

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

MEMORANDA AND STATEMENTS RELATING TO
BENEFACTORS' EXEMPTIONS AND FREE
TUITIONS TO THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS
IN MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

PREPARED BY THE PRINCIPAL.

COPY OF MEMO.
RESPECTING FREE TUITIONS IN ARTS.

June, 1891.

On consideration of Mr. Brakenridge's report on Free Tuitions, I would remark :—

1. The free tuitions granted to benefactors were paid for, and cannot be recalled without their consent. Even where there is no deed they can have a deed on application. It is to be observed, however, that of 178 such free tuitions, only 32 are actually in use, that the holders of these pay us say \$15 per annum each in special fees, and that at least half of these students would probably not come at all but for the free tuitions.

2. As to those given by the Governors, independently of the Theological Colleges, these are on very various grounds:—

(a). Those to the Normal School are to promote the higher training of teachers, and more than pay their cost by improving the preparatory schools.

(b). Those to country Academies and the High Schools are given only on stringent conditions, and are intended to bring paying students to College, which I am sure they do.

(c). Those to Professors' children constitute a small addition to the salaries of family men, and are a cheap way of giving them help which they much need.

(d). The Governor-General's have been reduced in number and may be dropped at any time. (They have since been dropped.)

(e). Graduates have always been entitled to free attendance at classes, and these privileges can scarcely be reckoned as free tuitions. Few graduates have taken advantage of them.

The total number of the above, including 12 Governor-General's scholarships, is only 33, or, excluding the Governor-General's, 21, and they are all most useful to the University.

3. As to the Theological Colleges, we are only giving a privilege which every other University gives, and on terms on which any University would be glad to take from us all our students of this class, because it is well known that a connection of this kind is a principal means of bringing students not to Arts only but to all the Faculties. The connection of these Colleges with the University has been effected largely by my own exertions, and I consider it a main stay of the prosperity of the Faculty of Arts. They amount at present to 104 in all, and of these only about one-half take the full course. They each pay, about \$15 * in special fees, and the paying students sent by their means, I have no doubt, much more than repay the sums remitted.

On the whole, it does not appear that any of the privileges of this kind can be interfered with without injury to the University, except perhaps those granted to the Governor-General, which I have already advised the Board to reduce in number.

2. BENEFACTORS' SCHOLARSHIPS.

May, 1892.

1. The wise forethought of the Board of Governors, provided in 1856, that subscriptions of a certain amount to the endowment fund of the University and the Faculty of Arts should carry with them a right of presentation to free tuitions, and under this arrangement from 30 to 40 students have enjoyed exemption from sessional fees, though they have been required to pay the special fees, amounting at present to \$15 per Session.†

2. This arrangement has been changed by the recent surrender of these rights by the majority of the benefactors, apparently under the impression that they were thereby conferring a pecuniary benefit on the University.

3. This expectation might be realized to the extent of about \$1000 per annum, provided that all the students admitted to free tuitions were able and willing to pay fees, and would prefer to do so in McGill College rather than to go elsewhere.

* Now, (1891) under arrangements for increased fees.

† I have been told that the deeds to benefactors do not authorise such charges, but this was not the view of the eminent lawyers who prepared the deeds, and no objection has ever been made to the imposition of these fees by the Faculty of Arts.

4. In view, however, of the free tuitions offered to students by other Canadian colleges, and the recent increase of fees in our Faculty of Arts, it is scarcely likely that this will be the case, and it is even possible that the result may be to deprive the Faculty of Arts of about 30 students and of such special fees as we have been in the habit of exacting, and our right to exact which has not been questioned.

5. This is not, however, the greatest danger. It is to the class of students above mentioned that we have chiefly had to trust for the power of placing graduates of the University in educational positions in which they could prepare students for college. It would be easy to show from our lists that a large proportion of students, not only in Arts but in Law, Medicine, and Applied Science, are either graduates of this class or were prepared by such graduates to enter college. In this way such graduates have been those most profitable to the University, and many of them have repaid the cost of their instruction twenty or thirty fold by the students they have prepared and sent to our different Faculties. This is one of the incidental benefits conferred by the Faculty of Arts on the other Faculties, and dependent to some extent on its free tuitions. In these circumstances the Principal cannot look without some apprehension on the result of this movement. From year to year the benefactors' exemptions have enabled us to place graduates of McGill in a great number of Academies in the Province of Quebec and elsewhere who are our most efficient helpers in securing students for all our Faculties. We find on the other hand that graduates of United States and Ontario Universities naturally send their pupils to these.

