

The G. C. I. Record

Published in the interest of the Galt Collegiate Institute.

Vol. 2, No. 1.

December, 1901.

Price 5 Cents.

Galt Collegiate—Past and Present.

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NEXT year, (1902), will be the semi-centennial of Galt Collegiate Institute, which was begun in 1852. During the half century which has all but elapsed since its origin, it has had only four principals, the late William Tassie, LL. D., and Mr. Thomas Carscadden, M. A., wielding the baton for forty-five out of the fifty years.

My recollections are quite distinct of the good old days when the Galt Grammar School was first started. Higher education was then difficult to obtain outside Toronto, Kingston and Hamilton, and Galt was still only a village of about 300 inhabitants, with very few of the large manufactories and palatial residences which now adorn it. The first principal, Mr. Michael Howe, B. A., and afterward LL. D., Dublin University, I remember very well, but there are not many now who will recollect the old Township Hall erected about 1838, in the upper story of which the school was first held. It was considered even then so much of a relic of backwoods days, as to be known as "Noah's Ark," but it is, nevertheless, still doing business as a residence, minus the verandahs, on the west side of Market street, being the third house from the Queen street corner. Mr. Howe was a well-made, gentlemanly-looking man, with a fine, Dublin education, but probably not at his best as a teacher, as he resigned at the close of his first year.

Dr. Tassie was his successor in 1853, during which year the school was removed to a one-story, stone building erected on the present beautiful site, which was a gift from the Dickson family. The evolution of this humble institution until it became known all over Canada as "Tassie's School," and in 1871 became one of the first four Collegiate Institutes recognized by the Ontario Government, is too well known to need repetition. Its success was largely due to its head master, Dr. Tassie, whose untiring devotion to his classes, strict discipline, handsome features, lordly air and stately tread, all seemed to combine to make the school famous far and near. One of his distinguished pupils, Dr. John Beattie Crozier, of London, England, in his remarkable book "My Inner Life," has given the following pen picture of the doctor in his palmy days:

"His dark and sallow face, clean shaved except a pair of light tufts near the ear, was large, square and regular in outline, and although mounted and embossed with a full round Roman nose, studded over with pores like a thimble, was decidedly handsome; his whole countenance, indeed, when in repose, and with nothing to ruffle it, falling into lines of great softness, and wearing by the confession of all, an expression of singular pleasantness and courtesy. This expression, with the soft rich tones of his voice, which, however, had al-