

# DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED

D. C. HARVEY

THE reorganization of Dalhousie College in 1863, on the principles enunciated by Dawson in 1856, was prophetic: its history since that date has been a series of affiliations increasing its resources and extending its opportunities of service; and it was the care taken by the Board of Governors to maintain their independence of denominational control at the outset that made possible the ultimate expansion of the college into a university. It is to the credit of Howe and Young that they resisted all temptation of immediate advantage or religious prejudice, and, though at the moment negotiating with Presbyterians alone, insisted upon keeping membership in the Board open to all denominations of Christians who would bring some contribution to the common stock.

But this was no easy task, as the briefest glance at the religious dissensions of the time will show. Barely twenty years had elapsed since the bitter feud between Crawley and Howe; and, though Howe in 1849 had made his peace with denominationalism in higher education as a necessary evil of a transitional period, he had been unable to recover the political support of the Baptists from Johnston and Tupper. Moreover, Johnston and Tupper had exploited the quarrel between Howe and the Irish Catholics after the Gourley Shanty Riot, had taken advantage of it and of the separate school question to defeat the Young Government in 1857, and had formed a tacit *rapprochement* between the Baptists and Roman Catholics against the Liberals. Consequently the Protestant Alliance, which brought the Young Government back to power in 1859 and made Young Chief Justice, comprised many Presbyterians, and accounts for the fact that between 1860 and 1863, when Howe was Premier and the Dalhousie Act was passed, there was no Roman Catholic in either the Executive Council or the Board of Governors of Dalhousie. Howe and Young, therefore, when negotiating with Presbyterians were particularly vulnerable; but they revealed marked statesmanship, in filling the existing vacancies on the Board of Governors of Dalhousie with representatives of the Anglicans, Baptists and Methodists, as a preliminary to legislation, and also in insisting that there should be a place on the Board for Roman Catholics, whenever they were willing to take it, on the same terms as for any other denomination of Christians.

But even the negotiations with the two groups of Presbyterians in Nova Scotia were not without difficulty. The United Presbyterian Church was only two years old when these negotiations began, and had not yet smoothed over all the causes of friction between its constituent parts. The former members of the Secession Church were deeply conscious of their services to provincial education, had not yet forgotten their betrayal by the Church of Scotland in 1838, were suspicious of Chief Justice Young because of his membership in that Church, and were resentful of Howe's sneer at the educational standards of their college in Truro. Moreover, the United Presbyterian Church was the only one of the Presbyterian family that had an established college to give up; and, in it, they had three professors to provide for, while the Church of Scotland, with greater wealth, had to provide the salary of only one, and was free to find him where it would. At the same time, there were in the United Presbyterian Church a number of clergymen who had their eyes on a professorship. Rev. Hugh McLeod wanted the Chair of Latin and Rev. Alexander Forrester thought that the Superintendent of Education should be made Principal of Dalhousie and head of the educational system of the province. Thus there was a sufficient number of competent Presbyterians at hand to fill all the chairs at the disposal of the Board; and, in their eagerness to obtain assistance for the revival of Dalhousie, Howe and Young might easily have been tempted to follow the lines of least resistance and to unload all privileges and responsibilities upon the Presbyterians, as later they were unjustly accused of doing. But, at the risk of offending both their political friends and the only religious body that was willing to cooperate, they insisted upon keeping complete control of policy in the Board of Governors, so that the new university should be as provincial in scope as the spirit of the age would permit.

For example, while negotiating with them as to the terms of the Act, the Board of Governors held several meetings and steadily declined to make any commitments as to the number of chairs that would be filled by Presbyterian professors, or as to the office of principal, until the Act had been passed by the legislature and approved by the respective synods. This done, the statutory Board of Governors received the names of the governors nominated by the two branches of the Presbyterian Church; and, two days later, the full Board met to consider the reorganization of the College and the selection of a staff. Ten meetings in all were held, between August 6th and November 10th, before this preliminary work was done, and teaching actually commenced on the latter date.

At this first meeting, the Board decided to appoint Rev. James Ross and Thomas McCulloch, as nominated by the United Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Charles Macdonald, as nominated by the Church of Scotland, the salaries of these three professors to be paid by their respective synods. Then, as an act of grace, although he would have qualified in any competition, they appointed Rev. William Lyall to a professorship on the College funds. These were all the Presbyterians who were appointed as such, and, as it turned out, this act of courtesy was not lost on the United Presbyterian Church: two years later, when Professor McCulloch died, that Church waived its right to nominate a successor and assumed responsibility for the salary of Professor Lyall, thus enabling the Board of Governors to expand their Faculty by the appointment of James De Mille as Professor of Rhetoric and History.

