

THE  
McMASTER UNIVERSITY MONTHLY  
*DECEMBER, 1891.*

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WILLIAM McMASTER.\*

In 1834, at the age of 22, William McMaster landed in "Muddy Little York" to fight his way in a new world. He was engaged as a clerk by a dry-goods merchant, and two years later was admitted into partnership with his employer. In ten more, when only thirty-four years of age, he became sole proprietor of the business, and soon afterwards gave up the retail trade and became one of the pioneers in the struggle to make Toronto a great distributing centre. In twenty years more he was able to retire with what—judged by the standard of those days—was a large fortune. For this result he was ever ready to give a large share of the credit to the co-operation of his two nephews—Arthur R. McMaster, who passed away ten years ago, and James Short McMaster, whom we are fortunate in having still with us.

For another twenty years William McMaster was a prominent figure and a potent factor in the financial and political affairs of Canada. Suddenly, four years ago, the summons came to him within these walls, and in a few short hours he had passed to his account. In the memorial service held in this chapel a few days later, three of his friends spoke to us in affec-

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\*An address delivered in McMaster Hall, on the occasion of the inauguration of Founders' Day, December 22, 1891.