

and such were those whom Dr. McLellan counts among his forbears; some as pioneers chopping and digging for their country, some legislating for her and others shouldering arms and giving their lives in her defence.

Dr. McLellan is essentially a self-made man. Left at a very early age to fight the battle of life alone he has through hardships and difficulties that few encounter, made his way up step by step to the place he now occupies. For half a century he has been engaged in educational work. Over fifty years ago when he was but a lad of fifteen, he passed his first teacher's examination, Hamilton Hunter, well known in connection with the *London Free Press* and at that time the Superintendent of the County of York, being the examiner. At first glance it seemed to Mr. Hunter advisable to pluck this boy of fifteen; he was too young to be a teacher. But his skill in mathematics and English was such that he won the heart of the examiner and he obtained his certificate. On this certificate he taught for a short time and then entered the Toronto Normal School, where he received high marks in all the subjects on the curriculum, but in "aptitude for teaching" was marked low. This low marking was of course discouraging to him personally, prevented his obtaining good situations and was the cause ultimately of his withdrawal for a time from the profession. During this time of almost enforced absence from his life's work he married Harriet Townsley, daughter of Wm. Townsley, an early and prosperous settler of Toronto. So opposed were Mrs. McLellan's parents to her marriage with one who at best was but a penniless school teacher that she was cut off without even the proverbial shilling; and the young people found life a hard struggle. Mrs. McLellan, however, had implicit faith in her husband and rather doubted the infallibility of the unsympathetic critic-teacher who

reported "no aptitude for teaching." She therefore urged her husband to re-enter the profession. Believing that his wife's estimate of his teaching ability was the correct one, and feeling himself capable notwithstanding the adverse criticism he had received, he began again the work that had been laid aside for six years, and on his old Normal School certificate obtained a position near Richmond Hill.* This certificate, however, was good only for the County of York and was, therefore, very unsatisfactory to an ambitious teacher like Dr. McLellan. He determined to qualify himself to teach anywhere in the province, and with this object in view re-entered the Normal. Being well known to Principal Robertson as a clever and conscientious student, he was granted the privilege of entering toward the end of a school-term, and after five weeks' attendance received a First Class A Provincial certificate with special endorsement from the Principal in the mathematical and English departments.

Now that he was fairly started upon his life's career it was his aim to make it a noble and useful one, and as one of the means to this end he resolved to acquire the best education within his power. He therefore prepared to enter the University of Toronto, and ten months after obtaining his First Class A, he passed the matriculation examination, taking first-class honors in Mathematics and a General Proficiency scholarship. He was also specially commended for the excellence of his oral reading of Greek and Latin classics, although in these subjects he was entirely self-taught. In 1862 he took his degree of B. A., obtaining (besides first-class in English and History) two medals, one being in Mathematics, and the other in Logic, Ethics, Metaphysics and Civil Polity, although, to quote the Registrar, Thos. Moss, M. A., "he

*At Maple, one of the trustees of the school, J. C. McQuarrie, Esq., to whose intelligence and practical sympathy the struggling teacher was much indebted is still living.