Before assigning chairs to any of these four professors, the Board decided to throw open the chairs of chemistry and classics, and a tutorship in modern languages, to the widest competition, applications to be received up to and including September 15th. In the meantime, they held two meetings with those professors who were already appointed and in the province, at which the chief subject of discussion was the right to appropriate the provincial grant hitherto made to the Presbyterian denomination. Finally, it was resolved, "That in the opinion of the Board and looking to the letter and spirit of the Act the right of any body of Christians to nominate a governor or professor to this College must depend on their endowing and supporting a chair from funds raised quite independently of any public grants or provincial monies; and further resolved, that the Board consider it indispensable to the successful organization of the College that the Board should be able to appropriate after the close of the present year the £250 previously granted to the Free Church Academy and Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces to the endowment of a chair of chemistry and mineralogy."

On October 3rd the Board met to consider eleven candidates for the chair of chemistry. On motion of Mr. J. W. Ritchie, seconded by Dr. Charles Tupper, Professor George Lawson of Queen's University was chosen unanimously. He was appointed on merit alone, though he happened to be a Presbyterian. At this meeting, also, several applications for the tutorship in modern languages were considered, but the Board was destined to wait an entire year before an appointment could be made, and even then it did not prove satisfactory.

Among the candidates for the chair of classics was Rev. John Pryor, formerly of Acadia College but, at that time, pastor of a

Baptist congregation in Halifax. The Board offered him the position on the condition previously laid down, that one could not hold a regular pastoral charge and a professorship at the same time. They met twice to deal with this problem, and even offered to appoint him if he would resign his charge by September 1st, 1864. It was only after failure to reach an agreement with Dr. Pryor that John Johnson, an Anglican, was appointed Professor of Classics on October 19th. On the latter date also, it was decided that the College should be opened on November 10th, and that Professor Ross should be the Principal of the College with an addition to his salary of £50 to be paid out of the College funds.

The Board held two more meetings to decide upon tuition fees, prizes to be offered for exceptional scholarship, and the character of the formal opening. Finally, Dalhousie College re-opened, on November 10, 1863, with high hopes at last well-founded. The Faculty of Arts was carefully selected, enthusiastic, and highly competent, and was about to establish that reputation for hard work and sound scholarship which has characterized the College ever since. Moreover, in his inaugural address, President Ross, in sketching the history of the College, expressed the hope that it would soon gather around it Faculties of law and medicine and become a university in fact as well as in name. Though this hope has been long in fulfilment, an attempt was made to realize it immediately. On November 28, 1863, the Board of Governors invited the Medical Society to cooperate with them in establishing a Faculty of Medicine. At the moment the Medical Society did not deem it expedient to do so; but four years later they opened negotiations which by a tortuous route led ultimately to that goal.

With six professors and sixty students, Dalhousie College set about its tasks in 1863, desiring only to be left in peace. But this was not to be. During that summer Howe's Government had been defeated in a general election, and Johnston returned to power. When the Legislature met, in the winter of 1864, forty-eight petitions chiefly from Acadia College and Baptist congregations throughout the province were presented against the Dalhousie Act and the reorganization of the College. During the session, various resolutions and amendments were introduced to effect the repeal of the Act, the repayment of the loan of £5000, or the gift of the College building to the Presbyterians and the equal division of all its endowments, estimated at \$51,190, amongst the five leading denominations of Nova Scotia. Had Tupper, who was the virtual leader of the Government, yielded, Dalhousie would have been closed again, perhaps forever; but, despite their political antagon-

isms, the educational mantle of Howe had fallen on Tupper, and he wore it proudly. He had cooperated whole-heartedly in the revival of Dalhousie during the previous year, and he was about to inaugurate a system of free schools for his native province. He therefore opposed vigorously and effectively this unpatriotic and short-sighted attack upon the College that he had helped to organize. As a result, the unfriendly resolutions were either withdrawn or defeated by large majorities.

But it was not until the following year that the problem of the old loan to Dalhousie was finally settled. In the session of 1865, only two memorials were presented in regard to Dalhousie; but they represented the considered opinions of the various conventions and conferences of the Baptists and Methodists. Neither petition made such specific proposals as had roused the anger of Tupper in 1864; but both referred to widespread dissatisfaction as existing among all denominations other than Presbyterian, both characterized the existing pre-eminence of Presbyterians in Dalhousie as unfair, and both demanded equal justice for all denominations in the matter of provincial aid to collegiate education. As these petitions were more reasonable in fact and less arrogant in spirit, the Government decided to make an additional grant to all religious denominations other than Presbyterians, in lieu of the £5000 that had been lent to Dalhousie in 1823.<sup>1</sup> Henceforth, Dalhousie College is free to work out its own destiny untroubled by the fear of politico-ecclesiastical pressure, although it is later to be embarrassed by an attempt to absorb all the colleges into a sort of super-college, called the University of Halifax.

