

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

A knowledge of its author greatly increases our interest and assists in forming an estimate of the value of a book or paper. The logic may be good, the thought clearly and well expressed, but, unless we know that they are supported by experience, we are haunted by a suspicion that the author is only a theorist, after all. We want to know not only what he thinks but why he thinks as he does. These reasons alone make it advisable to insert here a biographical sketch of the author of the papers which follow. No information, however, is of such universal interest and is so eagerly sought as that pertaining to the lives of successful men.

The older man draws courage and comfort from a knowledge that a more successful man had advantages superior to his own and is gratified to find himself more successful than one who has had similar opportunities. He is also strengthened by a glimpse of an honorable conclusion of his own course as evidenced in the lives of others.

But the young man finds in the lives of noted men his own inspiration. He is much encouraged to find that the great man was not always great, but had battles similar to his own to fight. What another has done he believes he can do, and the story of the successful man's life shows him the way. The line of work may or may not be the same; that makes no difference; for courage, intelligence, energy, and integrity will produce the desired results in any line of work. Often a glimpse of a course successfully pursued will solve a knotty problem and make clear to him the procedure most advisable in his own case. Good advice from older men is generally acceptable, but the lessons drawn from experience, one's own or another's, are always more thoroughly learned and, consequently, produce better results.

John Alexander Low Waddell was born at Port Hope, Ontario, Canada, January 15th, 1854. His father, Robert Needham Waddell, was born at Newry, Ireland, in 1815, and came over to Canada in 1831. His mother, who is still living, is a daughter of the late Colonel William Jones of the Seventh Regiment of New York, once Sheriff of New York City, and again a member of the state legislature.

Until his ninth year Dr. Waddell was not sent to school but was taught by his mother at home. Then he was sent to the common or public schools of Port Hope for two years. In 1865 his father was appointed high sheriff of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham (a high office, which is judicial as well as ministerial under English laws), and removed to Cobourg, the county town. He attended various grammar and private schools there, then spent a year or more at Trinity College School in Port Hope. His sixteenth year found him in rather delicate health and