

Rev^d Mr Shaw
on Affiliated
Theological Colleges

Sir
William Dawson
L.L.D., F.R.S.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES
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WESLEYAN COLLEGE.

May II, 1898.

Sir William Dawson, LL.D., F.R.S., &c

My dear Sir William.

Following our recent conversation & your enquiry as to the effect of recent University legislation on this Institution & in harmony with your request I send you the following statement.

When this College was affiliated with McGill University in 1879, under the wise & liberal policy then observed our students were admitted on Benefactors' Scholarships to University lectures. Afterwards this privilege was given simply on presentation of suitable students by our Principal. This latter privilege was shortly withdrawn & in further reversal of the original policy the Benefactors were subsequently led under some pressure to surrender their benefits of Scholarships. At the same time the fees were increased & now again they are further & very materially increased. I do not for one moment charge the authorities of the University with any breach of faith in these circumstances. At the same time I am certain that had this policy been foreseen this Institution would not likely have been founded as a helpful adjunct to the University.

Under existing circumstances our Governors have assumed all the responsibility involved in the assurance which they have published that our Divinity Students will hereafter have no heavier fees to pay than heretofore. The effect of the new scale of fees is shown by the fact that students, the same in number & work as those of this year, would have hereafter to pay \$900. additional to the amount paid this session. Had this to be paid by the students alone it would simply divert them to other Institutions. To meet this a system of Bursaries is promised by ^{our} ~~the~~ Governors. To enable them to redeem this promise they must seek the aid of our friends who have generously contributed to our ^{need} ~~need~~. I entertain the hope that at some future time there may be at

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least a partial return to the earlier policy of the University in this matter.

I share your solicitude that the University may not be estranged from the Churches, that neither by its general policy nor by its moral tone nor by the character of its teaching it may ~~not~~ become in any degree adverse to the Churches. This I earnestly wish both for the University itself & for the sake of Christian sentiment & truth. But I do not anticipate any such calamity. I believe it will stand, as ^{James} ~~Peter~~ McGill expressed it "for the advancement of higher education & the maintenance of true religion". I believe that long years after your cessation of toil, your labours, as distinguished in moral & spiritual results as in educational, will be most influential in perpetuating in McGill University a religious sentiment firm in its intelligent convictions & at the same time ennobled by broadest catholicity.

I was much pleased last Sabbath to see the evidence of your continued vigour. You may be sure, my dear Sir William, you live in the loving & prayerful remembrance of thousands throughout the world.

I remain

With much respect

Very sincerely yours,

William Shaw