -

" That H. Majesty had been
" graciously pleased to give direc^{tion} for
" the establish^{ment} of a competent number
" of Free Schools for the instruct^{ion} of
" Chil^{dren} in the first rudiments of useful
" learn^{ing} & in the Eng^l tongue and for
" Foundations of a more enlarged &
" Comprehensive nature, & that H. M. Ch.
" had been further pleased to signify His
" Royal intention that a suitable propor^{tion}
" of the lands of the Crown should be set
" apart and the revenues thereof appropri^{ate}
" to such purposes." As a preliminary
step the Act incorporating the Royal
Trust^{ee} for the adv^{ancement} of Learn^{ing} was passed
& hereafter 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
& "Foundations of a more enlarged &
Comprehensive nature," - but no Grant
was ever made. -

The

The late Mr. Mc Gill was not only an active member of the Legislature at this time, but an Executive Councillor, & therefore must be presumed to have been thoroughly conversant with the intentions of the Imp^l & Provin^l Parliaments Governments. By his last Will he bequeathed a sum of money & his Est. of Runside to the Roy^l Instⁿ for the purpose of erecting & maintaining a University. It is reasonable to infer that Mr. Mc Gill looked beyond his own endow^t which, liberal as it was, was yet quite inadequate for the object contemplated, to the Royal Institution, to whom he had every reason to believe that a liberal Grant of Crown Lands was to have been entrusted for a kindred purpose. Mr. Mc Gill died in 1813:— the first B^o of the R. I. was appointed in 1819:— and the expected grant not having been made, it has continued in existence since merely for the purpose of holding the College lands & various isolated School-houses throughout the Province.

Ind — Not only was Mr. Mc Gill warranted in believing that his exertions to establish a University would be supported by the Grant from the Crown

Crown Lands, but the R. I. subsequently
were led to expect that they would have
been saved the heavy expense of erecting
the College buildings, & that thus the
endow^t in Land was rendered available
for its future support.

In the early part of 1819,
the Lord Bathurst, then Colon^l Sec^y,
instructed the Gov^r Gen^l; the Duke of
Richmond, to adopt, with as little
delay as possible, the necessary measures
for erecting upon Mr. de Gill's prop^t an
adequate building for the Instruction of
Irish, & 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.

These liberal intentions on y^e
part of His Majesty were not carried
into effect, & the Gov^r cannot account
for this otherwise than by supposing
that in consequence of the melancholy
death of the Duke of Richmond shortly
afterwards, the succession of an Adminis-
trator, and then the appoint^t of a new
Governor, the affairs of Mr. de Gill College were
lost sight of. Considering the view wh^{ch}
both the Imp^l & Provin^l Govern^{ts} enter-
tained at that time & for many years
afterwards of the Jesuits' Estates and
their

their applicability to such purposes as the Crown approved of, without the intervention or control of the Provin^e Parliament, it is reasonable to suppose that, had the Duke of Richmond lived a short time longer, the buildings requisite for McGill College would have been erected & the cost defrayed out of the Estates just mentioned. What has just been narrated did not prove the last disappointment to those interested in the welfare of the College. -

During the administration of Sir Charles Bagot, a vote in favor of the College for £1000 passed the House of Assembly, but Parliament having been hurriedly prorogued, the Bill did not reach the Upper House and the advantage contemplated was never realized. Had the Bill passed, it is probable that the College, like other Institutions, would, since then, have annually rec^d a like Grant from the Legislature.

Ind - McGill College is the only one in L. Canada of a non-Sectarian character and, as such, is entitled to the public support by Legislative Grant. With the exception of the

Dunn

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Charters the Governors are, in effect, appointed by the Gov^r Gen^l, who is the sole Visitor of the College; — an office which H. C. may execute either in person or by Commission. It must therefore be the interest as it certainly is the desire of the Governors to administer the affairs of the College in such a manner as to meet with His Excellency's approbation. —

6th — The Governors have established their Boards for the examination of Students applying for Degrees on a liberal basis, recognising, as far as is practicable, the Courses of Study pursued by applicants in other Institutions & inspiring such as have been so educated with confidence that they will be subjected to no severer scrutiny than the Alumni of McGill College.

The numbers now actually receiving elementary or professional Education in the College is such as to manifest its usefulness & importance as an Educational Institution & to justify its claim for Legislative aid. These are

In the Faculty of Law 11.

— Do — of Medicine 77.

— Do — of Arts — 9.

In the H. P. Depart^{ment} — 172

of whom thirty-five are Government Pupils --

To the foregoing Considerations it is proper to add that the grant by Her Majesty of an Amended Charter upon the recommendation of the Prov^l Govern^t with whom its terms had been previously discussed and settled, and the appointment hereafter of a new Board of the Royal Instituⁿ, the members of which are, ex officio, Governors of the College, excited attention in the Province and a reasonable expectation that the long baffled intentions of a munificent public benefactor were at last to be carried into execution. In the hope of realizing this just expectation, the Gentlemen honored by the selection of H. C. for the discharge of that trust consented to undertake it; but they did so in the hope that the Government would afford them means for vigorous & efficient action. Such action, long neglect & mismanagement & the utterly prostrate condition of the Institution have rendered absolutely necessary, and the attempt to restore it to a languishing vitality with

narrow

narrow pecuniary resources must
end in disappointment & failure.
Indeed, no man feeling deeply for
the interests of Education & regarding
his own reputation can be expected
to involve himself in so hopeless an
undertaking.

The Governors therefore feel
it their duty to intimate that they
cannot continue to struggle with the
pecuniary embarrassments & narrow
means of the College in addition to
all the other difficulties which they
must necessarily encounter. Individ-
-ually, they have no more interest in
the matter than any other Member of
Society. If the Legislature be disposed
to come to their aid with a just and
enlightened liberality, they will cheer-
-fully bestow their time and labor to give
effect to the noble designs of the Founder
of the College which, for 40 years (to
the shame of the Country be it said)
have been absolutely barren of results; -
but without such aid they will be
compelled in the honest and prudent
discharge of their trust to close the doors
of the College in so far as all the higher
departments of learning are concerned
and to leave the income at rest until
by

by the accumulation of years it is
sufficient to pay the debts and to
enable their successors to make new
arrangements. Such a course,
however painful to the Governors,
and discreditable to the population
for whose benefit Mr. Gill's
bequest was made, seems neverthe-
-less to be inevitable. -

McGill College,
Montreal, 10th Novem^r 1827.

Chas D. Day, President
R. J. & Gov^r of G. C..

Signed

Peter McGill
T. B. Anderson
D. Davidson
Hew Ramsay

Beny Holmes
And^r Robertson

Mr. Ferris & Dunbar
are in London

Mr. Coffin is indisposed

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of
1837

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but I have
only the M.S.
copy - P.D.W.

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