

OBITUARY.

EDWARD CHAPMAN, M.A.

There never was a man, it is safe to say, more universally beloved where he was known than Edward Chapman, of Lennoxville. Those who were present at the Thursday morning Session of the Diocesan Synod will not soon forget the touching scene when after another of the elderly members of the Synod,—Judge Irvine, Colonel Forsyth, Henry Elkins,—who had been boys under Mr. Chapman in his first essays at schoolmaster work in the early forties,—rose and with deep emotion gave expression to their feelings on the occasion of his death. They spoke indeed of the respect and regard in which their tutor was held by them; but all that was evidently as nothing compared with their heartfelt love and affection for him, which had survived the wear and tear of upwards of fifty years.

The subject of this memoir was the son of an English gentleman, a graduate of the University of Cambridge and a member of St. John's and Caius College, of which founded his uncle, the Rev. Benedict Chapman, was the head from 1839 to 1857.

Immediately after taking his degree, he married and at once emigrated to Canada—about the year 1837.

On landing in Quebec, Edward Chapman was at once engaged by the celebrated Dr. Lundy, as second master in his Quebec Classical School, and continued with him nearly, if not quite, down to the breaking up of Dr. Lundy's school in 1842, on his removal to McGill College as Vice-Principal.

At this juncture Edward Chapman fell in with the Rev. Lucius Doolittle, S.P.G. Missionary in charge of Lennoxville and Sherbrooke, and was induced by that remarkable man, to take over a private boarding school which had been in existence for some years at Lennoxville under Mr. Doolittle's patronage. Indeed the school was Mr. Doolittle's private venture, and had been conducted in his own house. This school, it may be said, led to the planting in Lennoxville two years later of Bishop's College School and Bishop's College itself.

In this first Lennoxville school were being

educated, not only the gentlemen's sons of Sherbrooke and Lennoxville and of the surrounding townships; but also from Montreal, Quebec, Nicolet and other places sons of leading men of the country were attracted to it. Among others, Joseph Bell Forsyth and Thomas Fargues Symes, of Quebec, the Penton brothers, three in number, from Sorel, John Auldjo, of Montreal, the Trigge brothers, sons of the Seigneur of Nicolet, were Lennoxville boys.

"So that as far back as 1842 (writes Col. Forsyth) the school under Mr. Chapman was becoming one for the whole of Lower Canada."

Edward Chapman carried on Mr. Doolittle's school down to the year 1844, when he was again induced to join his old friend and chief, Dr. Lundy, in McGill College as Classical tutor.

The author of the present notice writes from this point from personal knowledge. The writer was Longueuil Scholar in the University of McGill at that time, and there, on Edward Chapman coming to Montreal, was laid the foundation of an intimacy between them, soon ripening into friendship, which lasted unbroken for upwards of fifty years.

Things did not go happily with the Arts Faculty of McGill in those early days. There were dissensions among its managers, and it fell to pieces in 1846. In the meantime Bishop's College was organized in 1845, and the writer migrated to it on its opening. The next year, 1846, Mr. Chapman applied for and obtained the Professorship of Classics in Bishop's College, and returned to Lennoxville in the autumn. That was the first year of the occupation of the College building, indeed it may be fairly said, the first year's organized College work. The year 1845/6 was more a year of private study. We were in fact a reading party under Mr. Nicolls, crowded together in an old ramshackle house in the village, where the College House now stands, where we studied in a common room and lived at a common table. And a most delightful year it was, a year which all who were privileged to share in, look back to as one of the happiest in their lives.

But in 1846 the College was properly organ-