

II.—*Sir Daniel Wilson, (Died, 6th August, 1892).*

By WILLIAM KINGSFORD, LL.D.

(Read 23rd May, 1893.)

## IN MEMORIAM.

I must ask you kindly to bear in mind that I am occupying your attention owing to the position I have the honour to hold this year in the English section, and by the desire of the president; not from the conviction that I am the most fit and the best able to do justice to the subject, which, by the rule of our society, has to-day to be brought before you in this form.

In the interval between our meeting of last year and the present time, one of our colleagues, a man of eminence both by position and merit, has experienced the inevitable fate of us all: Sir Daniel Wilson, late president of University College, Toronto. It is my duty to attempt to pay some tribute to his memory.

With many of us the ordinary circumstances of life are uneventful, and so devoid of dramatic interest, that, often, there is little to record more than our birth and death, with the change of scene, and field of effort and of association. Our true epitaph must be written according to the work we accomplish, and the influence we may exercise; not from the events in which we have taken part. Sir Daniel Wilson's career can claim little attention from the character of the incidents in which he appeared in prominence; nevertheless it is to his public life that we must look for the eminence he obtained. The void he has left in his own family, and in the circle of his near friends, is a matter too reverend to be made the theme of public allusion. Nor is it decent to parade in this place his well-known benevolence, his sympathy with every attempt to advance the well-being and happiness of others, and his desire in his station to do all the good he was able.

Sir Daniel Wilson was born in Edinburgh on the 5th of January, 1816, so at his death on the 6th of August of last year he was within five months of the completion of his seventy-seventh year. Having arrived in Canada in 1853, he was connected with Toronto University for nearly forty years. The eldest son in a large family of a merchant of good standing, he was educated at the high school of his native city, and subsequently attended the university. Others of his family were connected with the college, and one of his brothers rose to some eminence as a chemist; being at his death, in 1859, professor of technology.

Among Sir Daniel's accomplishments was that of being a skilful draughtsman and engraver. He attained such excellence as to suggest that he must once have designed to follow the career of an artist; his tastes, however, eventually turned to literature. He remained in his native city until his twenty-first year, contributing regularly to the