

# THE VARSITY

*A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events*

VOL. XXI.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, OCTOBER 29, 1901.

No. 3

## PRINCIPAL HUTTON.

THE recent elevation of Professor Maurice Hutton to the position of Principal of University College brings prominently before us a remarkable career of brilliant scholarly attainment and wide academic usefulness. His splendid abilities, strengthened by an extensive and sympathetic study of student characteristics, and combined with an innate tact and aggressiveness are the happy auguries that in his wider field he will prove a mighty power in building up within our provincial university a nobler, a more sympathetic, a more completely harmonious student character whose influence will be national and cosmopolitan.

Maurice Hutton, son of Rev. Joseph Henry and Mary Hutton, was born in Manchester, England, in 1856. He received his preparatory training at Magdalen Coll. School, Oxford, and in 1875 matriculated to Worcester College, Oxford, where he had an unusually brilliant course. He was exhibitioner; he won 1st class classical moderations, 1st class Litterae Humaniores. In 1879 he graduated, winning an open fellowship in Merton College, and was for some time Junior Professor of Classics in Firth College, Sheffield. In 1880 he came to Toronto as Professor of Classics of University College; and on a re-arrangement in 1887 was assigned the chair of comparative philology in the University of Toronto, still remaining Professor of Greek in University College. He has been a member of the Council of University College, and in 1895 was elected to the Senate. In 1885 Professor Hutton married Annie Margaret, a daughter of the late Rev. John McCaul, for many years president of University College. Finally in 1901, in March, he was appointed Principal of University College.

Principal Hutton is a keen lover of nature, and is much interested in out door sports. He is enthusiastically devoted to cricket; he is an expert canoeist; and the writer himself has seen him smite a golf ball with all the vehemence of an ancient aries. Nothing to him is more delightful than, on the completion of the arduous labors incumbent upon him as professor, to steal away to his Muskoka home, for awhile, to enjoy the simple, unconventional life of communion with Mother Nature. Into

out door-manual exercise he enters with a zest only enhanced and intensified by the deprivation of the winter months. His interest in chess is attested by the many pleasant evenings spent in his hospitable home by members of the Chess Club.

As a speaker Principal Hutton has few peers. Whether his speeches are the sonorous, rhythmical utterances of well-rounded classical periods, or the simple, direct expressions of his thoughts, they are always telling; they always command attention. But it is for after-dinner speeches that he has the greatest reputation. For this his keen wit, his delicate sense of humor, his fund of anecdote especially fit him. Yet his personal magnetism, his genial unassuming nature, and withal a seriousness of purpose gain for him the sympathies of his audience. Though he is a somewhat rapid speaker his intonation is clear, and his voice rich and full. It was a tribute no less to his stirring appeal to the students on his first official appearance than to his general popularity which gained for him such an enthusiastic reception on the occasion of the Duke of York's visit.

In the welfare of "The Varsity" he has been much interested, and more than once a distracted editor-in-chief has heaved a sigh of relief when an article has opportunely appeared from his pen. Last year he contributed an article on "The Return of Odysseus" and another on the occasion of the death of the Queen. The latter—a masterpiece—was copied in several papers and received very favorable comment. He is also an occasional contributor to the University of Toronto Monthly, and is the author of "Alma Mater"—a Latin poem in verse, sung on all public occasions with a lustiness and vigor restricted only by the classical knowledge of the enthusiastic undergraduate.

Nothing perhaps has brought Professor Hutton into more prominence and greater favor with the general public than the three successful productions of Greek plays. In 1882 and 1894 the *Antigone* was produced, and in 1900 the *Return of Odysseus* was given. In the first in '82 the young professor of 26 appeared as *Antigone*.

