

Desiring to make still more complete his equipment for Biblical teaching, he spent the years 1876-78 in the University of Leipzig, where he studied Hebrew under the famous Franz Delitzsch, Arabic under Friedrich Delitzsch, and Aramaic under Krehl. By diligence and ability he succeeded in gaining the degree of Ph. D. in two years, an attainment that usually requires at least three years of hard work for those who have previously enjoyed similar educational advantages. The Pre-Socratic Philosophy and his Semitic subjects were those offered for the degree. The subject of his thesis was "John Lightfoot, the English Hebraist; or, Hebrew Learning in England as gathered about this Great Name." Dr. Delitzsch had never discovered whence Lightfoot, the greatest Hebraist that England ever produced and the author of the famous *Horae Hebraicae et Talmudicae*, obtained his learning, supposing that he had been orally taught by a Jew. From researches continued during seven weeks in the Library of the British Museum, Mr. Welton was able to get at the bottom facts and to prove that Lightfoot's phenomenal Hebrew and Talmudical learning was the result of his own unaided industry and research.

While in Europe, Mr. Welton found time, during vacations, to visit the principal cities of Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Holland and Belgium. Eighteen days were spent in the Eternal City and a week each in Naples and Florence.

Returning to Acadia in 1878, magnificently equipped for his work, he devoted his best energies to the building up of its theological department, to which he would gladly have devoted his life-time had not the Convention of the Maritime Provinces yielded to the persuasions of Drs. Castle and MacVicar, representing the Hon. William McMaster, and given up the theological department of Acadia University to unite with McMaster in theological education. Though he was invited to accept a chair at McMaster, Dr. Welton believed so strongly in the value of the theological department at Acadia that he would cheerfully have sacrificed his own immediate interests to its maintenance. He is now convinced that the abandonment of this department was a huge mistake and he rejoices that it is being rehabilitated. The endowment of this department by Mr. Payzant was no doubt due in part to influence exerted by Dr. Welton in earlier days. He had fully expected that such a gift would be made, and he feared that the closing of the department would lead to the loss of the endowment.

Dr. Welton came to Toronto in the vigor of his manhood and has labored with diligence and success in his department of Semitic Languages and Old Testament interpretation. Few Canadian scholars have mastered Hebrew so completely as he has done. It is doubtful whether Canadian Baptists have ever produced his equal in this department. He is an elegant writer and a popular preacher. He is also one of the most amiable and genial of men.