

THE REV. JOHN McCAUL

DEAN STANLEY, in a review of the life of a notable Englishman, remarks that sometimes famous men have had to be sought for in obscure country parsonages, or in sequestered nooks of their own choosing. This is a characteristic of English social life, against which may be placed another peculiar to this country, namely, the difficulty of tracing the antecedents of prominent Canadians, born and bred in the British Isles, who emigrated to Canada in what may be called its colonial days, and who here emerged into the full light of distinction and influence. Their names may in time have become as familiar as household words, but their family history in the old land is a sealed book which has seldom been opened even by themselves. This reticence, which makes itself felt in word and action, often extends into the domain of biography. So much so, that it is all but an impossible task to enter the penetralia where can be found family ancestry and hereditary characteristics, and the earlier facts and incidents of their lives. We meet with this experience in writing of the careers of not a few of the public men