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(FELLOW OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON).

Mr. Mason was born in 1820, in the neighbourhood of London. After a careful home education, he was placed, in the twelfth year of his age, as a pupil in the Junior School of University College, London, then just opened, with Professors Key and Malden as Head Masters. Having risen to the top of the School in about four years, he proceeded to take his place as a student in the College, entering at once the Senior classes in Latin and Greek. University College, (or as it was then called, in expectation of a special charter, the 'London University'), had a staff of unusually distinguished scholars as its Professors; and it was Mr. Mason's good fortune to pursue his classical studies under the two eminent men named above, and to have his mathematical studies guided successively by Professor White (whose early and accidental death cut short a career of singular promise), Professor De Morgan, and Professor Sylvester. In due course, Mr. Mason carried off the highest prizes in the various classes which he attended, and obtained a scholarship, which enabled him to continue his studies at home, and, subsequently, at the University of Bonn.

As soon as a charter was granted to the University of London, Mr. Mason matriculated, and proceeded, after the necessary interval, to his degree, obtaining an Exhibition at Matriculation, and being bracketed second in Honours at the Degree examinations in Classics.

After an interval, occupied in study and private teaching, Mr. Mason was invited, in the year 1848, to accept the Professorship of Classics and Mathematics in the Lancashire Independent College, which had just been established for the education of candidates for the ministry among the Independents. He discharged the very laborious duties of this post for nearly seven years, when he accepted the invitation of a friend to take the educational direction of a large and important private school at Denmark Hill, near London. He worked in conjunction with the gentlemen referred to for three years, when the school passed entirely under his control, and was the sphere of his uninterrupted labours for twenty years more. By that time, he deemed it prudent to withdraw from the harassing cares involved in the management of a school comprising about 120 pupils, of whom about half were resident. It was in the course of this career as a school-

master, that Mr. Mason turned the results of his experience to practical purpose in the gradual elaboration of the English Grammar with which his name is now familiarly associated.

Mr. Mason has also, for several years, been an active member of the London Committee for making arrangements for the conduct of the Local Examination instituted by the University of Oxford, as well as a member of the Council of the College of Preceptors, a chartered institution which conducts courses of instruction for teachers, and grants diplomas on examination to successful candidates, and which also conducts an extensive scheme of examinations for pupils in schools in various parts of the United Kingdom, and carries out the preliminary literary examinations of other chartered bodies, such as the College of Surgeons, the Pharmaceutical Society,

&c. The number of candidates at its various examinations has of late exceeded ten thousand per annum. Mr. Mason has for many years acted as one of the examiners in English at these examinations. He also acted at various times as Inspector and Examiner of Schools on behalf of the University of London, under the scheme promulgated by that University.

Besides his English Grammar, Mr. Mason has published various educational works, as aids to the study of English, Latin and Mathematics, and is a not infrequent contributor to the literary journals of the day.

The works which have made Mr. Mason's name so familiar in Canada are his English Grammar (the Complete and School editions), and his Notes on Paradise Lost. His large grammar is authorized for use in the Public and High Schools of Ontario, and the School edition is used in some of the other provinces. His notes on

Milton are used in many of the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes of Ontario.

Mr. Mason finds time to contribute occasional articles for the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, and they are always welcomed as clear, definite expositions of the points discussed.

He has been an enthusiastic and indefatigable worker, not merely in the department which he has made specially his own, but in other fields of professional labor. Whenever necessary, he has been an outspoken advocate of the rights of teachers; and he is to-day honoured in his own and other lands as a man who chose to rise to a distinguished position in the profession of teaching rather than on it.

