

the public school, and began his education at the time when the majority of young men have already finished. Hitherto his training had been manual or physical; now he began to develop the mental side of his nature. From the public school to Brantford Grammar school, and thence to Victoria College, Cobourg, he was led in his studies. From Victoria College he graduated as Bachelor of Arts in 1868, taking the gold medal for the year for the highest rank in general proficiency. Thus closed the second period of his life, and seven years of study and preliminary training. After graduation, he taught for a while in the Cobourg Collegiate Institute, from which position he was promoted to the headmastership of the Brantford High School. This institution was then in rank a third or fourth rate school; under Mr. Mills it soon became a collegiate institute, and began to attract attention as one of the most successful for training young men and young women for general work, for teachers, and for University examinations. The growth of his school and its reputation for thoroughness and good discipline, suggested a man for the Agricultural College when the presidency became vacant. The offer came to Mr. Mills from the Government entirely unsolicited, and was accepted in the summer of 1879, when began the fourth period of his life, the work in which he is still engaged. The Ontario Agricultural College had been established in 1874, and for many years had many and great difficulties to contend with. We sometimes hear a great deal about the agricultural colleges of the United States, but they have been forced, in order to maintain an existence, to enlarge the scope of their work by including technical, teachers' and even commercial courses. In many of these colleges the agricultural course has been the least successful. The attempt, therefore, to maintain an Agricultural College on its own merits in this Province has presented peculiar difficulties, and the success achieved is much to the credit of the various officials who have from time to time guided its course. When Mr. Mills became President, the College was still working up hill, fighting its way with little encouragement, and with much opposition. For the past sixteen years he has devoted his unstinted energies to the work. The College is a large institution, and has presented extraordinary problems to solve. It has had a hard struggle to gain the recognition and approval of the very class for which it was established. It has all the perplexities attendant upon a large boarding school. It has had to overcome the prejudice aroused by having had, in its earlier days, a number of students who were not agricultural in their up-bringing or their inclination. The students are now coming from the best farms of the Province, and the institution is becoming more and more every year an Agricultural College for Ontario.

The work of the College has been greatly enlarged during President Mills' *régimé*, by the addition of a third year's course, and affiliation with Toronto University, whereby the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture is conferred upon its students. Travelling dairies have been instituted by the Minister of Agriculture, and the work performed by the dairy department of the College.