

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

REV. PROF. JOHN CAMPBELL, M.A.

Our Professor of Apologetics and Church History was born in 1840 at Edinburgh, the honored birthplace of so many distinguished men. He is the son of Scottish parents, being the second of six surviving children. His father is Mr. James Campbell, the publisher, Toronto. In 1845 the family removed to London, to a suburban home, and here the subject of our sketch received his early education. He was for a while pupil in a private school, the head master of which was a nephew of the famous Wm. Cobbett. The school which he attended chiefly was the Roxborough House Academy. The head master was Andrew Robertson, a great mathematician ; but, strange to say, he failed to inspire his *élève* with a passionate love for mathematical science. During the period of his residence in the suburbs of the great metropolis he read extensively the standard works, and devoured, as only a boy can, the juvenile literature of the day. There was one book especially of which he was very fond, and from whose open pages he received many valuable lessons—the book of Nature.

At the age of fourteen he crossed to the continent, and studied for more than a year under the tutorship of Pasteur Scheffer, at Jägerthal, about forty miles from Strasburg, and not very far from the spot where the first engagement of the Franco-Prussian war took place. Here he continued his studies in French and German. Here, too, he enjoyed the mountain freedom of the Vosges. Occasional opportunities to visit Strasburg, Baden-Baden, Paris and other centres of attraction, were gladly welcomed.

On his return to Britain, preparations were made for an Atlantic voyage. He crossed the ocean to New York, where a brief period was spent in mercantile service. His father, who was then in business in New York, having shortly afterwards removed to Toronto, he accompanied him thither, and continued in business until 1860. While attentive to the duties of his occupation he found time enough to attend the meetings of Literary and other societies, with which he connected himself. He also devoted considerable time to botanical field work, and made a choice collection. During the same year he realized more than ever the claims of Christ, and resolved to devote his life to the work of the Ministry. Attention was now given to the subjects prescribed by University College for matriculation. He entered upon his University career in 1861, and a brilliant one it was. He not only passed the matriculation examinations, but, to his great surprise, took a scholarship, which proved to be the first drop of a shower that has ever since continued to fall upon him.

On the professorial staff at this time were a lot of dignified and scholarly men, all well up in years, and possessed of more than ordinary culture. Most