

THEODORE HARDING RAND.

CAN one write the history and character of a great and good man? In a sense his history can be written, but to express in language the peculiar qualities impressed by nature on a man is impossible. You have only words for things, symbols for realities. Neither masterly description nor the cunning hand of the artist can limn a character or soul. To know what a man is you must come into the atmosphere and influence of his life. The rose as seen on the canvas may please the eye, but the real rose emitting fragrance and blushing in the sunlight, a revelation of life and beauty, alone satisfies. It is a joy for ever. It is when meandering on the margin of the lake, or floating over its surface that you catch something of the life and energy of nature, something of the charm and beauty and mystery of her inimitable pencil. So with a great and good man. It is needful to enter into communion with him and be encompassed with the aroma of his life. It is only then that there is any uplifting of the veil which hides the springs of his thought and life.

These ideas came to me on reading the appointment of Dr. Theodore Harding Rand to the chancellorship of McMaster University. This is a stage reached in his onward career, and an important stage it is. When the Doctor's biography is written, the evolution or series of events which led to this appointment will be traced. Certain we are that favoritism had nothing to do with it. It came unsought, and as a recognition of most valuable service ably and cheerfully rendered to the cause of education. In cases like this we speak of promotion, advancement, preferment. These words may mislead us. The reaper thrusts his sickle into the harvest which he sowed. He has a right to reap. The interest belongs of right to the man that earned the principal. So in education. Prepare ye the way and give the toiler his wages. He enters into his vineyard, and while his own hand has not lost its cunning, directs the work. He is the skilled laborer in the great field of Christian education. Acadia congratulates Dr. Rand in this well-earned appointment. For the best of reasons she is proud of her gifted son. Many others follow the example of the Senate and the Board of Governors of McMaster University in this recognition of valuable services and brilliant talents.

While writing this I am thinking of Dr. Rand as a student at Acadia. By the way, if he had not gone to Acadia would he be Chancellor of McMaster to-day? A curious yet a pertinent question to ask. If the question were put to the Doctor himself it would give him pause. How there would rise before him the old academic and collegiate life, during which manifold forces developed and directed his life, what tender memories would