

began adult life at sea, and presently joined the Royal Navy. After some years spent in that profession, and with a brilliant future in it opening before him, he responded to an urgent call from Canada for missionaries. Leaving the Navy he went to Cambridge, where he took an honour degree, after which he was married to his young bride, was ordained by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Ministry of the Church, and left for Canada to enter upon a fruitful ministry of fifty-eight years.

Of such forebears was Sir William Osler born, and in the salutary environment of a humble parsonage in a sparsely settled area of this Province his early years were spent. He carried with him through life, and developed to a high degree, his parental heritage of sweetness and loveliness of disposition, strength of will and character, high ideals, intellectual greatness, and a devout faith.

Sir William Osler's devotion to Literature was so marked a characteristic of his life that some reference to it, though necessarily a brief one, seems to be called for.

If Dr. Osler had devoted himself to literature as a profession, there can be little doubt that he would have won as high a place in the literary world as he did in medicine. He himself called it his avocation—medicine was his vocation, and literature his avocation. He found in it welcome relief from the strain of his profession, and it was the delight of his hours of leisure. But this does not mean that his knowledge of literature was superficial. On the contrary it was profound and far-reaching. His writings show an intimate acquaintance with the ancient Classics and the sacred Scriptures; with Shakespeare, Milton, Goethe, Tennyson, Browning, Keats and Shelley; with Sir Thomas Browne, Erasmus, Coleridge, Herbert Spencer; with Mathew Arnold and Cardinal Newman; with Montaigne, Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and a host of others. His ability to draw upon these authors for apt quotation and striking illustration showed an intimacy of knowledge and a skill of handling that were simply marvellous. His predecessor in the presidency of the Classical Association of London, Professor Gilbert Murray, referred to him as being equally distinguished as a physician and as a man of letters—high praise indeed, when said by an outstanding litterateur concerning one who has been publicly acclaimed as "the best known and best loved physician that this or any country has produced."

Of Dr. Osler's medical writings I have no personal knowledge. I can only say that which everyone knows, that they are placed in the