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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE LATE DR. GEORGE DOUGLAS.

Before the words which express our grief at the loss we, as students of McGill and as Canadians, have sustained by the death of the late Mr. Peter Redpath were read by our subscribers, McGill had been called upon to mourn over the grave of another of its distinguished men. On Saturday, February 10th. Dr. Douglas, Principal of the Wesleyan Theological College, passed away. Although his loss will naturally be most keenly felt by the Students in the College where he has laboured so long, yet every son and daughter of McGill who loves her best interests, and who has the cause of truth and right at heart, feels deeply the loss that not only our Alma Mater, but our country and race have sustained in the death of Dr. Douglas.

The Rev. George Douglas, LL.D., belonged to a family and to a district famous in Scottish story. He was born in 1825, a few miles from Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's home. His family came to Montreal in 1832. Though this city did not then offer many educational advantages, young Douglas, by the in-

domitable pluck and energy that characterized him throughout life, obtained a fair education, and matriculated in the School of Medicine at a comparatively early age. He pursued the study of Medicine for a short time, and then circumstances took place that turned his energies into what became his life-work,—the Christian ministry. He received his theological education in London, Eng., and began his ministerial duties in 1848 as a missionary to the West Indies. During his brief sojourn there he contracted a disease which troubled him through the rest of his life, and ultimately robbed him of sight. One of the city papers says:—"The greater part of Dr. Douglas' ministerial life was spent in Montreal, and the Methodist Church of this city and outlying districts owes not a little of its prosperity to the influence of his noble name, to his splendid gifts of oratory and his great business talents. In 1870 McGill University conferred upon him the honorary title of LL.D., and in 1884 Victoria University honored him by that mark of professional eminence, the degree of Doctor in Divinity. For the last twenty-two years he has been the distinguished head of the Wesleyan Theological College in this city, which is in affiliation with McGill University. In connection with his professional duties, he accomplished labors that will furnish a new chapter in treatises on the achievements of the blind. His lectures were necessarily delivered without the aid of books or manuscripts, as his sermons also were; and yet so diligent a use had he made of his eyes, while their powers were still unimpaired, in the way of taking in impressions from external nature, as well as in deriving instruction from libraries, that it was a treat to listen to his prelections and discourses. Possessing a deep-toned voice of rare compass and melodious strength, the master of a splendid diction, a clear thinker, a powerful reasoner, endowed with an exuberant imagination—and all animated with an electrical emotionalism—Doctor Douglas may well be called a phenomenon. His genius appears to have acquired concentration, like that of Homer and Milton, by withdrawal from communion with the world of outward vision and an enforced life of contemplation. His want of external sight was compensated for by a profound insight."

Many eloquent and heartfelt tributes have been paid to the memory of Dr. Douglas, but there has been none more eloquent and more sincere than that which was paid by our own Dr. J. Clark Murray at the close