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REV. JOHN McCaul, M.A., LL.D.

Few teachers in Canada are so well known, either to their fellow-teachers or the general public, as the accomplished veteran who presides with so much ability and tact over University College, Toronto. For nearly forty years he has labored devotedly and successfully in the interest of higher education in Ontario, and there is no teacher at present living who has had more, or more distinguished pupils. The benefit he has conferred on the Province by his professorial labours alone is very great, but even that falls short of what he has done for the cause of higher education by the part he has taken in moulding the character of our educational system and of our national university. A man of very ordinary ability, tact, and learning, could hardly fail in the course of forty years to leave his impress on the community, systems, and institutions with which he might be connected; but Dr. McCaul is no ordinary man in any one of these respects, as all who have ever had the pleasure of coming in contact with him are well aware. He has the rare faculty of being able to impress his views upon others without arousing to any great extent that spirit of opposition which every reformer of established systems must expect to encounter, and either crush or disarm; and the consequence is that he has been able to keep, on the even tenor of his way, discharging his academical and social duties with great success and little display, until he has at last reached the proverbial three-score years and ten.

Dr. McCaul was born in Dublin, in 1807, and received his education in his native city. He graduated in Trinity College, and even at that time took high rank as a profound classical scholar. He was appointed Classical Tutor and Examiner in the University, and whilst acting in these capacities edited valuable editions of several Greek and Latin texts. His edition of the Satires and Epistles of Horace is a model of taste and accurate scholarship, and is still popular amongst students, notwithstanding the great number of laborers in the same literary field. As an author, however, he is best known by his researches in Greek and Latin Epigraphy. In his reading of Britanno-Roman inscriptions he has displayed an acuteness, ingenuity, and erudition which have won him deservedly a high position amongst the classical scholars of the day. The meaning of many fragmentary inscriptions, which had

before he attempted to explain them baffled the skill of all who had attacked them, was made so plain as to make it appear singular that they should have held out so long. His "Christian Epitaphs of the First Six Centuries" has met amongst scholars and critics a reception just as favorable as that which greeted the "Britanno-Roman Inscriptions." Together they form a *monumentum ære perennius* of which any classical veteran might be proud.

Dr. McCaul was appointed to the Principalship of Upper Canada College in November, 1838, and he entered on the active discharge of his duties early in the following year. This institution had then been in existence for ten years under its present title, and for some time longer as one of the Royal Grammar Schools. As early as 1797 steps were taken in the Parliament of Upper Canada to secure the setting apart of a large tract of land for the purpose of promoting higher education with the revenue which would in future years be derived from it. The scheme embraced one grammar school in each district, and a university in Toronto, then York. Several of the Grammar Schools were established, and turned out to be very useful institutions; but the foundation of the University was delayed for many years by the bitter contest between those who desired to make it an Episcopal College on the one hand, and those who desired to keep it non-sectarian on the other. In 1828, Sir John Colborne succeeded in getting the two Houses to agree on a scheme by which the Royal Grammar School at York, the name of which was changed to Upper Canada College, should be connected with the proposed University in such a way "that its exhibitions, scholarships and chief support should depend on the



(From a photograph by Notman & Fraser.)

funds of the endowment." In 1830 the College went into operation in its new form, and in 1839, as already mentioned, Dr. McCaul became its Principal. In 1828 a Royal Charter had been granted for the establishment of the University of King's College, which was to be endowed with the grant of land already set apart for the advancement of higher education, though it was under the control of the Church of England. In 1837 this charter was, with the Royal consent, amended so as to make it no longer compulsory for either students, graduates, professors, or members of the College Council, to subscribe to the Thirty-nine Articles. The political troubles of that stormy time prevented anything being done under the amended charter until 1842, when the foundation stone of the building was laid by Sir Charles Bagot, and in 1848 the institution