

who have left a marked impress upon our national life and the character of our national institutions. The interest attaching to a life and career in a new country overshadows the memories of a past associated with other lands.

These remarks are quite as applicable to the subject of this memoir as to many other old countrymen who became eminent Canadians. Dr. McCaul, like Sir Daniel Wilson, his successor in the Presidency of University College, was never communicative as to his ancestry, or the history or antecedents of his family. And he was just as averse to newspaper publicity in regard to matters of this nature. He well knew that, in a country described by Goldwin Smith as "rough, raw, and democratic," and where every man is the architect of his own fortune, his reputation as a scholar and professor and the Head of the first educational institution in the Province, depended on no such considerations. His successor in office, who declined more than once to furnish the facts of his early life and career for publication, said on one occasion: "We should not live too much in the past, or sermonize over it immoderately. This is a practical, work-a-day world, engrossed in the daily round, the common task; what we are ourselves and what we do is of greater concern to the communities in which we live and labour than who our fathers were, or what they did."