

P. A necessity of some such Endowments has long been felt in this Province and can be
easily seen upon the Imperial Govt.
That it has been long acknowledged by the Imperial Govt.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE, THE EARL OF GOSFORD, THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR CHARLES GREY, BART., AND SIR GEORGE GIPPS,
KNT., ROYAL COMMISSIONERS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF LOWER CANADA,

The Petition of His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, Inhabitants of the said Province,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

That, though Lower Canada has been an appendage of the British Crown for more than seventy years, yet no provision has hitherto been made by His Majesty's Government for the establishment of any College or University, where the youth of this Colony, desirous of cultivating Literature and Science through the medium of the English language, might obtain a liberal education without being subjected to the inconvenience and expense of seeking it in a distant country :

That, while the English Inhabitants of this Province have been left to provide by their own efforts, what could be effected only by Royal munificence, collegiate institutions have been brought into effective operation in the other Provinces of British North America by liberal endowments from the Imperial Government in lands and money :

That your Petitioners have thus been left to seek the means of general education either in common schools or in French-Canadian Colleges, limited in their aim and exclusive in their character both as to language and religion :

That your Petitioners are afraid, that His Majesty's Government may have placed too great reliance on the bequest of the late Honorable Mr. M^cGill for endowing M^cGill College,—a bequest, which, munificent as it is, will be insufficient, after it shall have been partially expended on the erection of a suitable edifice, to endow more than three professorships and which, therefore, cannot be supposed to supersede the necessity of His Majesty's gracious bounty :

That His late Majesty George the Third of glorious memory, perceiving the inadequacy of the French-Canadian Seminaries for supplying the literary wants of his English subjects in this Province, was, in the year 1801, graciously pleased to inform the two Houses of the Provincial Legislature, that he had given directions for the establishment of a competent number of Free-Schools for the instruction of the children of his subjects in this Province in the rudiments of useful learning and in the English tongue and also, as occasion might require, for endowments of a more enlarged and comprehensive nature and that His Majesty was further pleased to signify his royal intention, that a suitable portion of the Waste Lands of the Crown should be set apart for these purposes :

That the Executive Council of this Province, in the year 1803, recommended the appropriation of 800,000 acres of the Waste Lands of the Crown for the accomplishment of His Majesty's gracious intentions ; and that one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, in the same year, intimated His Majesty's desire, that a sufficient appropriation of Waste Lands should immediately be made for founding Seminaries at Quebec and Montreal and for thus carrying His Majesty's gracious designs so far into execution :

That the Provincial Legislature, with the view of accomplishing His Majesty's gracious desires, constituted the Royal Institution for the advancement of learning a Body Corporate in the year 1801 :

That the bequest of Mr. M^cGill, who died in 1813, was made to that Institution ; that, in 1816, His Royal Highness the Prince Regent organised the same body so as to enable it to take advantage of Mr. M^cGill's munificence and directed that the funds of the Jesuits' Estates should be applied to the erection of suitable buildings for M^cGill College ; and that the preliminary steps to the fulfilment of the royal promise to assign endowments for an English education in this Province were followed in 1821 by the Incorporation of the University of M^cGill College under a Royal Charter :

That from this statement of facts your Petitioners conclude, that the Imperial Government has long intended to provide for the liberal education of the English Inhabitants of this Province and specially to endow for that purpose the University of M^cGill College :

That, though the Royal Institution, after the difficulties and delays of an unusually protracted litigation, has a fair prospect of soon recovering the amount of Mr. M^cGill's bequest, yet your Petitioners must repeat their conviction, that that body will be unable to bring M^cGill College into effective operation without the liberal aid of His Majesty's Government :

That your Petitioners, therefore, humbly hope, that, in addition to the claims founded on the royal promises aforesaid, His Majesty's Government will be induced to grant the prayer of their Petition on the following grounds—That, while, in the other Provinces of British North America, ample provision has been made by the Imperial Government for the endowment of colleges and while the French-Canadian brethren of your Petitioners enjoy the almost exclusive benefit of numerous and extensive Seminaries, supported, in some cases, by provincial grants of money, and, in others, by estates secured to them by the indulgence of His Majesty and His Majesty's predecessors, the English inhabitants of Lower Canada, on whose industry and intelligence the growing prosperity of the Province depends, have been left without the means of obtaining such an education for their children as may perfect them in all useful branches of learning and fit them for filling the higher offices in the community with honor and advantage—That the future increase of the population of this Province must chiefly depend on immigration from the mother-country, and that unless provision be made for their intellectual improvement, that population must be destitute of the moral power and greatness, which knowledge alone can confer, and that consequently this Province, abounding, as it does, with the sources of wealth and the elements of greatness, would become almost valueless as an appendage of the British Crown—And that the University of M^cGill College, entirely divested by its charter of any exclusiveness of character, presents to His Majesty's Government a favourable opportunity for so far fulfilling the liberal recommendations of their late Majesties George the Third and George the Fourth and for remedying the evils, present and prospective, represented by your Petitioners :

That your Petitioners, therefore, pray your Honorable Board to recommend to His Majesty's Government the granting of aid in lands or in money to M^cGill College, as a remuneration to that Seminary for the loss of His late Majesty George the Fourth's intended bounty from the funds of the Jesuits' Estates since placed beyond the control of the Crown and as an act of justice to your Petitioners and the other Inhabitants of this Province speaking the English language.

* The bequest was plainly made by bequest - the confidence upon the Govt.
must make a further endowment. no. 221/91 H71

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARL OF GOSFORD, THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR CHARLES GUY, BART, AND SIR GEORGE GUY,
KING'S ROYAL COMMISSIONERS FOR THE AFFAIRS OF LOWER CANADA.

The Petition of His Majesty's loyal and legal subjects, the habitants of the said Province,

Sheweth:

That, though Lower Canada has been an appendage of the British Crown for more than seventy years, yet no provision has been made by His Majesty's Government for the establishment of any College or University, where the youth of this Colony should be educated in the English language, which is the only medium of instruction in the other Provinces of British North America, and which is the only medium of instruction in the other Provinces of British North America, and which is the only medium of instruction in the other Provinces of British North America.

Petition to Royal Commissioners

for the establishment of a College in the said Province

That the habitants of the said Province, who are the only subjects of His Majesty in this Province, are desirous to see a College or University established in this Province, where the youth of this Colony should be educated in the English language, which is the only medium of instruction in the other Provinces of British North America, and which is the only medium of instruction in the other Provinces of British North America.