

on, published by him. Being cheap these were all accessible, even to those whose means were small; and I bestowed on them more time than probably it was prudent to devote to such literature, when the claims of other studies were so urgent; but I can see now in the retrospect that here was an element in the curious compound of elements which went to shape one's views and principles, exceedingly influential, and not unprofitable in the aftertime; helping one to discern what was and what was not possible to be transplanted with prospect of permanence to communities such as ours; and leading one to entertain, even then, however vaguely and dimly—

———"The golden dream  
Of knowledge fusing class with class,  
Of Civic Strife no more to be,  
Of Love to leaven all the mass  
Till every soul be free."

It was chiefly through elation at the near prospect of seeing some of the old University life introduced here, that I cordially went in for putting King's College in operation, and took my place in that memorable, but as the issue proved, very illusory pageant, which formed in front of Upper Canada College on St. George's Day, 1842, and then, with colors flying and bands playing, moved forward out on to King street and deployed round by Simcoe street, up to Queen street, and so on up through the whole length of the College Avenue, and some way further northward, to where in the College Park an amphitheatre of seats had been erected, and a large assemblage had gathered together round the exact spot where the corner stone was to be laid. The sky was cloudless and the young horse-chestnut trees, then mere saplings, were bursting into tender leaf along the whole route, under the influence of an unusually early spring. In the procession was the Governor-General of the day, Sir Charles Bagot himself, marching on foot with the rest, having journeyed from Kingston to Toronto expressly for the purpose of laying the corner stone; a noble presence, coming well up to preconceived ideas of a statesman and courtier who had played a conspicuous part on the wide European stage, representing Great Britain at St. Petersburg, at Paris, and at the Hague, on important occasions. It is probable if Lord Sydenham had survived he would not have permitted the proposed Upper Canadian University to be started under its original charter in any shape, but would still have held the institution in abeyance for a few years longer, and then have insisted on its being a reproduction of the London University, as it afterwards became virtually. But Sir Charles Bagot was a man of old-fashioned public school and university predilections, and readily assented to the commencement of the long-contemplated college, on the lines of the charter as modified by local statute. Lord Metcalfe also, Sir Charles' successor within a year or so, who, though not a university man, was a worthy Etonian, heartily supported the scheme.

Until the new edifice should be ready for occupation the work of King's College began in the Parliament Buildings, which, at the time, under the Union Act of 1840, were not wanted. It was at one time proposed to utilize the buildings of Upper Canada College for university purposes, and to make that institution develop out into the university proper, of which it had been the temporary substitute and precursor. This was an idea favoured, I think, by Dr. M'Caul, who had been appointed the virtual head of the new institution, and who, as head of Upper Canada College, had already pushed forward the studies pursued in its higher forms quite into the university region. The suggestion, however, was not adopted, and the Parliament Buildings were fitted up for university purposes at considerable cost. The Chamber of the Lower House became a Convocation Hall, provided with a dais and a boldly designed row of chairs of state for the president and professors, while the Chamber of the Upper House, the present Parliamentary library, was transformed into a handsome chapel, with stalls in black walnut on three of its sides, and descending seats running longitudinally, as in the collegiate chapels in Cambridge and Oxford; at

the south side an altar was railed off in the usual way, having above it an oil painting rather finely conceived, showing a cluster of dense clouds with a vista through them, as when, to use the Laureate's version of Homer's words—

"The immeasurable heavens  
Break open to their highest, and the stars  
Shine."

Behind the two great chambers of the centre building, the president, Dr. M'Caul, the Divinity professor, Dr. Beaven, and the professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, Mr. Potter, had their lecture rooms, and Dr. Boys, Bursar and Registrar, his office, for a time at least. Here was also an apartment fitted up for the reception of a modest collection of books, chiefly theological, presented years previously by well-disposed persons in England. In the west wing was the laboratory of the professor of Chemistry, Mr. Croft, and a lecture-room for the Medical professors, Drs. Gwynne, King, Herrick, Beaumont and Nicol, and the Anatomical Demonstrator, Dr. Henry Sullivan. The east wing could not be made use of for educational purposes, as it was occupied at the time temporarily by an overflow from the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, giving rise, of course, now and then, to a variety of facetious observations, and rejoinders: "Great wit to madness nearly is allied," "Lunatic escaped from the adjoining asylum," etc.

Set at liberty by his translation from the headship of Upper Canada College to the headship of the new institution, Dr. M'Caul at once found scope for the fruitful employment of his vast stores of high scholarship and other accomplishments; and many a receptive mind began to share in his enthusiasm for the Greek and Roman poets, orators, historians and philosophers, and occasions arose more frequently for the exercise of his happy gift of eloquence, which, as it used to be thought, was after the type of Burke, and marked by erudition, felicity of illustration, and chasteness. His inaugural address as president was a comprehensive survey, in masterly style, of what a university course should embrace: it will always repay perusal. In his capacity as professor, Dr. M'Caul undertook the congenial subjects of Rhetoric, Belles Lettres and Logic, in addition to "Classics." His eminence in Greek and Latin Epigraphy became more pronounced at a later period, when questions relating to the decipherment of difficult Greek and Roman inscriptions were frequently referred to him from abroad for decision, his thorough acquaintance with the minutiae of classical custom and idiom enabling him often to make a masterly conjecture which would never have occurred to an epigraphist less versed in such niceties. His book, entitled "Britanno-Roman Inscriptions, with Critical Notes," was printed in Toronto in 1873, and quickly became an authority on the other side of the Atlantic. To Dr. M'Caul is due the beautiful device on the prize medals of the University: Victory descending, surrounded by the Euripidean legend, "*Μῆ λήγῃ στεφανοῦσα*," as also the graceful Horatian motto, "*Dulce Lenimen*," that used to be seen over a lyre on cards issued by an amateur musical association at Toronto, for it is to be added that in him also every class of scientific music found an ardent patron and practical promoter. The terse inscription under the Russian guns in the Park is also his: "*Victoria Regina E Spoliis Qvae Britannii Gallique Conivincti Sebastopoli Expvgnata Victores Cepervnt Torontonensibvs D. D. A.D. MDCCCLIX*"—Latin a Tacitus would approve.

The Rev. Dr. Beaven, Professor of Divinity while the Royal Charter was in force, and afterwards Professor of Metaphysics and Ethics, was a graduate of Oxford, and in very many points a typical representative of that university; an accomplished, patristic theologian, skilled in ecclesiastical music and architecture; an excellent Greek and Latin scholar, and a master of pure English of the modern lucid Oxford style; before his arrival widely known as an authority on the Catechetical method of instruction; an able interpreter of Irenæus, and a divine who had broken a lance not unworthily with Isaac Taylor, of Ongar, in relation to that writer's