

SADLY came the announcement of Dr. Nelles' death to a gathering of friends of Queen's in Convocation Hall the evening of his death. His was no ordinary life, and with thousands who knew and valued him we mourn his loss. Born and brought up in a pleasant christian home near Brantford, he early manifested qualities which indicated his future course. After spending some time at Victoria College, he entered the Wesleyan University, Middletown, taking his B.A. with distinction. Early in life he gave himself to God. And in 1847 was received into the ministry of the Methodist church, where he laboured with unqualified success until appointed to the presidency of Victoria College in the Autumn of 1850. He entered upon this his life work at the age of 27. The authorities of Victoria had no hesitation in committing the responsibility of the University to the youthful Nelles. Various circumstances contrived to make the position a difficult one. He, however, staked all in responding loyally to the call of his church. Courageously he commenced his work, and very soon developed administrative and intellectual strength, which told marvellously upon the College, making it the successful institution it is to-day. He drew around him teachers who, like himself, were determined to make the College a success. Students were attracted to its halls, friends rallied to its financial support, and the church throughout the country was gladdened. For many years Victoria, Queen's and Trinity had been receiving grants from the Provincial funds. The time came when these grants were suddenly stopped, and then arose an agitation, resulting in comparisons of work done by these Colleges and Toronto Universities. In this discussion President Nelles took a prominent part, his addresses producing a marked effect upon the country. While thoroughly devoted to Victoria as a Church Institution, he had a

large place in his heart for sister Universities. With this feeling he entered with the heads of other Colleges upon the consideration of the scheme now known as "University Federation." It is well-known what his views were, and he was in hopes that a scheme would be evolved which would be satisfactory to all. In this we believe he was subsequently disappointed, for while giving his adhesion with some provision to the first scheme, he felt it his duty at the general conference, held in Toronto, Sept. 1886, to express his dissatisfaction, and voted against accepting Federation. Notwithstanding, he loyally accepted the decision of the conference majority, though small, and bent himself to the work of making it a success. No doubt this labour and anxiety had much to do in hastening his end. In private and social life he was true and genial. As a minister he was without a stain. He was loyal to his brethren in the ministry. As a teacher and disciplinarian he had no superior. As a College president he showed great tact and prudence. He was beloved by his students. They felt he was their friend and sympathizer. None more than he brought prominently before his hearers, in pulpit or on platform, the essentials of the gospel. He had a large Catholic heart, and although a loyal Methodist he loved and prized his fellow christians. In him our loved Alma Mater has lost a worthy son, Queen's having bestowed the honor of D.D. upon him in 1860. We mourn a loss, which will be felt by all who feel an interest in the higher education of this country, and we, in the kindest manner possible, extend our sincere sympathies to his bereaved and loving family. Victoria College is his monument. He died in harness, with "Victoria" as his motto and his guiding star. He has left the Methodist church a Christian University as the result of his long and labourious life work.