

GEORGE DICKSON, M.A.

In an estimate of the relative value of the professions and different business interests to which man may give his attention, education is, by many, accorded the foremost place, and upon the educator devolves a responsibility such as is shared by few. He has to do with the formative period, when are established the habits and character of the individual, and there are few men who have attained to any distinction or prominence who do not acknowledge their indebtedness for at least the stimulus for their later activity to some educator who has had direct influence upon their plans and purposes of life. In this connection George Dickson, M.A., is deserving of more than passing mention. He is the founder and director of St. Margaret's College for girls in Toronto, and previous to the establishment of this school in 1896 was connected with important institutions of learning in the Dominion. A native of the township of Markham in York county, Ontario, he was born in 1846. In the acquirement of his education he attended successively the Richmond Hill Grammar School, the Markham Grammar School, Whitby Grammar School and Toronto University. He then entered the field of educational labor as assistant master of the Chatham Grammar School in 1868. Two years later, in 1870, he accepted a position on the staff of Woodstock College, and the period of his connection with these two institutions was sufficient to demonstrate to the thinking world his ability as an educator. In 1872 he was tendered and accepted the position of assistant master of Hamilton Collegiate Institute, and was Principal of that school from 1873 until 1885. Authorities on educational matters noted the remarkable success obtained by his pupils at the universities. The Hamilton Collegiate Institute was the first school selected as a training institute for teachers, but the Vice-Chancellor of the University, who was *ex-officio* chairman of the Upper Canada College Board at the time, recommended the government to offer the Principalship of U.C.C. to Mr. Dickson, when that position became vacant through the death of Principal Buchan. In 1885 there came to him therefore, unsolicited, the appointment as Principal of Upper Canada College by the Minister of Education. When he