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## REV. GEO. MUNROE GRANT, M.A.

At the beginning of December last, Rev. G. M. Grant formally assumed the office of Principal of Queen's College, Kingston, as successor to Principal Snodgrass. One of the best known pastors of the Presbyterian Church in the Maritime Provinces, he is at the same time well known throughout the Dominion as a brilliant speaker and a clever writer. He was born at Albion Mines, Pictou Co., N.S., on the 22nd December, 1835, his father being at that time schoolmaster at his native place. He first attended Pictou Academy, and there began his successful career, for he managed, while paying probably as much attention to play as to work, to

secure many prizes. In 1851 he was sent to the West River Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, his intention being to fit himself for the ministry, and at this place he spent two sessions under Principal Ross. West River Seminary, it may be mentioned, was subsequently merged into the Presbyterian Theological Hall at Truro. When his studies here were terminated, he was elected by the Committee of the Synod of Nova Scotia to be one of the four bursars sent to Glasgow University to study for the Church, and to Glasgow he accordingly went. He graduated in Arts, "with highest honours" in Philosophy, and carried off first prizes in Classics, Moral Philosophy and Chemistry, and second in Logic. "Highest honours" are only given to such candidates as have made no mistake in the written and oral examinations, and young Grant's success was rendered the more remarkable by the

fact that highest honours had not been taken in Moral Philosophy for five or six years previously. He was equally successful in his theological course, taking first prizes in Divinity and Church History, and several University prizes, among others the Lord Rector's prize of Thirty Guineas for the best essay on "Hindoo Literature and Philosophy." His fellow-students honoured him by electing him President of the University Conservative Club and of the Missionary Association, while the muscular Christians among them chose him as president of their Football Club.

At the close of his theological studies he was ordained a Minister of the Church of Scotland, and returned to his native country in January, 1861, being at once appointed a missionary in Pictou County, a post held by him for six months, and which he relin-

quished to take charge of a district in Prince Edward Island, where he remained six months. In May, 1868, he was inducted minister of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, with which he was connected up to the time of his accepting the Principalship of Queen's College, and it was as pastor of St. Matthew's that he built up the reputation for eloquence, energy, and administrative ability which will long cause his name to be remembered. The congregation, when he took charge, numbered 115 communicants, that is, persons in full communion; it now numbers 370, and has raised for several years past over \$10,000 annually, half for congregational purposes, and half for educational, missionary and charitable objects; the increase in membership and energy being largely due to the unremitting efforts and great personal popularity of Rev.

Mr. Grant. He laboured unceasingly at the various sciences of the Church, and, as Convener of the Home Mission Board, reduced in four years the amount drawn from the Church of Scotland from \$6,500 a year to \$1,000, and this without diminishing the salaries of any of the clergy, his fervent appeals to the people producing increased subscriptions to the Church funds. In 1870 he was placed on the Committee on Union appointed to bring about the union of the four Presbyterian Churches in the Dominion. The union was consummated in Montreal, in June, 1875, after infinite negotiations and conferences of committees in Montreal and St. John; and as Moderator, Rev. Mr. Grant subscribed the articles for the Kirk Synod. In 1876 he was Convener, Secretary, or Member of the Foreign Missions Committee of the United Church, the Home Mission Board, the Young Men's Bursary Fund, the Committee on

Supplements, the Board of Superintendence of the Divinity Hall, the Senate of the Hall, the Widows' and Orphan Fund, and the Hunter Trust. He was also identified with most of the charitable associations of Halifax, notably the Association for the Relief of the Poor, the Dispensary, the Boys' Industrial School, and the Night Refuge for the Homeless.

As an educationist, he is best known through his connection with Dalhousie College, Halifax, of which he has been a Governor for nearly fifteen years, having been nominated as representative of the Kirk Synod, in recognition of his successful efforts to bring about the reorganization of the college by the co-operation of the Governors and the different Presbyterian bodies in the Province. He collected the greater part of the \$24,000 that the Church of



(From a photograph by Wm. Notman, Halifax, N.S.)