In 1863, then, Dalhousie College commenced work in earnest, with an exceptionally strong staff, prepared to teach a wide range of subjects for that period in our educational history. Classics

1. It will be remembered that in 1845 grants of £250 had been made to the various colleges and academies on the denominational principle to continue during the life of the school act of that year. In 1850, when a new school act came into force, the same grants were continued for one year only, but renewed from year to year until 1865, when additional grants were made to the Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists and Roman Catholics. In the meantime the grant to King's College had been reduced to £250, as from 1854; the Free Church Academy, opened in Halifax in 1848, received £250 from 1852 onwards; and St. Francis Xavier, opened in Antigonish in 1854, was granted £250 from 1855 onwards. In 1855 also the full denominational grant of £250 was allotted to the Wesleyan Academy at Sackville. Thus, when Dalhousie was reorganized in 1863, provincial grants to denominational colleges and academies amounted to \$6000 of which \$1000 went to King's College, \$1000 each to St. Mary's and St. Francis Xavier, \$1000 to Horton Academy, \$1000 to Mount Allison Wesleyan Academy, and \$1000 to the Free Church Academy (then under the United Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces). It was this latter grant which came into the Dalhousie funds in 1863. In 1865, in response to the protests of the other denominations against the alleged favour shown to Presbyterians and to set at rest the old claim against Dalhousie for the loan of £5000, the Government decided to increase the annual grant to the denominational colleges by \$400 each to King's, St. Mary's, Acadia, St. Francis Xavier and Mount Allison. This arrangement lasted until 1875.

under Johnson of Trinity College, Dublin, and Mathematics under Macdonald of King's College, Aberdeen, were emphasized, but not unduly. Logic, Ethics and Political Economy were given by the versatile Principal Ross, intellectual offspring of Dr. McCulloch. Natural Philosophy was offered by Thomas McCulloch, son and pupil of The Great Educator, and like him, keen on instruction by experiment. To this end all the philosophical apparatus was taken over by Dalhousie from the Presbyterian College at Truro and the Free Church Academy in Halifax. Chemistry and Mineralogy were taught by Dr. Lawson of the University of Edinburgh, who was also a great botanist and long directed the agricultural activities of the provincial Government. Metaphysics, Aesthetics and Belles Lettres were discussed by Professor Lyall, an outstanding metaphysician of his day; and a wide course in modern languages was promised as soon as a tutor could be obtained. Thus only the field of history was formally neglected in this renaissance of Dalhousie College, but that omission was destined to be repaired within two years; and, at the first convocation of the College in 1864, a library fund was inaugurated, through the enthusiasm and generosity of Rev. G. M. Grant.

The first tutor in Modern Languages was Louis Pujol, who was appointed in October, 1864, but suspended in January, 1865, and dismissed in February. He was apparently a man of parts, as his French Grammar was used in Dalhousie for fifteen years after his withdrawal from the College. His successor, James Liechti, a Swiss Lutheran, who had reached Nova Scotia *via* New York six years previously and had considerable local experience in teaching, remained on the staff until his retirement in 1906.

On the death of Thomas McCulloch, Jr., in 1865, an arrangement was made by which his subject was divided between Principal Ross and Professor Macdonald, who taught Experimental Physics and Mathematical Physics respectively. This enabled the Governors to establish a new chair of Rhetoric and History, to which James De Mille, a graduate of Acadia College and of Brown University and son-in-law of Rev. Dr. Pryor, sometime President of Acadia, was appointed.<sup>2</sup> Professor Lyall gave up Belles Lettres to Professor De Mille and took over Logic from Principal Ross.

2. In the College calendars the name is spelled DeMill, but on his books it appears with an "e". DeMille was a brilliant lecturer in history and a voluminous writer of historical and romantic novels, boys' stories, etc. "Helena's Household" (1867), according to Dr. Lawrence J. Burpee, was the precursor of and may have inspired Wallace's *Ben Hur*, Farrar's *Darkness and Light*, and Sienkiewicz's *Quo Vadis*. Of this book Sir William Young wrote: "The characters of Nero, Isaac and Hegio are powerfully drawn—and the burning of Rome and the fall of Jerusalem and other scenes are depicted with the skill of a master. The only fault I find is that you have not put your name on the title page. It would have enhanced your own reputation and reflected credit on Dalhousie."

