

THE
McMASTER UNIVERSITY MONTHLY
MAY, 1892.

THOMAS LESLIE DAVIDSON.

The late Rev. Thomas Leslie Davidson was born in Scotland. He was the only son of David Davidson, who after twelve years service in the British army, came to Canada in 1832. He was followed by his wife and children in 1833, when young Thomas was about eight years of age. Mr. Davidson settled with his family a few miles from the town of Perth, where the boy grew up to early manhood. Though the youngest child he was no hot-house plant, no pampered son of affluence. His father was poor, and the children had no advantages above those of the families settled about them in the new country, but the poverty and hardships of pioneer life, bore their part in fitting him to endure the privations and toils of the ministry, to which God in his own time and way called him; privations and toils from the most irksome of which the ministers of the present day are happily exempt, except on a few of the Home Mission fields on the outskirts of civilization.

It is sufficient to say of the boyhood of Mr. Davidson, that it was prophetic of the man. He was considered—and no doubt with good reason—a forward, impulsive, bold, venturesome and hilarious youth, with an ample stock of self-conceit and self-confidence, peculiarities which did not forsake him in riper years. His boyish pranks, though not vicious, frequently drew to him the attention of both old and young. The material of a useful