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## REV. JOHN McLAURIN, D.D.

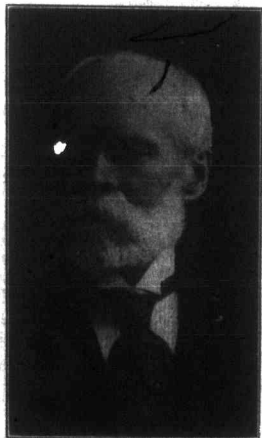
Prof. J. H. Farmer, LL.D.

John McLaurin's name proclaims his Scottish ancestry. He was born in August, 1839, at Osgoode, and so is one of those who have made Glengarry famous as the nursing-mother of men of heroic mould. He was born again at the age of fifteen, and baptized into the fellowship of the Osgoode Church. And what a godly fellowship that was! Many of those Eastern Baptists had been brought up in other folds, and for conscience' sake had broken with early prejudice and fond associations. They were men of plain living, high thinking and heroic doing—men to whom the invisible and eternal were the great things and God was greatest of all.

And in John McLaurin's time they were shepherded by Daniel McPhail, the Elijah of the Ottawa Valley, the man of holy zeal, of flaming evangelism, of intense and widespread effort. The preaching was plain, forceful, scriptural. It ploughed deep. It wrought under the Spirit of God profound conviction of sin, a deep sense of the awfulness of the Cross, and a proportionately glorious feeling of relief when through faith the soul entered into peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. It meant much to become a Christian. It meant literally a new life. And lo! all things became new—interests, purposes, companionship. The Bible shone with the light of a new attractiveness. The great facts of God and the soul, of sin and redemption, and that grace that unfolds their meaning, these became the subjects of study, the topics of conversation.

So life stuck its roots deep into good soil. The intellect was quickened, informed and strengthened, reason and judgment were cultured and character was grounded in righteousness and meliorated by grace. In Brother McLaurin's case farm life, continued under these conditions, laid a solid foundation in physical soundness, mental and moral vigor and spiritual experience, for the great career that was before him.

He had heard the call to the ministry. But it was some time before the way opened for the special preparation which he purposed. The first stage of that was taken in the school in Breadalbane. Then in 1864 he entered the Canadian Literary Institute, where he found an atmosphere wholly congenial. The teachers were capable, spiritual, devoted, and among the students were many with similar hopes and ambitions



The Late Rev. John McLaurin.

to his own. The imperial Fyfe, that mighty, I had almost written, matchless, moulder of men to noblest Christian manhood, found in McLaurin the right material and put his impress indelibly upon him. Dr. Fyfe's strength and nobility won from him an admiration, reverence and affection akin to worship. To the last day of his life McLaurin regarded Fyfe as the greatest man he had ever known.

He himself won the confidence and respect of both teachers and fellow-