By 1865, therefore, the Faculty of Arts of Dalhousie College was thoroughly organized, and its staff continued without change until the autumn of 1876, when Dr. J. G. MacGregor, the first of Dalhousie's own graduates to return to his *alma mater*, was appointed Lecturer in Natural Philosophy and Principal Ross and Professor Macdonald were relieved of their additional burden. During the intervening years Dalhousie had made its reputation and proved its worth. By 1875, it had graduated 62 Bachelors of Arts, 13 Doctors of Medicine and Masters of Surgery, and 13 Masters of Arts. Between 1873 and 1876, it had introduced an Honours Course, and had awarded five degrees with honours, two in Mathematics and Physics, two in Classics, and one in Mental and Moral Philosophy. Moreover, it was about to inaugurate an adequate course in Science. In 1868, the North British Society had expressed its confidence in the College by establishing an annual scholarship to mark the centenary of its organization, and four years later an anonymous donor gave \$1,000 to endow a bursary. This was the origin of the Waverley Prize. Various other prizes were offered from time to time by Sir William Young, Rev. G. M. Grant, Colonel Laurie and others, for proficiency in different courses or essays on specific subjects. In the same period the *Dalhousie Gazette* appeared (1869) as an organ of the student body and an outlet for literary talent; and the Alumni Association was organized (1871) to further the interests of the College. As an Arts college, therefore, Dalhousie was consciously strong and its future bright. But, in the meantime, it had made an expensive experiment with medical education, had invited the other colleges of Nova Scotia to combine their resources in one strong provincial university, and had obtained legislation to enable it to affiliate any other college or school in Arts, Theology, Law or Medicine.

The experiment with a Medical Faculty was made between 1867 and 1875. In 1868 a beginning was made with teaching, and in 1870 it was decided to provide a full medical course. The President of the Medical Faculty was Dr. W. J. Almon and the Dean was Dr. Alexander P. Reid, through whose enthusiasm the work was inaugurated. According to the by-laws, the Medical Faculty was practically an autonomous unit within Dalhousie University; but Principal Ross was a member of the Faculty, *ex-officio*, Dr. Lawson was a member by virtue of his instruction in chemistry, and the Board of Governors had general oversight of all by-laws, appointments and policy. Clinical lectures were given at the Provincial and City Hospital and City Dispensary, and the hospital wards of the City Alms House were also open to the students. For mutual improvement a Clinical Society was organized among

the members of the Faculty and other medical practitioners in Halifax, and they met in Professor Lyall's room in the College. All went smoothly until the first convocation for conferring medical degrees, when some friction arose over the form of the diploma and the signatures to be attached; but this difficulty could have been overcome if it had not been for the pressure of space and finance. When the Medical Faculty was organized in 1868, the Board of Governors had been compelled to ask the provincial Government to remove the Museum from the College in order to provide a lecture room for the medical students, and only an attic room reached by a ladder in semi-darkness was available for the study of anatomy. They were able to set aside a small sum for the organization and advertisement of the new curriculum; but, generally speaking, they had neither funds nor room for further expansion, and they found it extremely difficult to pay for the gas and chemicals now indispensable for scientific instruction. At the same time, "anatomical material" was expensive to import and difficult to obtain otherwise. When the full course was undertaken, the problem of space was still more acute, although relieved somewhat by the prospect of the removal of the Postmaster from the College into the new Post Office building. But this prospect was marred by the accompanying loss of £200 a year in revenue, in addition to the expense of remodelling the offices for classrooms. To meet this loss, the Board decided to appeal to friends of the College and instituted a Five Year Endowment Fund by which they obtained subscriptions for \$5834, between 1870-75. This Five Year Fund, distinct from the earlier subscriptions made to establish a library, was the first successful attempt of the Governors of Dalhousie to raise an endowment from private sources. An attempt had been made in 1843, but without success. However, the Board gave the Medical Faculty \$400 in 1872 to purchase apparatus, though they could allow only \$600 to the Arts Faculty, which had more than three times as many students, for both library and apparatus. In 1873, also, they gave a smaller but proportionate grant for the same purpose. It is obvious, therefore, that they were sympathetic and aided the Medical Faculty as much as they could.

