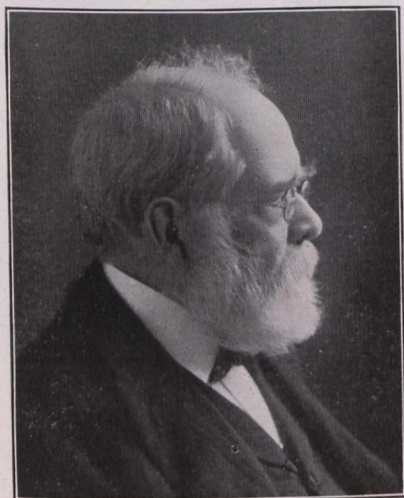


The Robins Family and the Training of Teachers.



HE resignation of Miss Robins at Christmas from her lectureship in mathematics in the School for Teachers has brought to a close the long connection of the Robins family with the Normal School since its foundation in 1857.

Perhaps it will be of interest to students to know that when the Province of Quebec established a provincial normal school in connection with McGill



DR. ROBINS.

University, a young man was brought from Ontario to assist in its organization. This young man was first Professor Robins, Professor in Mathematics in McGill Normal School; and afterwards Dr. Robins, Principal of McGill Normal School until it ceased to exist in 1907 and was reorganized as the School for Teachers at Macdonald College.

Previous to the institution of the McGill Normal School there had been no proper training for Protestant teach-

ers, although the Colonial Church and School Society had done some work for pupil teachers according to the old system of Bell and Lancaster.

Dr. Robins had been recommended by Dr. Egerton Ryerson, the real founder of public education in Ontario, as one of his ablest and most promising instructors, and those who know the career of Dr. Robins will be aware that Dr. Ryerson was perfectly justified in his estimate and prophecy. Sir William Dawson, Principal of McGill University, also acted as the first principal of McGill Normal School, from 1857 to 1871. Mr. W. H. Hicks, who was the old school master of the Colonial Church and School Society of Montreal and its headmaster when it was taken over by the McGill Normal School, succeeded Sir William Dawson as Principal in 1871 and remained until 1883. During the time of his principalship Dr. Robins was appointed Superintendent of Protestant Schools in Montreal, but was recalled to the McGill Normal School as its Principal in 1883, where he remained until he retired in 1907. While superintendent, however, he continued to give some lectures to student teachers and thus he has a record, which is probably unique, of fifty continuous years of service in a college for training teachers.

Dr. Robins was the first to introduce lady teachers as professors and lecturers and to introduce specialists to lecture on their own subjects. The reputation of the old Normal School is largely due to his faithful work, wise guidance, and forceful personality. Dr. Robins became the leading figure in Quebec