

be recognized as a public benefactor, —even if these were the only participants in its benefits.

Victoria University certainly takes its rank among these. Based on the broad general proposition of maintaining "sound and useful learning in connection with Christian principles," it had its beginning under denominational control; but from the first threw open its doors in cordial welcome to all. And though, naturally, the majority of its students and graduates have been connected with the denomination which controls it, yet very many, ministers as well as laymen, whose communion altars are elsewhere, rejoice to call it *alma mater*, and to bear testimony to the greatness of its educational advantages. The word "sectarian," indeed, never had a place in its vocabulary. So general has been the character of its educational work, that though, on securing its

university powers, it established the department of Arts, following this as it could with those of Medicine and Law, it was not until thirty years after acquiring such status that it established its chair in Theology. It afterwards added the department of Science; and continued its operations in all of these departments until, accepting the Federation project, it merged the greater portion of its work in the common Provincial University. Under this arrangement, it now confines its attention, as to Arts, to the subjects allotted to the federating colleges by the

Act, and to its work in its Theological department.

It was in the year 1829 that the authorities of the newly organized Canadian Methodist Church decided to establish a seminary of learning under its own control. One of the first matters to determine was that of location. To a capable committee was this question referred; and after careful consideration, there being keen competition, the place selected was what was then the village of Cobourg, —afterwards, and now, the beautiful town of that name, "on the old Ontario strand." This selection was ap-

proved: and what has ever since been admitted as one of the most suitable and charming sites in the country for such an institution was secured for the buildings. It was a little to the north and east of the village, on a delightful spot of rising ground; and there was erected "the old college," which for



THE REV. DR. RYERSON.

fifty-six years was the classic home of thousands of men who, in after years, filled important positions among their fellow Canadians.

But the promotion of the work was not so easy as the choice of location. There were no millionaires in those days. Nor had the thoughts of men been widened by the process of that "extending purpose" which warms and qualifies the public mind to-day. The efforts of the distinguished Rev. Dr. Ryerson, who championed the cause of the Methodist proposition, in securing a charter for the institution,