The first serious friction arose in 1873, when the Medical Faculty, eager for more room and funds, decided to build a college of their own, and petitioned the legislature for an act to incorporate The Halifax School of Medicine, authorizing them to hold real estate, to appoint all professors and other officers, and to make their own by-laws. This act precipitated a crisis, inasmuch as the Board felt that they were not authorized to grant degrees to students of an independent institution. A conference was held between the



Board and the Medical Faculty, at which it was agreed that the only way to avoid immediate separation was for the Faculty to defer organization under the act and have the offending section repealed at the next session of the legislature. When this agreement was reached, the Medical Faculty submitted the names of certain professors to the Board for approval, and the Board in return appropriated \$250 more towards the expenses of the school for that year. In 1873 there were no medical candidates for a degree; but in 1874 the Faculty held a separate convocation for conferring degrees, and, in the following year, they procured another act of incorporation which made them an independent proprietary college with power not only to appoint professors and frame their own by-laws but also to grant degrees. When this act was passed, separation from Dalhousie was inevitable. The Board of Governors agreed to grant Dalhousie University degrees at a separate convocation to those students who had completed their course in that session, (1875), but they omitted the Medical Faculty from the new calendar for 1876, and held no official intercourse with the new Medical College until the arrangements for affiliation were made in 1885.

On the death of Howe in 1873, Rev. G. W. Hill succeeded him on the Board. In the very first meeting which he attended, January 23, 1874, he proposed that an effort should be made to combine the resources of all the colleges in one central university. It was agreed that, after the approaching election, a move should be made to that end. Accordingly, on May 14th, Mr. Hill's proposal and plan were fully discussed, and a circular letter drafted by him was sent to all the colleges, inviting them to a conference on the subject. In the meantime, Principal Ross was advocating the establishment of a Faculty of Science, and the Board were heavily pressed for funds. On hearing that the colleges had declined to attend a conference on union, the Board decided to appeal to the Government for an increased grant and also for authority to increase their membership, in the hope of widening the interest of the public in the institution. The latter move originated with Rev. G. M. Grant, who suggested that the Faculties of the university and the graduates and also the local Government and the city of Halifax should be represented on the Board. The chairman agreed that the membership should be increased; but insisted that the Board should retain the power of nominating all additional members except the representative of the graduates. Finally, committees were appointed to prepare a bill for increasing the number of governors and a memorial to the legislature for an increased grant. The efforts of both these committees bore immediate fruit. In

the session of 1875 an act was passed enabling the Board of Governors to increase their number from nine to fifteen, and also to affiliate to Dalhousie any other colleges or schools in Arts, Theology, Law or Medicine. In the same session, the very able memorandum presented by the Board brought an increased grant of \$1800 for that year, the Board having shown that on whatever principle the Government was proceeding, denominational, provincial, or payment by results, Dalhousie was receiving too little. In the autumn of 1875, His Worship, the Mayor of Halifax, Hon. Jeremiah Northup, Alfred G. Jones, Esq., M. P., William P. West, Esq., and the *President of the Alumni Association* for the time being, were added to the membership of the Board.

In 1876 the provincial Government was almost swamped by petitions from friends of the denominational colleges demanding increased and more fairly distributed denominational grants; and, somewhat bewildered, they acceded to these demands but, at the same time, embarked upon the experiment of a central university to be known as the University of Halifax. This was to be an examining body, in imitation of the University of London, and to have the power of conferring degrees upon all who passed its examinations successfully, whether they came from colleges, academies or private study. Nominally, it comprised the existing colleges in Nova Scotia (including also Mount Allison); but the Government, whether from too much wisdom or too little courage, did not attempt to withdraw degree granting powers from the colleges. On the contrary, they passed a separate act granting each of the colleges an increased amount for a period of five years, in the vain hope that by the end of that period they would have learned to cooperate and would merge their identity in the University of Halifax.<sup>3</sup> In the

3. By this Act Dalhousie received \$3000 a year, St. Mary's and Saint Francis Xavier \$1500 each, King's, Acadia, Mount Allison \$2400 each. Section 3 of this act revealed complete acceptance by the legislature of the denominational principle. It stated that, "In the event of the Presbyterian Church abandoning Dalhousie College and establishing and maintaining another college, within the term of five years mentioned in the second section, they shall be entitled to receive, in aid of such college so established, the sum of three thousand dollars, yearly, herein appropriated to Dalhousie College, for the remainder of such term of five years." This curious clause reflects the bewilderment of the Government over the attitude of the Presbyterians during the passage of the Bill. Premier P. C. Hill had offered Dalhousie College and its revenues to the Presbyterians if they would assume full responsibility for it at the end of five years; but they refused and insisted that the Government should do its own work. The most that they would consider was to hold the property in trust during that period, as they did not wish to subscribe to the denominational view of Dalhousie. When the Government saw that the Presbyterians still stood firmly behind the idea of a non-sectarian provincial university, and that the other denominations objected to such a generous offer to one denomination, they compromised by increasing all denominational grants for a stated period and by trying to tempt the Presbyterians to desert Dalhousie and to found a college of their own. In that event Dalhousie College building and grounds would have been sold or transferred to the city of Halifax which was already anxious to get title to the Parade.

following year, the act was amended so as to include the Halifax Medical College, and the University of Halifax maintained a precarious existence until the session of 1881, when it was quietly shelved, and all Government grants to the colleges terminated.

