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Prominent in the list of Canadian teachers will always stand the honoured name of Professor Wilson, of University College, Toronto, and this not more on account of what he has actually achieved than of the many amiable qualities which have endeared him to all with whom he has come in contact in either academical or social life. Though not a native-born Canadian, no man could take a deeper, more genuine, or more practical interest than he does in all that relates to the country of his adoption, for whose name he has done much to secure honourable mention amongst *litterateurs* and *savants* abroad. He has left his impress deep on the present generation, partly by means of his books and his more ephemeral productions in the shape of scientific papers on a variety of subjects, and partly on account of his abundant sympathy for and active interest in every movement designed to promote the well-being of society.

Dr. Wilson was born in Edinburgh, where he spent a very large part of his life, and where his brother, the late Professor George Wilson, well known as one of the most eminent chemists of his day, lived and died. Dr. Wilson was only twenty-one when he determined to try his fortune in London, and he succeeded in maintaining himself there for several years by assiduous and unremitting literary toil. He continued to depend for years after his return to Edinburgh on his pen for a livelihood, and was a constant contributor to most of the leading literary and scientific periodicals of the day. More ambitious and enduring results of his industry are his "Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time," his "Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate," and his "Prehistoric Annals of Scotland," all of which were published long before his removal to Canada in 1858, as the result of his appointment to the Chair of History and English Literature in University College.

The *penchant* he has always manifested for archaeological research soon after his arrival in America led him into a series of investigations which were conducted over a wide area, often at great personal inconvenience and expense, and the results of which were embodied in his "Prehistoric Man," first published in 1862, and twice republished since. He has been for many years an active member of the Canadian Institute, and has been several times appointed editor of its organ, the *Canadian Journal*, to the pages of which he was always a voluminous contributor. The other works

published since his translation to Canada are of a purely literary character, the most important being his "Chatterton: a Biographical Study," and "Coliban: the Missing Link," both of which have been favourably noticed by the leading journals of the mother land.

It is on the educational side of Dr. Wilson's life that we are at present most interested, however, and in this connection we can only characterize him as a teacher *par excellence*, not unworthy of a place on the honoured roll of the world's pedagogic celebrities. He has always taken a deep personal interest in the welfare and progress of the successive generations of students who have passed through his hands, and while they have profited by the new and attractive garb in which he presented to them the subjects under his charge, they have also carried away a cherished feeling of regard for one whose high moral worth was not more conspicuous than his unflinching kindness and unaffected affability. His zeal for the welfare of the College has always been proverbial, and his eloquent plea on its behalf before a Committee of the Canadian Parliament will long be remembered as an earnest appeal for non-sectarian higher education. His great services were fittingly recognized by the Ontario Government which appointed him a member of the Senate of the University of Toronto, when that corporation was reconstructed in 1878.

Amongst the teachers of the Province Dr. Wilson has been almost as popular as amongst his students, very many of whom are now in charge of High Schools or departments of High Schools. When the late Council of Public Instruction was remodelled, and the elective element intro-

duced into it, he was chosen by the High School masters as their representative, and re-elected at the close of his first year's service. During his tenure of this position he laboured zealously and effectively to bring about certain changes, some of which were accomplished at once, while others have been carried out since the Council became defunct, and the Education Department was placed under the immediate charge of a Minister of the Crown.

During the earlier years of the existence of the Ontario Teachers' Association, he was several times in succession chosen its President, and at a later period he was similarly honoured by the Young Men's Christian Association, in which he has always taken a deep and active interest. He was practically the founder, and is still the great mainstay of the Newsboys' Home, one of the most

