

THE
Montreal Diocesan Theological College
MAGAZINE.

VOL. III

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1894.

No. 2

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

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The month of October, 1894, has proved fatal to two of our leading writers, one on each side of the Atlantic, each of whom occupied in the thoughts of men a unique position. Probably at the time of the death of each, no one man on either side of the Atlantic could claim to be the superior of either; or at least we might say each was thoroughly representative, and if any one on either side of the Atlantic had been asked "which of living writers do you consider representative of England and America respectively?" the answer would have been James Anthony Froude and Oliver Wendell Holmes. These names, it is true, are not so great as some of those former premiers in literature who have passed away during the last few years, such as Carlyle, Tennyson, Browning, Matthew Arnold, on the one side, and Whittier and Lowell on the other. Still the two whom we have just lost are very considerable men, men who have done a great work, men of strong personality, men who cannot be replaced—men who will not be forgotten. They are men who were also very unlike one another, but as we do not propose to discuss them together save to note the coincidence of their deaths, we must not linger on the threshold: we might however say that both were courageous and original, both were amongst the best products of the University system of their respective countries, both were unconventional, both were of the liberal school of theology, both were connected with periodical literature, Froude having to do with the *Westminster Review* and *Fraser's Magazine*, and Holmes having been one of the founders of the *Atlantic Monthly*. Froude was scathing and brilliant, if inaccurate and somewhat unscientific as a historian; Holmes was at the core a scientific man who effloresced