The increased grant to Dalhousie enabled the Board of Governors to raise the salaries of their professors slightly, and to make an unsuccessful bid for the old Halifax Library, which was then offered for sale, but they had little left for the imperious demands of scientific instruction, and they foresaw that before the five years' bounty had terminated they would be compelled to solicit endowments from private sources in order to maintain the meagre standard of living that they had set up. It is not without significance that immediately after J. G. MacGregor, their own brilliant graduate, was appointed lecturer in Natural Philosophy and the *Alumni Association of Dalhousie College and University* had been incorporated, two movements to obtain funds were set on foot, the one for a general endowment proposed by R. Sedgewick, President of the Alumni Association now on the Board, which realized \$10,600, and the other for scientific apparatus which realized \$2,845, and to which the Alumni Association *per se* contributed \$150. The significance was this: Dalhousie had proved that she was able to produce graduates who could distinguish themselves in the universities of Europe, and all her graduates were becoming conscious of their duty and ability to strengthen her hands. Moreover, a successful venture wins respect, even from the hitherto unsympathetic, and recognition abroad compels admiration at home and fosters local pride however belated. Thus, when McGregor, who had received his D.Sc. from the University of London at the age of 24, and, after a year on the staff of Dalhousie, was appointed to the mastership of Clifton College, England, in 1877, and Dr. J. J. MacKenzie, another of Dalhousie's brilliant graduates, succeeded him on the staff of his *alma mater*, the local press changed its tune and wrote as follows:

This lectureship, (science lectureship in Dalhousie College) established last year and so admirably filled then by Dr. J. Gordon Macgregor, has become vacant by his appointment to the chief Mastership in Physical Science in Clifton College, England. The Governors of Dalhousie College, feeling that in the present age their staff should not be weakened in so important a department as Physics, have appointed to the vacant lectureship Dr. John J. McKenzie, who has just returned to his native Province after a brilliant record at the Universities of Leipsic and Berlin. Dr. McKenzie graduated at Dalhousie College, thereafter taught Pictou Academy, in conjunction with Dr. Herbert Bayne, and four years ago left for the Continent of Europe to prosecute his

studies in Mathematical and Experimental Physics. During those years he has studied under Helmholtz and Weidemann—the most distinguished physicists of our time, and his certificates from those and other magnates in the scientific world entitle him to a far higher position than any that his Alma Mater has to give him. He has especially distinguished himself in original investigations. It must be a matter of congratulation to the Governors of Dalhousie College that so soon after its reorganization they are able to fill vacancies in their teaching staff from their own Alumni. Many a college has been in existence for half a century without being able to do so much. The advantage of having men who are in thorough sympathy with the institution and the country is manifest. The present appointment must be specially gratifying to the old students of Dalhousie.

In 1878, the Board of Governors decided to strengthen the teaching of science, and appointed another of their graduates, Dr. Herbert A Bayne, to the chair of Organic Chemistry and Chemical Analysis. At the same time they engaged Rev. David Honeyman, D.C.L., Curator of the Provincial Museum, to teach Geology, Palaeontology and Mineralogy, while Professor Lawson, relieved of Mineralogy, concentrated upon Inorganic Chemistry and Biological Science. Henceforth, with the exception of three years, when the degree was suspended, Dalhousie offered adequate instruction in scientific subjects and awarded the B. Sc. degree.<sup>4</sup> Dr. MacKenzie died in February, 1879, and Dr. Bayne moved to Kingston in September; but, in the same year, Dr. MacGregor returned to Dalhousie as Professor of Mathematical and Experimental Physics, and remained on the staff until 1901, when he succeeded Professor Tait as Professor of Natural Philosophy in Edinburgh University. His teaching, administrative work and productive scholarship lent lustre to an already brilliant staff, won recognition for Dalhousie throughout Canada and the British Isles, and brought the highest personal honours to himself and to his native land. His achievements gave Dalhousie a justifiable confidence in the quality of both its students and its teachers, and set standards that have been a perpetual challenge to the entire Faculty of Science. It should be noted in passing that, though warmly enthusiastic over the value of science, he maintained to the end of his days a firm belief in the educative value of the classics and particularly of Latin.

