

THE COLLEGE STAFF

PRINCIPAL SPARLING

Joseph Walter Sparling, M. A., D. D., Principal of Wesley College, Winnipeg, was born February 14th, 1843, in the Township of Blanchard, County of Perth, Ontario. His father was Lieut.-Col. John Sparling, who, for years, was chief magistrate of the town of St. Mary's, Ont. His mother was a descendant of Philip Guier. Both were of German descent, of that Palatine stock that was so intimately connected with the introduction of Methodism into the United States and Canada.

Dr. Sparling was educated at St. Mary's High School, under the principalship of Dr. McLellan; at Victoria University, Cobourg; and at Garrett Biblical Institute of the Northwestern Institute, Illinois. He received the degree of B. A. from Victoria University, in May, 1871, and the degree of B. D. in June following from Garrett Biblical Institute; M. A. three years later, and D. D. from his Alma Mater in 1889. In June, 1871, the Doctor was ordained as a Methodist minister, at Belleville, Ont., by the Rev. William Morley Punshon, LL. D. He has filled the following appointments, with much acceptance, viz.: Belmont, Lloydtown, Chicago (Ill.), Montreal (twice), Aylmer, (P. Q.), Ottawa, Quebec and Kingston.

In 1888, Dr. Sparling was selected to fill his present responsible position, and the remarkable progress, and brilliant success of the college, are at once a tribute to its principal, and to the wisdom of the choice. He possesses, in a marked degree, those qualities of head and heart, so necessary to the success of the prominent position he fills.

Dr. Sparling came to Manitoba in the summer of 1888, and began the work of the college in the class-rooms of Grace church. He then returned to Kingston to finish his pastorate there, and in the following year came back to Winnipeg.

In the interval between the opening of the college in the fall of 1888 and its removal from the building on Broadway avenue, Dr. Sparling had been working with his usual indomitable will and ten-

acity of purpose, going from circuit to circuit every Sunday from the first of September till the last of June, collecting funds, not only for current expenses, but for the more ambitious end—the building fund. In this, as in all the undertakings to which he has devoted himself, success has crowned his efforts, and Wesley College now possesses without doubt, the handsomest, best equipped and most substantial college building in the west.

Thanks to the Doctor's earnest and unremitting labor, Wesley College can say what no other Methodist College in Canada can say, that, with, as yet, no financial endowment, it has never been a dollar in debt on current expense account. To this end Dr. Sparling has worked faithfully, and, we are glad to say, successfully. He has worked for Wesley College with untiring energy, travelling, preaching, teaching, in fact, showing himself to be prepared to make any sacrifice or do any work conducive to the institution's best interests.

In his personal character the Doctor is highly qualified for the position which he holds. His unvarying cheerfulness and geniality have done much, coupled with his kind words of approbation and encouragement to inspire the despondent student to renewed efforts, or to fire with zeal the aspirant to University honors. The Doctor's judgment on all matters, whether of a business or personal nature, is one such as follows long experience and careful training. He is quick to recognize the student of ability, and to such a one any assistance within his power would not be wanting.

PROFESSOR LAIRD

G. J. Laird, M. A., Ph. D., professor of natural science, was born in 1859 in Thorold, Welland county, Ontario. His father is the Rev. J. G. Laird, a superannuated minister of the London conference, and when in the Toronto conference was elected to the president's chair. Like others of the itinerant ranks, Dr. Laird