

THE LATE PROFESSOR MACKERRAS, OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON.

THE educational interests of Canada, in common with other important interests, have suffered a severe loss in the recent lamented death of the late Professor Mackerras, Classical Professor in Queen's University, Kingston. As widely beloved as he was profoundly respected, Professor Mackerras united in himself an unusual combination of valuable qualities which made him a peculiarly successful and influential teacher, as well as a most valuable member of his University staff, in which his too early removal leaves a blank most deeply regretted, both by those who had enjoyed his instructions as a Professor, and by the colleagues who had so great reason to value his energetic co-operation and his faithful counsels.

Professor Mackerras began his own University course at the early age of fourteen. But being gifted with unusual quickness of apprehension and clearness of mental grasp, and also having enjoyed the careful teaching of his father, then Grammar school master at Cornwall, he speedily distinguished himself in all his classes, carrying off high honours in each of the departments of study in which he engaged. While his accuracy and industry as a student won the esteem of his professors, his singularly bright, genial and lovable nature made him equally a favourite with his fellow-students, some of whom remained among his warmest friends through life, and were among his truest mourners at his death. Having taken successively his degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts, he entered upon

the profession of teaching at a very early period of his life, being for some time Grammarschool teacher at Gananoque, previous to his being licensed to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. While there he was much valued as an ardent and efficient teacher—a favourite with both his pupils and their parents.

At twenty-one he became pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Bowmanville, where he remained for eleven years, esteemed and beloved not only by his congregation, but by the community at large. In 1869 he resigned his pastorate and entered upon the most important epoch of his life—considered from an educational point of view—having been chosen by the trustees of Queen's University to fill its then vacant Classical Chair. The old classical languages had always been his chosen field of study, and his professorial duties were to him a delight. To prosecute with faithful industry his own studies that he might make the path of his students clearer and more interesting; to relieve the drudgery of dry routine by vivid portraiture of the great poets, orators and historians of ancient Greece and Rome, and of the circumstances under which they wrote, or spoke, or sang, were to him a *pleasure* no less than a duty. Sensitively alive, not only to the literary beauties of the great writers whose imperishable works still form the basis of our liberal culture, he was no less enthusiastic in his admiration of all that was beautiful, and noble, and heroic in the legends and histories of Greece and Rome. And