

I now turn from contemplating Dr. Ryerson as one of the foremost champions, in his day, of the civil and religious rights of his countrymen. People of the present day chiefly regard him as the founder of a system of popular education, which, under his hand, became the pride and glory of Canadians. This, however, is but a partial view of what he did for his country. When he assumed office in 1844, the brunt of the battle was practically over. He had been actively engaged in the struggle for twenty years, and victory was then assured to the combatants on the side in which he had been a conspicuous leader.

It was in his position as President of Victoria College, that the practical and sympathetic sides of his character shone out so brightly. On these points I can speak from personal knowledge, for I was at Victoria College for four years, and during the whole time of Dr. Ryerson's incumbency there. The motive, on which he unconsciously acted, and which had influenced himself in early life, was the one which moved him as President of the College; and which, in every form, he sought to impress upon his students. In its concentrated form it was embodied in these ancient words:

"IN SCIENTIA EXCELLERE PULCHRUM EST; SED NESCIRE TURPE."

It was with such a motto that he appealed to every young man who entered college; and he himself gave practical proof of it, by his own diligent study, and his mastery of the subjects which he taught to the students. He had the happy faculty, too, of investing these subjects with somewhat of a personal character, and with a reality such as might have the effect of practically influencing the after career of the student. Thus he modernized Grecian and Roman history, and sought to find parallels in the past for the events of modern times. History, in his hands, was shown to indeed repeat itself; and teaching of this kind tended to fix and fasten the disjointed facts of general history on the mind and memory of the student.

We will now speak of the silent yet potent influence of the President in forming and fixing the religious character of young men at Victoria College. *ESTO PERPETUA*; may such an influence ever be potent in this University!—I shall not theorize upon this subject. I shall speak of it particularly as it affected myself as a student, and many others with me. What struck me particularly at the time was the perfect oneness of spirit and feeling which characterized the social and religious gatherings of the students and teachers alike. President, professor and student felt themselves, when in that atmosphere, to be all alike children of the same Father, and in the presence of Him who is "no respecter of persons" in