

not induce the Captain to defend his vessel, told him to intrust the defence of it to him, and to stay with the family in the cabin. This proposition was gladly acceded to by the Captain, and the future Bishop mounted "the companion way," fully determined to defend the little craft to the utmost of his power, but (as he remarked, when detailing this incident to me, some years ago), "fortunately for me, the schooner, bearing down upon us, proved to be a Canadian schooner—not an American—for the 'four-pounder' was fastened to the deck, and it pointed to the starboard; whereas the schooner came to us, on the larboard bow!"*

When Dr. Strachan removed from Cornwall, he did not cease to be a schoolmaster; for in 1816 he kept school in this city, and was then my first master. He continued the same honourable and laborious occupation, till about the year 1826, when, finding the duties of his parish demanding more of his time in consequence of the increase of the town, he resigned his duties as schoolmaster. As he was my first master, so was I at his school when he ceased from the duties of his profession in 1826; and, though there were in the school 60 boys, there was not one of them that did not regret his resignation,—for all knew that we would receive perfect justice at his hands—that if we deserved credit and rewards, we would obtain them; and that, if we deserved punishment, we would be pretty certain to get it, too.

The Bishop had a great faculty for not only attaching his scholars to him, but also for inducing them to apply themselves most assiduously to their studies. He told me that he made it a rule, during the time he kept school, to watch closely every new boy, and, at the end of a fortnight, to note down in a book his estimate of the boys who had passed through his hands. He had a remarkable talent for interesting boys in their work; and, by taking a deep interest in it himself, he led them to do the same. He was very original in many of his plans for promoting the good of his school. Amongst others, which I never met with elsewhere, was one of making the boys question one another on certain of the lessons. This made the boys quick at seizing on the leading points in the lessons, ready at shaping questions, and deeply interested in the questions and answers. The Bishop took as deep an interest in the questioning and answering of the boys as they did themselves; and thus this plan, whilst it was of great service to the boys in various ways, tended strongly to bind master and scholars together. He was never afraid of having his dignity lowered by liberties taken with him, and he always felt every confidence in his position and entered warmly and personally into many of the boys' amusements, and thus gained an immense influence over them. The influence over his pupils has been shown in the fact, that almost all of them embraced his principles; and the love and affection for him of his celebrated Cornwall school was shown many years ago, when the surviving members thereof presented him with a most beautiful and costly candelabra. Nor did his more recent scholars entertain less affection for him, though they never proved it so substantially as did those of his Cornwall school. The Bishop never was an elegant or finished scholar. He had too early in life to earn bread for himself, his widowed mother and orphan sisters, to attain to high and elegant scholarship; but, what he had learned, he knew thoroughly; and few men, either in conversation, in public speaking, or in written documents, had a more complete command of the best language,—could impress his ideas more clearly, or carry conviction more thoroughly, to those whom he addressed. He was an excel-

lent teacher. His scholars were well grounded in their work. The grammar was well mastered, and every rule thereof deeply impressed on the memory. Every lesson was thoroughly dissected, and every thing connected with it thoroughly understood, before we passed on to another lesson.

During his days of Mastership, we had no translations, and the only foot notes in our Latin book were in Latin, and quite as hard as the text itself. The only aids we had were the dictionary and our grammars; and, with these aids, we were required to work out our lessons.

The great subject of education was one in which, as might have been expected, the late Bishop took a deep and lasting interest. For many years he was the Chairman of the Board of Education for this Province, and, as such, had control over not only the Grammar Schools in each district (into which Upper Canada was then divided), but also over the Common Schools. Deeming the time to have arrived, when we ought to have a University in Upper Canada, Dr. Strachan procured a Royal Charter for one in this city; and, if his counsels had prevailed, it would have been established and supported from the funds arising from the sales of the lands set apart for that purpose in 1792, and which have since been largely expended in the erection and support of Upper Canada College.

PUBLIC CAREER OF BISHOP STRACHAN.

