

astically upon their college life, and we hope they will support loyally our college institutions. We invite them, too, to co-operate with us and all senior students in support of our College paper, both by subscription and literary contribution.

OUR NEW PRINCIPAL.

In this issue of the FORTNIGHTLY, we wish, on behalf of the students of McGill University, to extend a most hearty welcome to our newly-appointed Principal, Dr. Peterson. It is a matter for congratulation, not only on the part of the students of this University and of those who have the interests of McGill most closely at heart, but also on the part of the general body of the people of Canada, to whom higher education cannot but be of interest, that a man of Dr. Peterson's acknowledged scholarship, energy and tact has been selected to fill this most important position. McGill's past history has proved very clearly that upon the Principal depends in great measure the success and fame of the institution; and in view of this fact, the advantages derived from the choice of a scholar of Old Country reputation are obvious. This reputation he has acquired not only as a student and administrator, but also as an editor of classical literature. The outlines of his student career are by this time no doubt familiar to all.

He matriculated at the University of Edinburgh from the Royal High School of the same place in the year 1872, and when, in due season, the time for graduation came round, his name headed the list of Honors in Classics. As he was then only eighteen years of age,—too young to receive his degree,—he studied in the meantime for a term in the University of Gottingen, the Alma Mater of Bismarck, and there made a personal acquaintance with German methods of study and German University life. He next became a scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, holding what we term a scholarship of the annual value of £100. In the course of the first session he gained the Ferguson Scholarship in Classics, which was open to graduates from all the Scottish Universities, and *a priori* may be assumed to have been no easy prize. Shortly afterwards, he won a Fellowship in the University of Edinburgh, and thus, holding at the same time no less than three scholarships in separate institutions of learning, for a period of two years, he enjoyed from this source an annual income of about \$1,500. After graduating at Oxford with Honors in Classics, Dr. Peterson received an invitation from his old teacher, Professor Sellar of Edinburgh University, to become his assistant in Classics. Although he had entertained the idea of adopting Law as a profession, and had entered as a student of the Inner Temple, he accepted the invitation, but without any intention of devoting

his life to teaching. When he had been there one session, the new College at Dundee was founded, and being advised to apply for the Chair of Latin and at the same time for the Principalship, Dr. Peterson, at the age of twenty-five, suddenly found himself at the head of University College, Dundee. For thirteen years he performed the administrative duties devolving upon him faithfully and well. To quote Dr. Sinclair, who proposed "Our Guest" at a dinner given on the occasion of Dr. Peterson's leaving Dundee, 'their academic history during that period had been one of progress, development and expansion, and on every page of it could be found a record of Principal Peterson's devotion to the best educational interests of the whole community.'

In 1891 Dr. Peterson published an edition of the Tenth Book of Quintilian's *Institutionis Oratoriae*, with introductory essays and notes, which has attracted much attention among Classical scholars. Besides others, Prof. A. S. Wilkins of Manchester, with whose edition of Horace's Epistles Arts students are no doubt familiar, has reviewed it. Nothing could be more gratifying to an editor than his summary. "It is a work of great industry, of sound judgment and of ripe scholarship, a valuable contribution to a department which has been too much neglected by English scholars, and it deserves a hearty and grateful welcome." This was followed in 1892 by a shorter edition of the same book, intended for the use of Colleges and Schools. Its object was to popularize Quintilian, as well as to admit of the introduction to College courses of study, a valuable text-book for class-reading and also a manual of Greek and Roman Literature. In the following year appeared a brother book to the edition of Quintilian, the revised text of Tacitus' Dialogue De Oratoribus, with a copious introduction and valuable critical and explanatory notes. The difficult nature of the task may in some measure be appreciated, when we know that from the time of the discovery of the manuscript in the fifteenth century, German scholars, and others as well, had been engaged in an exceedingly verbose dispute as to the authorship of the work. Year by year the quantity of matter written in regard to the question had been piling up, and each year, as it passed, instead of exercising the prerogative usually ascribed to time, seemed to be bringing to light fresh information, which required fresh discussion. All this material Dr. Peterson has carefully weighed, and placing the arguments pro and con one beside the other, has very satisfactorily vindicated his own position, and aided materially in the solution of the problem. Dr. Peterson's latest work is a translation of Cicero's Pro Cluentio, into idiomatic English. Accompanying this are introductory essays and explanatory notes.