

CHAPTER XXIV.

DR. THEOPHILUS MACK.

AMONG the first to utilize the medicinal properties of St. Catharines mineral water was the eminent physician and surgeon Dr. Theophilus Mack. Facing great difficulties, he commenced and established the present St. Catharines Hospital. This institution, for half a century, has proved a refuge for suffering humanity, a restorer to lives of health, and years of usefulness to thousands. Its humble beginning was an old frame building still standing on the Western Hill, leading to the Grand Trunk station. With a few devoted helpers, mostly women, he commenced the work which has made St. Catharines and himself justly celebrated in medical annals. The discovery of anæsthetics induced a visit to Scotland to acquaint himself with the revolution they produced in alleviating suffering while aiding the operations of surgical skill. Under his magnetic influence Springbank and the Stephenson House were built for those benefited by his medical advice and operations. The Fenian Raid in 1866 will long be remembered. Under Dr. Mack's supervision the City Hall was prepared to receive the wounded from the disaster at Ridgeway, June 2, 1866. Early on Sunday morning the wounded were borne through our streets. There were no ambulances in those days, but friendly arms bore them from the Welland station to the improvised hospital.

Improvements since those days are many. Old systems with their prejudices have passed away. Dr. Mack lived to be appreciated for the work he initiated. The hospital on Queenston Street received a visit from the Marchioness of Lorne, daughter of our late beloved Queen Victoria. The Princess was accompanied by her brother, the Duke of Albany. It was during the Duke of Argyle's administration as Governor-General of Canada that Dr. Mack's Hospital was honored by these royal visitors. His medical skill received appreciation from the profession also.

When George Brown, the founder of the *Toronto Globe*, fell by the assassin's hand, Dr. Mack was summoned to his assistance. These are some of the memories that cling to his name.