

THE
McMASTER UNIVERSITY MONTHLY

FEBRUARY, 1894.

JOHN TORRANCE.

It is now over twelve years since the subject of this sketch passed away from his work on earth, to be forever with the Lord and Master whom he had long and ardently loved and so faithfully served. Few, however, of his many friends throughout the Province have yet forgotten or are likely soon to forget the story of his life and the peculiarly sad circumstances of his last sickness and of his death. They will remember, too, the cry of sorrow and disappointment that went up from every Baptist heart in our land at the loss of one whose ripe scholarship, clear and profound knowledge of Bible truth and whole-hearted consecration to the work of studying and interpreting the Holy Scriptures, seemed to give the fullest promise of a long life of usefulness and of great spiritual power and blessing in the church of Jesus Christ.

John Torrance, like so many others who have fought long and bravely for Baptist principles in Canada, and as no one who knew his heart and was familiar with his voice need be told, was of Scottish parentage. He was born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, on the 7th of December, 1838, but nine of the ten years of his life in Scotland were passed in Glasgow. Being a bright, intelligent lad, he saw and learned, even in those few early years, enough about the land of hills and heather to make him remem-