The return of MacGregor to Dalhousie was made possible by the munificent benefactions of George Munro, a Pictonian who had

4. From 1878 to 1906 the university had a separate Faculty of Science, though comprising most of the Arts Faculty; but, in the latter year, these faculties were reorganized as the Faculty of Arts and Science.

gained wealth as a publisher in New York and, through the influence of his brother-in-law, Rev. John Forrest, was induced to rescue Dalhousie from its financial depression. He began in 1879 by endowing a chair at \$2,000 a year, and the Board immediately named the chair, *The George Munro Chair of Physics*. After De Mille's death in 1880, he endowed a chair in History and Political Economy at a salary of \$2,500, and nominated Rev. John Forrest as its first professor. Two years later, he endowed the chair of English Literature and Rhetoric, at \$2,000, to which he nominated Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman. In 1883, besides endowing tutorships in classics and mathematics, he made possible the organization of the Faculty of Law by endowing a chair of Constitutional and International Law, to which he nominated Dr. Richard Chapman Weldon. Two years earlier, the Board had obtained legislation authorizing them to establish such a Faculty; but it was Munro's liberality that enabled them to inaugurate it and his discernment that led him to choose a professor whose ability and character was to mould many generations of lawyers, judges and statesmen: what MacGregor was to the Faculty of Science, Weldon became to the Faculty of Law. In 1884, Munro endowed a chair of Metaphysics to which he transferred Dr. Schurman, and nominated Dr. W. J. Alexander for the chair of English Literature. From 1880 onwards, he provided a number of exhibitions and bursaries to stimulate the high schools and academies of Nova Scotia and the neighbouring provinces, and altogether gave to Dalhousie \$350,000, benefactions that were described at the time as unparalleled in the history of British North America. In the words of Rev. G. M. Grant, then Principal of Queen's University, "What a blessing that he came along when he did! He has saved Dalhousie, and he deserves every honour." The advent of Munro was indeed auspicious. At the moment, the Government was about to withdraw its annual grants from all the colleges and, though Dalhousie might have continued to exist as a college without additional revenue, as a university it could not have existed without Munro. Moreover, Munro's liberality inspired others. In 1882 Alexander McLeod of Halifax bequeathed part of his estate, amounting to \$65,000, to Dalhousie, on condition that it continue and remain as a non-sectarian university; and later others were induced to give or bequeath smaller amounts according to their means, while the Alumni Association expressed its eagerness to cooperate to the fullest extent.

As a direct result of these large benefactions, Dalhousie was able to feel assured of permanent teaching in eight departments:

George Munro chairs of Physics, History and Political Economy, English Literature, Philosophy and Constitutional and International Law, and McLeod chairs in Classics, Modern Languages and Chemistry. In this assurance, it was enabled to devote the revenues derived from its original endowment to other chairs, to supplement the salaries paid by the Presbyterians to their professors, and to assume without too much concern the full salaries of these professors, when the united Presbyterians of the Lower Provinces withdrew their support after the retirement or death of their first nominees. The United Presbyterians and the Church of Scotland had united in 1875. Immediately after the reorganization of Dalhousie in 1863, the latter had raised an endowment fund to provide a permanent salary of \$1,200 for the chair of Mathematics; but the United Presbyterians had paid the salaries of their two professors year by year. When Principal Ross retired in 1885, they did not nominate a successor, and, when Professor Lyall died in 1890, they felt that they could not afford to pay the salary of his chair; but they remitted a debt of \$1,600 which Dalhousie owed them for philosophical apparatus, and they undertook to pay \$250 a year towards an increase in the salary of Professor Macdonald, an amount that the Board had hitherto provided. At the same time, they pledged their continued support to the idea of a non-sectarian university.

The year that saw the peak of these earlier endowments saw also the retirement of Sir William Young, who resigned in 1884, not because of diminishing interest but of age and diminishing strength. He had been a member of the Board of Governors since 1842, and Chairman since 1848. During thirty-six of his forty-two years' membership of the Board he had spared neither time nor money on behalf of education in general and Dalhousie in particular. In the midst of the political upheavals over the Education Bill of 1856 and the unsuccessful negotiations with Presbyterians about Dalhousie in the same year, he wrote to a friend, "Let me lay the foundations broad and deep, in a system of free schools, and a provincial university may be our next move. To accomplish these ends, altho' it would be ridiculous to say so in public, I assure you I would willingly sacrifice both place and power." That this sentiment was sincere, his every act later proved. His wisdom guided the university through the pitfalls of its earlier years; after the reorganization, his legal knowledge saved the title of the Grand Parade for Dalhousie, obtained an annuity of \$500 from the City of Halifax for the use of this Parade, and enabled the Governors later to exchange the old site of Dalhousie for a new one, together with a substantial sum towards the construction of a new building.