6. To avert all danger to our interests, a sum of say \$1000 annually, either provided by subscription, or better, represented by an endowment of \$20,000 will now be necessary, but this would have the advantage that it might be under the disposal of the Principal and Faculty, and so regulated that the most deserving and promising applicants alone could secure its benefits.

7. It is, I think, desirable that steps should be taken toward this, before the beginning of next session, as the injury once done could not easily be repaired, from the loss of prestige and confidence which it would cause, and from its influence on the pupils actually preparing in the schools.

8. This matter should therefore, at once, be brought under the notice of the friends of the University, with the view of securing the

foundation of funds in aid of students, and in the mean time subscriptions of individual scholarships should be invited. As this matter is of educational as well as financial importance it should be reported to Corporation at the June meeting, and the aid of that body should be invited to secure the necessary funds.

9. There is, of course, the alternative of making tuitions in Arts altogether free, as was at one time the case in Toronto, but this would involve a very large expenditure. If, while exacting fees, we desire to keep up our number of students, we must provide in some form free tuitions to replace those surrendered.

10. Though some difficulty may be anticipated next session, yet the full results of the withdrawal of free tuitions will not be reached for a few years, till it is completely realized in the preparatory schools. If we can hold the vantage already secured in these, we should for the present be satisfied.

11. It may be useful to add, that the greatest and best equipped Universities of the Mother Country and the United States, would, without free tuitions and money aids to poor students in their Faculties of Arts, become mere places of education for the rich, and would fail to secure public sympathy or support. Where in England they have failed in their duty in this respect, Royal Commissions have been appointed to restore the rights of poor students, and in this country our chief argument in favour of parliamentary grants to the Universities has been the benefits they extend to poor students from the country. It is customary in most Universities in Canada, and also in the United States to have a number of free tuitions and money aids in the gift of the Principal or President. No such power has been entrusted to the Principal of McGill, but he has hitherto been able to provide exemptions for promising men by application to benefactors. This resource being now withdrawn, he will have to do what he can for them in some other way, since no head of a college, deserving the name, would consent to reject or expel good men merely for poverty. In some Universities there has been laxity in the collection of fees ; but this has not been the case in the Faculty of Arts of McGill, whose Dean has been very strict in this respect, and it has been left to the Principal to find means to retain really meritorious students when in pecuniary need.

12. It is sometimes objected that free tuitions tend to pauperise students and to bring to College an inferior class. No fallacy could be greater than this. On the contrary, such aids induce many to

apply and of these the best can be selected. This has been eminently the case in McGill, where a large proportion of our Honour men have been holders of theological or other free tuitions, or exhibitions. It is on this account that these aids have been multiplied to such an extent in the larger Colleges of the United States (see No. 4); and they are even more necessary in Canada, where, until lately, so little desire has existed for a high literary and scientific culture. The improved feeling in this respect has indeed arisen largely from the exertions of our own graduates who have entered into educational work.

3. MEMO. ON THEOLOGICAL FREE TUITIONS.

PREPARED FOR MR. P. REDPATH, MAY 1892.

Your reference, when leaving on Thursday, to the subject of Theological exemptions from fees, was a great surprise to me, as I had supposed the matter settled for the present, otherwise I would have mentioned it to you, among other matters giving me anxiety. It gave me great trouble last year, and to re-open it now, would, I think, be unfair both to me and to the Theological Colleges, and might be regarded as a breach of faith, after announcements have been issued, and more especially as the arrangements then made, have only had a short trial.

The matter is one vital to the prosperity of the Faculty of Arts, which now depends on the support of the Theological Colleges and the bodies they represent, more than on any other influence for its success as regards Ontario competition. Last year it was agreed, after much discussion and some complaint on the part of the Theological Colleges, that the exempted theological students should pay \$15 per session instead of \$7.50 as heretofore, and that the privilege should be restricted to undergraduates and partials, and to a limited number of these. The fact is, that the amount paid by these students last year, say \$1500, is at least in some degree an acknowledgement of the benefits they receive, and that we should probably by cancelling the privilege, lose not only this, but a number of our best men, who exercise an excellent influence on the other students, and when they go out as ministers of religion, are the best agents to attract new students, not only in Arts but in the professional faculties. We

should besides by such a change, handicap our Theological Colleges in comparison with their Ontario rivals, and so render less useful or even useless the large sums spent by Montreal people in buildings and endowments; thus alienating some of our best friends.

