

In Memoriam.

During the past session, the University has been called to mourn the loss of its President and Chancellor, the late Samuel Sobieski Nelles, D.D., LL.D. He died on the 17th of October, 1887. For seven and thirty years he held the place of highest honour and weightiest responsibility in the University, and it is most fitting that a memorial of his long, arduous and honourable services be made in this Calendar to be preserved in the archives of the University.

Samuel S. Nelles was the eldest son of the late William Nelles and his wife, Mary Hardy. He was born at the village of Mount Pleasant, near Brantford, Ont., on the 17th of October, 1823. Together with the vivacity and activity that usually marks a healthy boyhood, he very early manifested tastes and aptitudes that indicated a vocation to intellectual pursuits. Following these indications, his parents gave him all the opportunities of intellectual improvement within their reach. When sixteen years of age, he attended the academy at Lewiston, N.Y., the following year the academy at Fredrica, and in 1841 the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, at Lima, N.Y. In 1842 he entered Victoria College. Since 1836 this institution was known as the Upper Canada Academy, but in 1841 it was endowed with university powers, and its name changed to Victoria College. After two years of study at Victoria, and a year of rest at the Mount Pleasant homestead, he went to the University of Middletown, Conn., where he took his Bachelor's Degree in 1846. The year after his graduation he was Master of the Academy at Newburg, Ont., and the next year he entered the ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Three years were then spent in pastoral work, one at Port Hope and two in Toronto. In 1850 he was appointed to the Presidency of Victoria College.

The condition of the College was at that time most discouraging. The fair promise and success that had attended the administration of the first President, the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, D.D., had been followed by a period of depression, and the work before the young President was to retrieve the disaster of the past as well as achieve the success of the future. It is thus described by the Rev. Dr. Burwash, in a sketch of the history of the University: "The College treasury was empty. There was absolutely no endowment. The buildings and furniture, after fifteen years of constant wear by hundreds of students, were sadly in need of repair and renewal. The able professors of other days had betaken themselves to other work, and there were scarcely thirty students (but two matriculated) to respond to his first call of college opening. To raise funds sufficient to bring the annual income up to \$5,000, to organize an efficient staff of professors, to attract and organize students once more into the relations of college life—in fact to resuscitate the college—was the work before him."

To this work he addressed himself with perfect inflexibility of purpose and equal versatility of resource and expedient. As the successes that marked his

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