From 1863 onwards, he contributed generously towards scholarships, library, scientific apparatus, the first endowment funds, and the construction of the new building. His gifts are said to have totalled \$68,000 and, in his day, were surpassed only by those of Munro. It was fitting and fortunate that he should live long enough to lay the cornerstone of the new Dalhousie which he had done so much to make possible, and it was fitting if unfortunate that this was the last public function that he was able to attend. Within a month he died; and his death, in a sense, marked the close of an epoch. But both he and Rev. G. M. Grant had led their Church of Scotland associates to atone fully for the discord and disunion that had been sown in 1838.

In the meantime, (1881), women students were admitted to Dalhousie to compete on equal terms with the men for all exhibitions, scholarships, prizes and honours; the student body petitioned successfully for an annual holiday as Munro Day in honour of their great benefactor, and also for a room to be used as a gymnasium, which they themselves undertook to equip. The Alumni, too, were becoming more active and anxious to obtain better representation. In 1883, they petitioned for a representative on the Board of Governors, who should not necessarily be the President of the Association for the time being, and should hold office for five years. Their petition was granted, and R. Sedgewick appointed as the first Alumni representative who did not hold office *ex-officio*. That same year the Alumni founded the De Mille medal in English Literature.

But the chief problem of the moment was that of a permanent site for an expanding university. The old site on the Parade had its advantages and its disadvantages. It was centrally situated, and near the business section and boarding houses of the city, but it was not free from noise and bustle. Hugo Reid had complained of the military band playing under the windows of the College when classes were in session, and Principal Ross had complained of the boys from the National School shouting and throwing missiles of various descriptions during recess. Further, the City of Halifax wanted the site for its own use and, having first disputed the title of the Board of Governors to part of the Parade, continued to negotiate for the extinction of that title. At one time a group of American capitalists offered to purchase the site for a hotel, and various other individuals or groups kept the authorities unsettled. As the need of more room for expansion was felt, the Governors had finally to decide whether they should add to their building on that site or choose a new site and start afresh. The Faculty of

Law was at first housed in the City School Board Rooms; but in 1885 they were told that these rooms were needed for other purposes. Dean Weldon then informed the Governors that the friends of the Law School would erect a building if they would provide a site. All these factors combined to force a decision upon the Governors, and they renewed negotiations with the City and finally concluded an arrangement in 1886 whereby Dalhousie College and site on the Parade would be exchanged for a new site on Carleton Street and \$25,000. As soon as the necessary legislation had been obtained and the details carried out, the Governors called for tenders for the erection of the new building, now known as Forrest Hall, and the cornerstone was laid in April, 1887. That autumn Dalhousians migrated to their new home which was still unfinished.

In its new building, which at that time seemed adequate for many years to come, Dalhousie faced the future with confidence. In moving from the Parade it was able to leave behind the memory of old unhappy far-off things, of political, religious and legal battles, but to carry with it the traditions that had been built up during the past quarter of a century of honest effort on the part of all concerned. Of the original staff, after reorganization in 1863, four were still in harness and convinced that some work of noble note might yet be done: Lyall who lived until 1890, Johnson who retired in 1894, Lawson who retired in 1895, and Macdonald who did not retire but outlived the century. Principal Ross had served until May 1, 1885, and had been succeeded by Rev. John Forrest, who had already served the institution as a governor, a professor, and an enthusiastic promoter of endowments. McCulloch had been able to give the reorganized university only two years' service before his death, but all the others had been able to serve long enough to set standards, create traditions, and pass on the torch to their successors. In setting these standards and creating these traditions, new members of the staff, both Dalhousians and non-Dalhousians, assisted cordially. De Mille served Dalhousie well for fifteen years, Liechti for forty-one, and MacGregor for twenty-three. Though MacKenzie and Bayne were members of the Faculty for little more than a year each, as distinguished graduates and instructors they brought double honour to their *alma mater*; and, though neither Schurman nor Alexander was a graduate of Dalhousie, they were both able and scholarly men who attracted attention while here and were called to careers of great distinction elsewhere. Moreover, none but men of distinguished character could have been nominated to succeed them, as the choice of Seth and MacMechan bears witness.



Not only were standards set and traditions created, by 1887, but the endowments of Munro, McLeod and Young had made the University independent of those small and precarious provincial grants which had always evoked denominational ill-will and were constant factors making for instability of policy. But, when appeals for assistance were no longer made to the Government, sectarian bitterness tended to disappear, and the Dalhousie Idea was free to make its contribution on its merits. Thus, by 1887, in a new building, on a new site, with new friends, and new resources, with a tradition of sincerity and ability on the part of governors and professors alike and an ever increasing list of devoted graduates, non-sectarian Dalhousie University could regard itself as permanently established; and, free from contention in that respect, it could look forward to modest expansion in pace with the growing needs and liberality of the province.