

or buoyant. Her girlish years had been saddened by the death of her parents, and by the mournful breaking up of the old home. Her early married life had been clouded by the financial losses of her husband, by the loss of her only brother, and later, by the death of the younger of her two boys, a stroke from which she never fully recovered."

And again: "I remember but one incident in my intercourse with my brother, which I repent of; even yet it causes a pang, though it was sixty years ago. One day, not long before he was seized with the illness which proved fatal to him, he asked me to assist him with a difficult piece of Latin translation. I was busy with some affair of my own, and refused. He went away disappointed. Such little acts of unkindness may form bitter drops in the cup of life, even when repented of and forgiven."

In addition to these notes there is extant a large body of panegyric and eulogy. Creditable as it is to the writers, it is of no great value for purposes of biography.

It is a curious survival of an idea from the days when none but clerics possessed the accomplishments of writing and reading, that a clergyman is best fitted for the work of education. Accordingly, when a Principal for McGill University was required in 1852, diligent search was made for a clergyman who was in possession of certain educational qualifications, in addition to those which are proper to a minister of the gospel. On the other hand there was a body of opinion against giving to the University a tinge of denominationalism, and it was strengthened by the attempt which had been made by Dr. Bethune before his retirement in 1846, to bring the Institution within the pale of the Church of England. After the retirement of Dr. E. A. Meredith to assume a political appointment, the Principalship would have fallen to Archdeacon Leach, had it not been feared that his archidiaconal qualities might revive the old controversy. Accordingly, Sir William Dawson was chosen, a man who, it was believed, possessed the sobriety of a minister, without those qualities which are conferred by ordination. And in truth from this point of view alone the choice could not have fallen upon a better man.

Sir William Dawson was of Scotch descent, of the Dawsons of Crombie, and being a younger branch his people were of the class of farmers. In the family there was an Irish strain, accompanied by a tradition of Catholicism in religion, and of Jacobite leanings in politics. Indeed, Sir William's grandfather had been out with the Pretender in Forty-Five, but he afterwards married a wife of the Protestant faith, a Mitchell of Frendeaght, and went over to the Presbyterian religion with her. His father, James Dawson, being also a younger son, passed