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REV. HENRY WILLIAM DAVIES, M.A., D.D.

When the late Thomas Jaffray Robertson, M.A., the first principal of the Toronto Normal School died, it was felt that it would be exceedingly difficult to secure a successor, who would be able to fill his place as a teacher of English. Mr. Robertson's acknowledged ability and extended experience made it necessary that the Council of Public Instruction should exercise great care and discrimination in the selection of the gentleman who would follow him. It was desirable that he should be taken from the ranks of Ontario teachers, that he should be eminent as a teacher in the special department named, and that he should have practical experience in the successful management of some large educational institution. The Council naturally looked towards the High School Masters as the most likely men from whom one could be selected who would give satisfaction. The "Special Reports" of the High School Inspectors, Rev. Mr. Checkley and Professor Young, contained full and reliable information in regard to the past success of the High School Masters throughout the Province, and a careful study of these documents led the Council to appoint Dr. Davies, then Principal of Cornwall High School, to the vacant position. A few brief selections from the reports referred to, will show how clearly they pointed to Dr. Davies as the gentleman whose talents and experience fitted him best for the work of the Normal School.

"I consider Mr. Davies to be in every respect an excellent teacher. He is, I believe, himself thoroughly competent, and has the proper combination of quietness and energy of manner. His discipline appears to be perfect, and as I learned subsequently, he is much liked and respected by all parties."

"The plan which Dr. Davies pursues in teaching would give rise to great thoughtfulness and expansion of mind."

"The discipline of the school is all that could be desired. The class arrangements are judicious. Mr. Davies is a good scholar; and his teaching is vigorous and efficient. The English Grammar was exceedingly good."

"His authority is perfectly established, and he teaches in an intelligent and vigorous manner."

Rev. Dr. Davies was born in 1834 in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. His parents removed to Ontario in 1840, so that he was educated

in this Province. He received his preparatory training in the Cornwall High School, the same institution in which he afterwards earned such well-merited distinction as a teacher. He graduated with honours in Trinity University, Toronto, receiving the degree of M.A., in 1857 and D.D. in 1870. He was appointed Curate of the Episcopal Church in Cobourg in 1856, but was soon after transferred to the Curacy of Cornwall, where he was appointed principal of the High School. When he received the position of English Master in the Toronto Normal School in 1866, he became Assistant in Holy Trinity Church. This position he still continues to fill.

Soon after taking his position in the Normal School, he was requested by the Council of Public Instruction to write two works on English Grammar, suitable for use in the Public and High Schools of Ontario. He complied with the request and issued two very carefully prepared volumes on the subject; the English Grammar for Junior Classes, and the Analytical and Practical Grammar. These books are still extensively used in Public and High Schools. He has since published an English Literature Primer, designed mainly for the use of candidates for Third Class Certificates. It is a very valuable little work, admirably adapted to fill the place for which it was prepared. He also prepared a series of very useful Blank Forms for use in schools in Analyzing and Parsing.

On the resignation of Dr. Sangster in 1871, Dr. Davies was promoted to his present position as Principal of the Normal School. Since that time he has laboured earnestly and successfully in connection with his associate Masters, to maintain and extend the

high reputation of the institution over which he presides. He is ever ready to make personal sacrifices for the benefit of his students, and it may be truly said of him, that the more fully he is known the better he is liked by them. He takes a deep interest in the general welfare of both the Normal and Model School students under his charge. He encourages athletic exercises and field sports, and has secured the establishment of a fine professional and general library for the use of the teachers and students at the Normal School.

Since he was appointed Principal of the School it has undergone a radical change in its organization. Under the new Departmental Regulations the Normal Schools are required to perform more fully their proper function of teacher-training. The only candidates who now receive instruction in them in regard to the subjects of their non-professional course are those of the First Class. The new arrangement is giving much satisfaction,



(From a Photograph by Hunter & Co., Toronto.)