

as a writer and controversialist he ever evinced a power and readiness with his tongue and pen which has often astonished those who were unacquainted with the laborious thoroughness of his previous mental preparation.

On his twenty-second birthday (24th March, 1825), Dr. Ryerson was ordained deacon in the M. E. Church by Bishop Hedding. His diary during the first years of his ministerial life shows how devotedly he applied himself to the culture of his mind, although his valise often contained the chief part of his library, and the back of his horse frequently afforded him the only place of study. His first literary effort was put forth in 1826—being the review of Ven. Archdeacon Strachan's sermon on the death of Bishop Mountain, and it at once established his reputation as an able controversialist. In 1828 he again wrote a series of letters criticising Dr. Strachan's famous "Chart" of the various religious bodies. Both series were republished in separate pamphlets. In 1829 the *Christian Guardian* was established, and he was appointed its joint editor. In 1833 he went to England, and again in 1835. In the latter year his mission was to obtain a Royal Charter and subscriptions for "Upper Canada Academy," (founded in 1832) now Victoria College, Cobourg. He also induced the Home Government to recommend the Upper Canada Legislature to grant \$16,000 to the Academy, which it did against the personal wishes of Sir F. B. Head, the then Governor.

In 1841 an Act of Incorporation was obtained from the Legislature of United Canada, erecting the Academy into a University under the name and style of the "University of Victoria College at Cobourg." Doctor Ryerson (who that year received the title of D.D. from the Wesleyan University, Middleton) was unanimously chosen its first President. In 1844 Dr. Ryerson was appointed Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, by His Excellency the Governor-General, with an understanding that he would re-lay the entire foundation of the system, and establish it on a wider and more enduring basis. The instructions which he received on his formal appointment were contained in the following words: "His Excellency has no doubt that you will lose no time in devoting yourself to devising such measures as may be necessary to provide proper school books to establish; the most efficient system of instruction; to elevate the character of both teacher and schools; and to en-