

CONTEMPORARY OPINION ON EDUCATIONAL TOPICS.

REV. DR. McCaul,

THE EX-PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

[From "*The Varsity*."]]

Farewell, a word that must be and hath been—
A sound which makes us linger :—yet—Farewell !

The opening of the present academic year will be remarkable, if only because it marks a conspicuous blank in the roll-call of the College professorate. One of "the old familiar faces" will be seen less often now, and there will be missed in the cloistered halls, through which well-nigh half a century of University history has streamed, the venerable form of one who will long be kindly remembered by many generations of gownsmen. The Rev. Dr. McCaul has been so long identified with the College and the University, that it is almost impossible to realize that his active connection with both has ceased. But age, with its growing infirmities, must tell on men of the best physiques, and these come all the sooner when more than an ordinary lifetime has been spent in arduous and faithful devotion to the public service. It is "the inevitable" which all must anticipate, and to which all must submit. Our late Professor of Classical Literature has vacated permanently the Chair which he has adorned with his learning, and dignified with his many public and private virtues. To the youngest and the most vigorous professor on the staff there will come a day, when he, too, must lay down the wand of office, however wisely swayed, and retire from his place in the lecture-room, however honourably filled, to a well-earned repose.

The severance of the tie which bound Dr. McCaul to the College could scarce have been made, on his part, without a pang of genuine regret. To not a few men who passed under

his hand in the course of nearly forty years of collegiate work, and who are now scattered far and wide in the world, the announcement of his permanent retirement will be felt even more keenly. It will seem like the reluctant, tender closing up of more than one chapter in their record of old college days, and will suggest many a bright thought and pleasant memory of his genial, manly influence and ready mother-wit, of acts of friendship done when most needed, and courteous and thoughtful consideration for the hard-wrought, struggling student. To graduates and undergraduates everywhere, it marks the close in college history of a long and eventful epoch. The history of education in older countries has repeated itself here. There have been stirring incidents, and many vicissitudes of fortune, in those by-gone years ; there have been denominational snarls to perplex and worry, perils to meet and multifarious obstacles to encounter, and there have, too, been chivalrous champions to stand in the breach ; but those years have seen solid progress, much real promise, and many cheering encouragements. Above all, the King's College of the past, when our ex-President was in his early prime, with the educational ostracism of which it was the standing monument, is fast becoming a tradition. Trammelled by the fetters of creed and sectary, in a young and free country, where no favoured church should bar the entrance to any liberal school of learning, it has burst those unseemly bonds, thrown wide open its doors to all sects and denominations, become, in the largest sense, the People's College and a National University.

In all those varied changes which have helped to make our educational history, Dr. McCaul was a prominent figure, and took a decided part. Several years have elapsed since the main facts of his career have ap-