In connection with this subject I may further remark that the theological colleges are to us in the place of a Theological Faculty, which in all the older Universities is regarded as the first in rank and entitled to all the aid that can be bestowed. This principle has been recognized by the University of Toronto, which though unsectarian, has received into affiliation with similar privileges Knox College, Wyckliffe College and Victoria College. It should also be observed that our method of granting certain exemptions from studies in Arts in lieu of theological subjects, and the consequent closer connection of the Theological Colleges with the Faculty of Arts, as well as our somewhat higher scale of fees, renders such privileges more necessary in our case.

I have always held that our policy in attracting to us theological colleges by giving them free educational advantages is a means of conciliating the support of all denominations of Protestants, as well as meeting an important educational want in this Province, in which until these colleges were established there was always a great scarcity of Christian ministers. I feel convinced also that to our thus securing the support of all denominations is due to a large extent the number of students that have resorted to the University in all its Faculties.

Supposing, however, that the withdrawal of these free tuitions is desirable, I still hold that the present is a most inopportune time, after the settlement so recently made, and in the prospect of the immediate meeting of the Presbyterian Assembly and Congregational Union in this city; while by delay and giving sufficient notice in advance, some means might be found to meet the difficulty by additional aids, either to the Colleges or to the University. It is however indispensable that the free tuitions should as far as possible be the gift of the University. This secures uniformity in their distribution, and makes the Theological Colleges more interested in retaining their connection with the University, and gives us a stronger claim on the gratitude of their graduates.

I have placed this matter on what may be regarded as the lowest grounds; but no educational function can be higher or more honorable than that of providing a highly educated Christian Ministry

for this province, in which the Protestant religion, owing to its being the faith of a scattered minority, is exposed to so many difficulties. Yet McGill has been doing no more in this direction than the Universities of Ontario, and less than many of those in the United States. In all christian countries, indeed, the education of teachers and ministers of religion is held to be entitled to special and exceptional consideration in regard to exemptions from fees and to money aids, and this for the most obvious reasons.

I think it only my duty to submit to you these views, the result of long experience and observation, and to ask that they should be considered before taking action in a matter, which, I feel, may affect the relation of the University to the Protestant community for whose benefit it was founded, and may thus place it in a different position from that intended by the Founder and by the original Board of Governors.

Should it be decided to abolish the theological free tuitions or materially to change their conditions, the project for this must be submitted to the Corporation and by it sent to the Colleges and several Faculties for any representations they may have to make in the premises.

In event of such abolition and in view of the withdrawal of the benefactors' scholarships, I would advise that a fund of say at least \$40,000 should be created, the income to be devoted solely to free tuitions or aids to students, whether theological or otherwise, and to be administered under such regulations as would ensure that only the deserving and needy should receive aid. This fund would no doubt be supplemented subsequently by benefactions; provided a guarantee were given that its destination should remain inviolable.

4. NOTE ON AIDS TO STUDENTS ELSEWHERE.

In the calendar of Harvard University for 1891-92, I find the exemptions from fees and aids to students to be as follows:—

