

Principal Dawson, being called
in by the Chancellor, said:

The present ~~does not~~ ^{seem} to be
an occasion on which I should be
~~expected~~ ~~called on~~ to speak. I appear here,
merely as the subject or model of a
picture. I do however feel called upon
to express my deep gratitude to the
friends whose kindness has given to
the University this lasting memorial
of my tenure of office, one which I
hope may long remain as a monument
after I shall have passed away, and
which I hope will lead to the

The gentlemen
who have acted
on this matter

some

presentation of similar Memorials of
others who have worked with me in the
interests of the University, ^{and} who have
~~passed~~ from among us, for I am now
almost the sole survivor of those who
inaugurated the University under its
New Charter. I have also to thank
~~them~~ for the flattering way in
which they have referred to my
work in connection with McGill. As
to this work, I confess it is known to
me chiefly by its defects and imper-
fections, and in looking back over the
past thirty-seven years, these are
so much more conspicuous than any
successes or triumphs, that I am

As Assistant
Faculty of Arts,

disposed rather to apologise than to congratulate myself on the result. It must be borne in mind that in 1855 I came to an institution which had no visible means of providing for even the small salaries which it promised to some five or six gentlemen whom it had gathered around, it, although all of these except two had stipulated merely to give a portion of their time to the work. Everything had then to be done in faith that the work then in its commencement would commend itself to public support. In these circumstances I felt that my function was

been obliged,

rather missionary than educational,
and that I must be prepared to sustain
myself on my own resources and on
the produce of my pen, and to devote
what the University could give me to
the advancement of the cause. In this
way I had to proceed in all the earlier
years of my work, and to some extent
up to the present time, so that I have
been unable to give to my office either
the power, position or consideration to
which nominally it should have been
entitled; and both I and my wife
have ~~had~~ to forego many things which
we should gladly have had and done,
but which the clamant necessities

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and dangers of the ~~work~~ ^{enterprise} seemed to forbid. If a needy student required help, or some important educational want was unprovided for, we have always regarded this as a stronger claim than anything which would have tended to personal gratification or social enjoyment. ~~When I state that expenditures of these kinds, independently of minor gifts not recorded and of the gift of the geological collections of my life, have amounted to at least \$25,000, you will be able~~

In this regard you will be able to excuse me and my dear wife because ~~we~~ ^{we} for much neglect of our social obligations to our friends. In the course
(apparent

of these thirty-seven years the University
has never been in a position when
we needed to inquire how best to bestow
its ~~our~~ goods. The question has rather
been - How much of what is desirable
or even necessary to success must we
forego. These circumstances must ^{always} be
my apology if at any time I have
seemed unkind or ungrateful to
friends for their advice or suggestions,
or if in the earnest pursuit of what
seemed the main object of my mission
I have offended or annoyed them.
They should regard me in these
cases with pity, ⁺ as one consumed
by the zeal and urgency of a great
work.

±
rather than
with displeasure

^t
in the prime
of life

And now I must call your attention to the fact that the portrait before you is not that of the man who came to Montreal thirty seven years ago^t to undertake what seemed almost a hopeless task, but of an aged ~~old~~ man nearing the close of life, and who in the natural course of events must soon pass to his rest. I may add, a ^{one} ~~man~~ who has still some special scientific work to do and who would gladly at any time retire from all official responsibilities and devote his few remaining years to the completion of his personal work as a student

of nature. I may therefore
add the fervent wish ^{of hope} that
when this portrait shall
alone represent the old
Principal in our College
halls, we still may still
go on in uncheck'd progress,
and that the meliorations
of my Successor may mark
opening ~~the substitution~~ of a
new era of growth and
development which will
cast into the shade our
past achievements such as
they are.

These may seem serious thoughts,
but they are congenial to one who has
for some time been accustomed to
^{think} look more to the future life than of
the present, and to look forward,
as to a near event, to the time when
he may be permitted to lay his
armor down and to enter into
his rest, and whose highest personal
wish now is to enjoy a few years
of repose wherein to finish quietly
his life's work and to wait quietly
~~for his great change.~~ till
he shall be called to join
the happy company of the
friends that have gone before.

Finally, I have to thank Mr.
Eaton for the kindly expression of
his ~~excellent~~ picture. It represents
not the toil and worry of the college
session, but the final day when the
honours and degrees are conferred
on those who have won them, and when
the pleasure of the successful candidates
is reflected in the faces of Principal
and Professors. It is pleasant to be
thus transmitted to posterity, and

Admirable
Dany Bennett
man

~~I am convinced~~
~~that Mr. Eaton's~~

I am convinced that Mr. Eaton's
picture is one for the future as
well as for the present — a picture
which will grow in estimation
as time goes on and taste
advances. I hope it may long
endure, and may not be
without some little stimulus
and encouragement, should
the University at any time in
the future

have to pass through times of difficulty
and stress such as those which have
been not infrequent in the past; but
I hope it will rather serve in the time
of coming prosperity to keep up the
remembrance of early struggles long
passed away, and which have
been succeeded by developments
which even now we can
scarcely anticipate,