Dr. Strachan was appointed by the Crown, in 1818, a member of the Legislative Council. At the same time he was appointed a member of the Executive Council. For twenty-two years the late Bishop bore a prominent part in the politics of the country. His astuteness as a politician is admitted even by his opponents. In those days, a marked feature in our legislative proceedings was the mutual antagonism of the two chambers. The Legislative Council was constantly setting itself in opposition to the determinations of the Assembly. Sixteen times the Assembly proposed a disposition of the Clergy Reserves; and on all occasions the Legislative Council prevented the resolutions of the other chamber being carried into effect. In these movements of the Legislative Council, which acted as a check on the popular branch, the late Bishop bore a part. He was particularly anxious to preserve the whole of the Clergy Reserves for the Church of England; and he continued to fight for the cause long after it had been virtually lost. The leading aim of his life was, for many years, to establish securely, in this Province, the Church of England as a State Church. The circumstances of the times almost necessarily made him a politician as well as a divine; and the temper and opinions of the population caused him to fail as a statesman, in this the great object of his political career. His success must be looked for as a divine, an educationist and a bishop. Two years before the Bishop came to Canada, a young man, a movement had been made towards making provision for the establishment of a Grammar School in each District, with a college or university at the head of them. In the year in which he came out, the Executive Council reported to President Russell that an appropriation of 500,000 acres would form a sufficient fund for the purpose. But it does not appear that the grant was made, at that time; and in the year 1819 the question was again mooted. Dr. Strachan took the matter in hand, at a later date, and in 1827 obtained a royal charter, embodying the principles already stated. For over twenty years, the Church of England maintained its ascendancy in the University of King's College, of which the creation was due to Dr. Strachan; and when the changes above indicated were made, the venerable Bishop, with his unflinching perseverance, set to work to found on the basis of that voluntary principle which he had always distrusted till he tested it, a new Church of England University, under the name of Trinity College. To him we owe the foundation of the two Universities located in Toronto. It is much for one more to establish one University; but it is more than can be expected of any single individual, whatever his endowments, that he should give learning and civilization, two Universities. Yet the late Bishop of Toronto performed that extraordinary feat. The University of King's College had not long been made national—taken from the domination of a single denomination—when the Clergy Reserves followed. From 1849 to 1854 is the distance of time that measures the nationalizing of the University and the secularization of the Reserves. But, after all, the Church of England found the self-reliance of these latter days better than the dependence of those that had gone before.

It was during the time Dr. Strachan was Executive Councillor, and probably on his advice, that Lord John Colborne created fifty-seven rectories in Upper Canada. The legality of the act was long contested; but it was finally settled by the Court of Chancery in the affirmative. Legal provision has recently been made for selling the rectory property for the benefit of the Church. It was not till 1828 Dr. Strachan became Archdeacon of York. His next and

* His great firmness of character saved the town of York, in 1813, from sharing the same fate as the town of Niagara met with some months afterwards. The American General Pike, having attacked and routed the small force defending York, was shortly after killed by the blowing up of the magazine in the Garrison. His successor, being enraged by the incident, though it was not attributable to any of the inhabitants of the town, determined to have vengeance on them and to burn down the town. This determination coming to the knowledge of the authorities, they deputed Dr. Strachan to remonstrate with the American Commander against this intended act of barbarity. He met him in the old fort; and I have been told by men, who witnessed the interview between these parties, that words ran high between them; the American Colonel declaring that he would certainly burn the town, and the future Bishop declaring that if he persisted in his atrocious act of barbarity, vengeance would be taken upon the Americans for such an unheard-of outrage; and that Buffalo, Lewiston, Sackett's Harbour, and Oswego would, in course of time (as soon as troops could be brought from England), share its fate. The earnestness and determination of Dr. Strachan moved the Colonel from his barbarous purpose, and York was saved from the flames. When rebellion raised its head in this Province, Dr. Strachan was foremost, not only in Council, but also in action, in defence of the sovereignty of the Crown and the suppression of the rebellion; and when we were threatened six years ago with war with the United States, on account of the Trent affair, he manifested the same indomitable spirit, as I know, and was fully prepared to bear his share in the dangers of an invasion, rather than see the flag of England humbled before the Stars and Stripes.