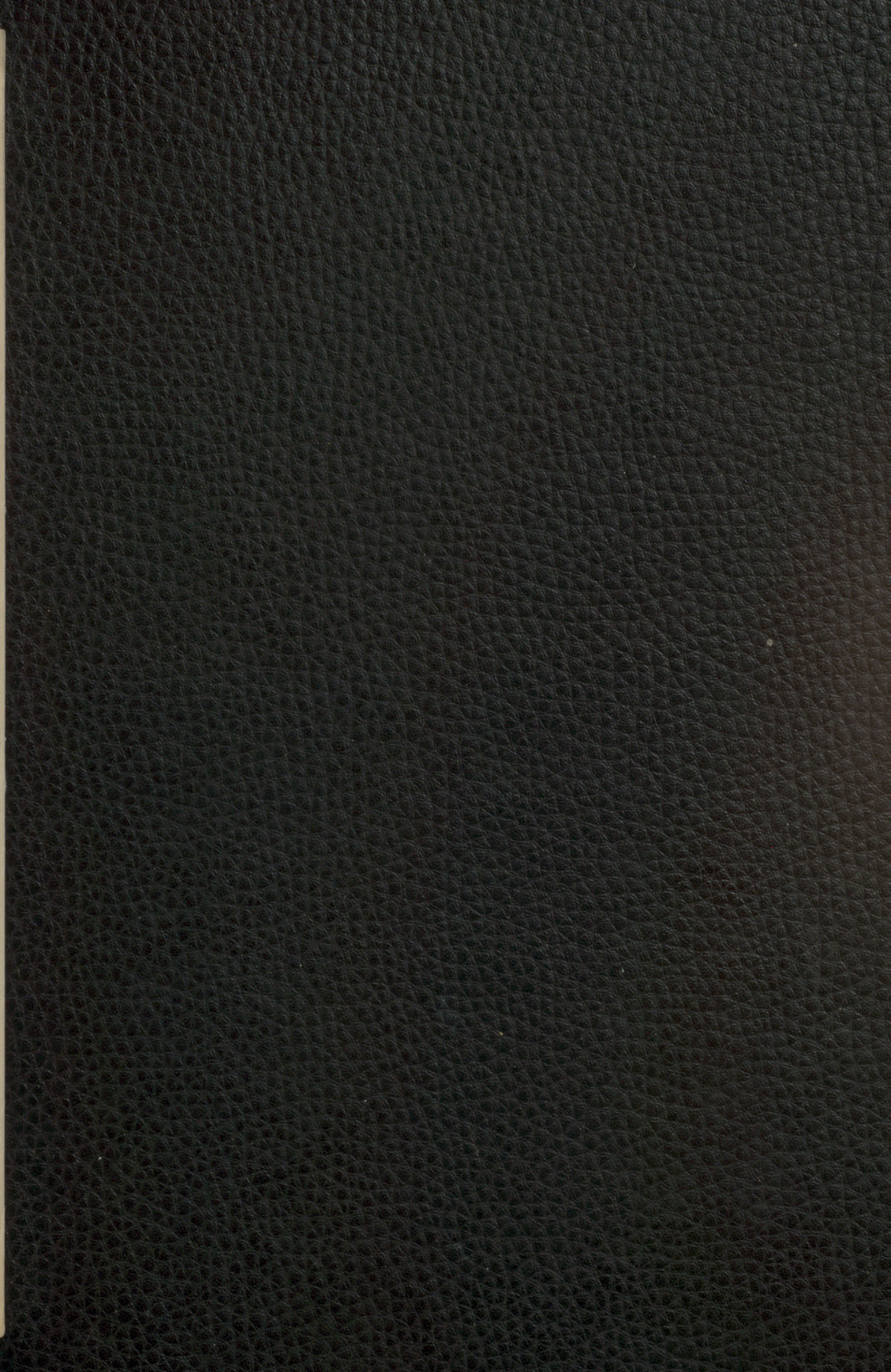
In the Faculty of Arts there are money aids arising from various funds to the amount of \$50,000 per annum, and of these many are given on the ground merely of poverty. For example, one fund, "the Price-Greenleaf aid," produces \$15,000 annually, which is given in sums of \$100 to \$250 to students "not having sufficient pecuniary ability" to pay their college expenses.

In the Divinity School there is a large fund for aid, and it is stated in the calendar that "any student who needs or merits help" can have from \$200 to \$300 annually on application. The nominal fee is \$50 per session. There are similar aids in Yale and Princeton and all the large colleges and divinity schools in the United States, and they are regarded as essential to obtaining a choice of the best men for the Christian ministry, as well as important stimuli to the academical or Arts courses of the Universities.

In the University of Toronto the sessional fee is only \$25, but as with us, Library, Laboratory and other special fees are being added. A committee of the Senate is now charged with the duty of inquiring as to the question of fees, &c., and is expected soon to report. The President, Sir Daniel Wilson, has the privilege of remitting the fees of undergraduates in Arts who may show good cause; but this is done merely by private letters to the Bursar and not reported. Under the law for University federation the Wesleyan College, (Victoria) obtains free access for its students to the University lectures, and other colleges can have the same privileges on entering into the federation.

In Queen's College, Kingston, the principle of free tuitions or scholarships in the gift of benefactors, has been carried much farther than in McGill, and it is to this that the recent growth of Queen's in number of students and in endowments is largely attributable. Any donor of \$500 can nominate to a free tuition annually, and the privilege descends to his heirs. Donors of \$100 to \$400 have a similar right limited to their own lives. In the calendar of 1890-91 under the head of "Unused Nominations," 360 free tuitions are mentioned, with the names and addresses of the holders, who are scattered throughout the Dominion. Besides these there appears to be a large additional number under the head of "Jubilee fund nominations." The publication of the addresses of the holders of these free tuitions in the calendar affords great facilities to intending applicants, and shows the value attached to these nominations as a means of aiding the University. Fifty of the Queen's College scholarships are held by citizens of Montreal. Besides these free tuitions there are also scholarships in Arts and Theology entitling to money payments.

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