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REV. DR. McCAUL:

SECOND PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

John McCaul was one of two sons of a tradesman in Dublin, and both became distinguished in after life as eminent scholars. The younger son, John, was born in Dublin in 1807. He obtained his preparatory studies at Trinity College, situated in his native city; and graduated in 1824 with the classical gold medal. In the same year he proceeded to a university education in Trinity University, and after a brilliant course there graduated B.A. in 1825, took his M.A. in 1829, and had the degree of LL.D. conferred upon him some six years later.

His university course had proven him a man of such great capabilities and his academical work had shown him possessed of such excellent powers as a teacher that he was appointed Principal of Upper Canada College in 1838 by the authorities in England, and resumed his duties in that institution in the following year.

Here, again, he was remarkably successful, and when the staff of the new university of King's College was being formed Dr. McCaul was chosen vice-president of the university and also to hold the professorships of classics, rhetoric and belle-lettres.

When the act of 1849, which resulted in the complete secularization of the University and the consequent severing of all connection with it of Bishop Strachan, Dr. McCaul was appointed president of University College, but continued to hold his three professorial chairs as well.

The organization of the university did not seem to be satisfactory to many yet, as subsequent legislation proves; for by an Act of Parliament in that year the constitution of the University of Toronto was very radically altered and made to conform, presumably, with the English idea of university constitution as represented in the University of London and University College, London, the former the degree-conferring corporation, the latter the teaching body. This English model seems to have been the one that was followed in the new organization of the university, by which the University of Toronto was given the power of conferring degrees, formulating the courses of study, and holding the examinations; and University College provided the instruction in Arts alone.

By this Act of 1853 the faculties of law and medicine were abolished, but work in these departments was provided for by the Senate in this way: The faculty of law had no teaching staff at the university, but the work was carried on *extra-mural* entirely. In medicine, however, the practical work and lectures were carried on by several medical schools in affiliation with the University of Toronto, and the latter merely held the examination and conferred the degrees. Under this constitution for thirty-four years, and under the headship of the Rev. Dr. McCaul for thirty-one years, the University of Toronto continued to flourish and make great strides towards its present admirable position among the greatest universities of the world.

(In support of this apparently extravagant statement, if you will permit the digression, I will quote the words of Lord Kelvin, Sir Wm. Thompson, on the occasion of the conferring of the degree of LL.D. upon him by the University of Toronto. He said, "I consider the University

of Toronto to be the *greatest* university in the British Colonies, and among the foremost of the world." This, coming from such a man as Lord Kelvin, is, I think, very pertinent, and should help to make us realize and appreciate our position.)

I have not been able to obtain the exact number of matriculants for the first years of his rule at Varsity, but it was under twenty; while in 1880 it was one hundred and fifty-two. This shows a marked increase; and moreover in 1877 the "standard"—that beautifully indefinite idea—was raised, and altogether the University "was rising from its dead self to higher things" and reaching out towards that high plane whereon it now rests.

Dr. McCaul was always a fervent champion of the rights of the University, and was largely instrumental in preventing its disendowment when that measure was proposed.

At the University he was exceedingly popular among the undergraduates; who were wont to express their admiration in the following couplet:

"Easily first at the top of the tree
Is Johnnie McCaul, LL.D."

His lectures were also said to have been remarkably interesting and instructive. He had a habit of making his discourses more delectable by the interspersing of numerous anecdotes and significant comparisons.

He seems to have been an unusually versatile man, and indeed might be taken as a type of the old college professor, who had mastered a number of sciences or departments of study, in contradistinction to the modern professor who must needs devote all his time and ability towards *one* department or even sub-department.

Dr. McCaul continued to hold the three professorships of classics, rhetoric and belle-lettres during his connection with the University. He was, moreover, quite musical, and is credited with a number of compositions that were well received by the public of his time.

I quote this from a contemporary newspaper with regard to his powers of oratory: "Dr. McCaul's convocational addresses were marked by eloquence, grace and dignity, and on one particular occasion, when the memorial window [destroyed in the fire of 1890] to the men of the University Company of the Queen's Own Rifles who fell at Ridgeway, was unveiled, he made a most impressive oration."

Dr. McCaul took great interest in public affairs and was much relied upon to preside at important meetings. From 1862-64 he held the presidency of the Canadian Institute, and was several times president of the Philharmonic Society.

As a classical author, too, he had a wide reputation both at home and in the mother-country. He published a great number of annotated editions of Latin and Greek authors, many of which were text-books in England for a number of years. He also published a volume of sermons and was intimately connected with several journals. He edited the *Maple Leaf*, and was a constant contributor to the *Anglo-American Magazine* and the *Canadian Journal*.

A biographical notice in "Men of the Time" gives him a very high reputation as a scholar and critic.

Dr. McCaul married the daughter of Judge Jones, and