

Some parents would have sought to bend him to their will, and break him in to their work, but his parents were wise, they chose rather to bend their wills to the will of heaven, and seek to make the best of the talents that God had given to their son. The result was that this country probably lost a second-rate farmer, and certainly gained a first-rate scholar and educator.

When sixteen years of age, the young Samuel attended the Academy at Lewiston, N. Y.,—the following year that at Frederica, and in 1841 he entered the Genessee Wesleyan Seminary, at Lima. This was the year of the great turning point in his life. He had now come to the years of reflection and self-determination, and the great question of life came before him. Should he follow the natural course—sensuous, secular and selfish; or should he subordinate sense and time and self to the spiritual, the moral, the eternal? It was his good fortune to have at this time, as one of his professors, the Rev. George C. Whitlock, LL.D., a man who commanded respect and confidence for the Christ-like purity and gentleness of his spirit, as well as for his learning and the force and acuteness of his intellect. When, therefore, the young student was pondering the great problem, "What is a man profited if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" he came to this honoured man for sympathy and counsel. Those who knew the two men may imagine how the young man was helped in clearest thinking and purest feeling to the noblest purpose of consecration to Him who is the Way and the Truth and the Life. The choice then made was held to the end.

In 1842 he entered Victoria College. After two years of study at Victoria, and a year of rest at the Mount Pleasant homestead, he went to the University of Middletown, Conn., where he took his Bachelor's Degree in 1846. The year after his graduation he was Master of the Academy at Newburg, Ont., and the next year he entered the ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Three years were then spent in pastoral work, one at Port Hope and two in Toronto. In 1850 he was appointed to the Presidency of Victoria College.

The condition of the College was at that time most discouraging, and the work before the young President was to retrieve the disaster of the past as well as achieve the success of the future. It is thus described by the Rev. Dr. Burwash, in a sketch of the history of the University: "The College