

days despite a good many drawbacks, and I think I am justified in looking forward to even greater results in the future.

These annual gatherings like other anniversaries naturally give rise to reflections, especially when any great change has occurred in the course of the previous year. Our reflections at this time must of necessity take their origin in the loss the College has sustained by the lamented death of the first Principal of the institution, Dr. Nicolls. It is a fortunate day for us of the existing generation that men's good deeds live after them, these very deeds being often of the nature of self-sacrifices of no ordinary character, undertaken from a strong sense of duty growing out of a deeply religious spirit. A few days ago only, I was much struck by the tone and remarks of the Bishop of Québec in his sermon at the consecration of the College Chapel, when he brought strikingly to the minds of his hearers, a vivid picture of the character and work done by the founders and early workers of this institution. It is indeed a good thing to be thus reminded of what our predecessors have done, for whilst retaining in the memory of the College their names and benefactions it tends to stimulate us to try and emulate their good deeds. The Revd. Lucius Doolittle, the late Bishops Mountain and Fulford, were thus portrayed, but special stress was laid on the character and work of the late Principal, whose sad and unexpected loss last summer threw such a gloom over this community.

In this and other respects the year just closed has been one of historic interest in the life of Bishop's College. Speaking metaphorically a dynasty has passed away, a new dynasty has arisen. Not one of the Mountain or Nicolls family remains connected with this College, which had been hitherto so imbued with their spirit.

Referring again more particularly to our lost friend he was, when we met here last year, if not in rude health—apparently in improved health, full of the plans for the rebuilding of the College, which had been determined on only a short time previously. To this work he brought a great amount of practical knowledge, combined with sound common sense. This new building of which, under all the circumstances of the case, we are not a little proud owes much of its success, apart from the skill of J. W. Nelson, of Montreal, the architect, to the suggestions and careful consideration given to the subject by Dr. Nicolls. He lived only to see the plan thoroughly matured, and left to others the completion of the work. Another matter in which he took the deepest interest, the enlargement of the chapel, has also since his death been completed, and his memory will ever be associated not only generally with the College, but especially with the Chapel, which had peculiar interest for him.

Many, very many, will for a long time mourn his loss, but the old adage "life is short but art is long," will be exemplified in his case, for it may truly be said he has left his mark in this College, as well in a material point of view, as in the hearts and minds

of those who were associated with him in his labours, and who have passed into active life from under his care. A noble band of men they are doing their master's work well and faithfully, a credit to the Church to which they belong and to the Institution which reared them.

But if we have thus lost an able, kind and zealous friend, that loss I am happy to say has not proved irreparable.

We have been fortunate in finding a gentleman to undertake the responsible duties of the office, who has proved himself to be in every way a worthy successor to Dr. Nicolls. Already he has gained the good will of all who have come into contact with him. I think I am justified in saying that Professors, Graduates and Undergraduates, all combine to bear testimony to his merits. The College School, also, share in the just estimation of his high qualities, and deservedly so, for he renders important service, to the School and valuable assistance to the Rector, and to complete the picture the outside public, that great irresponsible censor, seems to have caught almost intuitively the idea that no man in Canada could have been selected capable of more worthily filling the place.

And let us consider for a moment what this place is. I have no hesitation in saying that it is one of the most important in this new country. In the older universities of the Mother Country Wardens or Masters of colleges have truly the responsibility and prestige of high office—but they share that responsibility with a large staff of able professors—and they have in addition the inestimable advantage of the association of a large body of men of like position with themselves, by contact with whom they are able to maintain without effort the high standard so necessary to their position. The very air they breathe may be said to be intellectual and academic.

In this country the Principal of such a college as ours is surrounded by but a small staff, and the actual work to be done is the more severe—that the men who come up to college have generally less training and demand therefore more careful intellectual discipline than in England. When our academies shall become, in point of training, nearer to the English public schools, then we may hope to see the men who enter college in Canada approach the standard of those who matriculate in the English universities. Men so taught can be more easily carried on the higher class of education, which it is the province of a University to develop. Already in this country the desire is growing, and the work now being done by the Council of Public Instruction in the thorough annual inspection of the academies is producing fruit. I hope the time is not distant when the public education of this Province will compare favorably with that of the sister Province of Ontario, and I am sure Bishop's College will do its utmost to help on the good work. The preceding remarks are not intended to disparage the undergraduates of the college, but to shew the difficulties under which Principal and Professors labor, as